**Bodies in Narrative:**

**Explorations of Physicality, Health, and Disability**

SAGES Seventh Annual Interdisciplinary Conference

The University of Akron

Student Union Room 312

March 14, 2019

**The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars** is delighted to announce a call for papers for the Seventh Annual Interdisciplinary Conference. We invite both scholars and creative writers from various disciplines to explore the theme of “Bodies in Narrative.” This free conference is open to the public and welcomes work from both graduate and undergraduate students.

The body has a crucial role in the construction of narratives. These body narratives have been influential in conversations about health and illness, gender, disability, and the natural environment. These narratives often reveal assumptions about body autonomy, the relationship between individual bodies and social contracts, and what it means to be healthy and able. We are also seeking work that explores relationships between bodies and social discourse.

**Topics to Explore can include but are not restricted to:**

* Representation of Bodies in Literature and the Media
* Disability Studies
* Body Positivity and Body Image
* Narratives of Body Autonomy and Reproductive Rights
* Illness and the Humanities
* Epidemics in the Social Sphere
* Constructions of Mental Illness
* Language and Medicine
* Bodies in the Environment
* Historical Representations of Illness and Treatment
* Issues of Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality

*The above list is simply a loose guideline of suggested topics. Please feel free to explore your own interpretation of the theme of “Bodies in Narrative.”*

**Submissions**

**Please submit individual abstracts (no more than 400 words) directly to SAGES by February 8, 2019** (sagessubmission@gmail.com). Those abstracts which are chosen will be organized into panels to be presented at the conference. Expect responses by Mid-February 2019. All creative writing manuscripts should be submitted in their entirety.

We are an interdisciplinary conference and open to all academic fields to explore connections between dissimilar fields and cultural spaces.