

WHAT ARE THE SESSION FORMATS?

Traditional - Three or four presenters deliver their papers to an audience (12- to 15-minute presentations). The Session Chair begins with presenter introductions and ends with a Q&A session. In addition, Regular or Affiliated Group sessions typically set aside five minutes for administrative discussion regarding plans for the next year's session (i.e. electing a new Session Chair and Secretary).

Roundtable - Roundtables generally feature five or more panelists giving brief prepared papers or speaking extemporaneously about the panel's topic. This format is more suited to interactive discussion among panelists and audience members. Chairs should offer a short introduction of each panelist and actively moderate the discussion. If this session is a Regular or Affiliated Group, participants typically set aside five minutes for administrative discussion regarding plans for the next year's session (i.e. electing a new Session Chair and Secretary).

Workshop - Workshops at SAMLA take multiple forms. One example might be a panel featuring two presenters delivering longer, collaboratively written presentations that ask the audience to participate in a structured way. Another example is the writing workshop, wherein authors and audience members discuss papers in progress to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Typically, papers are forwarded in advance to the Session Chair and other participants, and the Session Chair typically makes additional copies available during the session.

Reading - Reading panels feature creative writers sharing published, soon-to-be published, or in-progress work. Readers can elicit feedback from fellow panelists and audience members if they so choose. Chairs will organize the call and solicit creative writers for the panel.