

## CFP: Refuge

46th Annual Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture Since 1900

<http://thelouisvilleconference.com/>

University of Louisville

Louisville, Kentucky

22–24 February 2018

The whole world was a refugee now that the war had at last ended.

— Lawrence Durrell, *Sebastian, or Ruling Passions* (1982)

Any man, even the greatest, can be broken in a moment and has no refuge. Any theory which denies this is a lie. For myself, I have no theories.

— Iris Murdoch, *The Black Prince* (1973)

I was in a dingy old bookshop, running my eye blindly over the stock, waiting for the storm in my head to pass: the place was a refuge, a bunker, insulated by its own dusty tedium and the bulkheads of paper and worn leather.

— Alan Hollinghurst, *The Folding Star* (1994)

The International Lawrence Durrell Society invites proposals for papers exploring the broad theme of “Refuge” in literature and culture since 1900.

Possible starting points for this topic include:

- The interwar period as refuge
- Escapism, surrealism, or absurdism as refuge
- Refugees and World War II
- Islands as refuge
- Zoos and wildlife refuge
- Israel and Palestine
- Dust bowl refugees
- Survivorship or survivor’s guilt

This list is only suggestive, and potential presentations may cover topics as varied as Kurt Vonnegut’s treatment of Armenian refugees in *Bluebeard*, the room as a refuge in works by Virginia Woolf, Gerald Durrell’s writing on animal conservation, Galt’s Gulch as weaponized refuge in Ayn Rand’s *Atlas Shrugged*, or even the refuge of faith in works like L.H. Myers’ *The Root and the Flower*. The ILDS welcomes proposals for any paper addressing the role of Refuge in the works and lives of any twentieth- or twenty-first century author of interest. Proposals

exploring the significance of Refuge within Lawrence Durrell's published works are especially encouraged.

**Deadline for submission of proposal is 5 September 2017.**

Please submit proposal by email to [clawson@gmail.com](mailto:clawson@gmail.com). Include two attachments in pdf, rtf or doc format.

- The first attachment should consist of a 300-word abstract (double-spaced and titled), omitting all references to the submitter.
- The second attachment should contain a cover page that includes the following information:
  - Name as it will appear in the program
  - Address (preferably home address)
  - E-mail address (necessary to confirm your acceptance)
  - Academic affiliation, if applicable
  - Title of paper/work (as it will appear in the program)
  - National origin/genre of work(s) discussed (please be specific)
  - Personal biographical note (100-150 words)

The 46th annual [Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture](#) since 1900 will be held at the University of Louisville, 22-24 February 2018. Please see the conference's official website for additional information.