

Metamorphosis: Collective Emergence from Isolation
SAGES Seventh Annual Interdisciplinary Student Conference
The University of Akron
April 1, 2022
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars is pleased to announce a call for papers for its upcoming conference on April 1, 2022. We welcome creative writers and scholars from various disciplines to discuss the theme, “Metamorphosis: Collective Emergence from Isolation.” This free conference is open to undergraduate, graduate students, and independent scholars. Our keynote speaker will be Caryl Pagel, who is the author of two books of poetry—*Twice Told* (University of Akron Press) and *Experiments I Should Like Tried at My Own Death* (Factory Hollow)—as well as a collection of essays, *Out of Nowhere Into Nothing* (FC2). She is an editor and publisher at Rescue Press and the director of the Cleveland State University Poetry Center. Pagel teaches poetry and nonfiction at Cleveland State University and in the NEOMFA program.

SAGES is looking for analysis and practice of surrealism, lyricism and subversion in literature and writing.

As we collectively emerge from the cocoon of isolation, what new wave of writing emerged that tests the bounds of “traditional” academic and creative writing? That overarching question might be addressed by considering the following:

- How does focus on the bizarre, the weird, and the surreal, stemming from shifts in identity due to loneliness and absence from reality, permeate literature?
- How has isolation, consumption of material, and mental and physical healing affected the reading and writing of literature?
- What elements of the collective have been addressed, motivated to change, or accepted, both in literature and online?
- What wounds became more prominent in the collective, and how does isolation and social media affect the infection, sterilization, or healing of these wounds?
- Focus on collage, the ekphrastic, theology, anarchism, and animism is encouraged.

The above list is simply a loose guide to potential topics. Please feel free to explore your own interpretations of metamorphosis.

Submissions:

We seek submissions from all disciplines, both academic and creative. **Submit individual abstracts (no more than 400 words) directly to SAGES by February 4, 2022 via email (sagessubmission@gmail.com).** The abstracts that are selected will be organized into specific panels to be presented at the conference. Expect responses mid-February 2022. **All creative writing manuscripts need to be submitted in their entirety.**