

You are invited to participate in the online seminar

Melville's Aesthetics of Incompletion

organized by the

Centre for Creativity Research

(Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Faculty of Polish Studies)

Thursday 21 April 2022

18.00 (6 p.m.) Warsaw time / 17.00 (5 p.m.) London time / 11.00 (11 a.m.) Chicago time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2187583567?pwd=Rmh3NGZxRVc0eHpqOU5JbHgxSXdhZz09>

Meeting ID: 218 758 3567

PROGRAMME

1. "Genesis – Taipei 2023" conference – short announcement.

2. John Bryant (Hofstra University)

keynote:

"Melville's Aesthetics of Incompletion, from *Moby-Dick* to *Billy Budd*: Reading and Editing Versions"

Abstract

Throughout his prose-writing career Herman Melville (1819-1891) experimented with narrative voice and technique along the lines of an "aesthetics of incompletion." This development is concretely observed genetically and biographically in Melville's revision processes, evident in manuscript, print, and external documents, as well as in sequential versions of his fluid texts. Revision patterns regarding evolutions in Melville's "black consciousness," in versions of *Moby-Dick* (1851) and *Billy Budd* (1891, 1924) reveal the "ragged edges" of Melville's exposure of Self and engagement with Readers as one mode of Incompletion in his creative process. How, then, might digital editing of various kinds of revision (in the Melville Electronic Library) enable us to create critical revision narratives of Melville's aesthetics?

3. Discussion.

4. Centre for Creativity Research: forthcoming events.

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Head of the [Centre for Creativity Research](#)