

[REVISED 9-1-25 - TENTATIVE]
The 22nd Annual Norman Mailer Society Conference
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA
October 9-11, 2025

Thursday, October 9

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Business Meeting (Room TBA)

10:10-11:10

Panel #1: The Mailer Archives at Wilkes University (Simms 231)

Suzanna Calev, Brian Sacolic, J. Michael Lennon

Moderator: Bonnie Culver

11:20-12:20 p.m.

Panel #2: Mailer and A.I.: Running Existential Errands for the Devil? (Simms 231)

Salvatore J. Fallica, "How Mailer's 'Left-Conservatism' Can Help Us Understand What He Would Say About A.I."

Robert Dean Lurie, "Plastic Intelligence in 'Technology Land': Mailer, A.I., and Jacques Ellul"

Nicole DePolo, "Artificial Intelligence: A Fourth Protagonist in Mailer's Ontology?"

Austin Dabney, "Outsourcing Our Hearts to the Machine: Mailer and Emotion A.I."

Moderator: Raymond M. Vince

12:30-2:10

Lunch on your own

2:20-3:20

Panel #3: Technology and Its Discontents (Simms 231)

Maggie McKinley, "'Pollution in the Conduits': Mailer's Technology Skepticism and the Rise of A.I."

Raymond M. Vince, "Objective Knowledge or Cognitive Ghetto? Science, Faith, and Media Today"

Gerald R. Lucas, "Norman Mailer 2.0"

Moderator:

3:30-4:30

Panel #4: IYKYK (Simms 231)

Emily Benedek, “What Norman Didn’t Know About Jack Henry Abbott’s Childhood: The lawless, secretive, polygamous society that offered him respect and succor, and possibly the blueprint for a life of crime”

Respondent: Mashey Bernstein

Moderator:

4:40-5:40

Tour of the Mailer Archives at Wilkes University (Farley Library Archives, 2nd floor)

Led by Susanna Calev

5:45-7:30

Welcome Reception (Farley Library, 1st floor Lobby)

7:30-

Dinner on your own

Friday, October 10

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Panel #5: The Personal Is Political (Simms 231)

Jason Mosser, “Mailer and Orwell: Turning Political Writing into Art”

Matthew S. Hinton, “The Spooky Art of the Squeal: Mailer Meets Trump”

Moderator:

10:10-11:10

Panel #6: The Lively Arts (Simms 231)

Austin Dabney, “Toni Morrison’s Unlikely Advocacy of Norman Mailer”

Edward Birzin, “The Prophetic Vision: *The Faith of Graffiti* Reframed through Matta-Clark’s Lost Photographs”

Olivia Rutigliano, “Mailer, Dickens, and Serialization”

Moderator:

11:20-12:20 p.m.

Panel #7: What Would Norman Say and Do? A Roundtable
(Simms 231)

Neil Abercrombie, John Buffalo Mailer, J. Michael Lennon

Moderator: Maggie McKinley

12:30-2:30

Lunch on your own

Executive Board meeting (Room TBA)

2:40-3:40

**Panel #8: Norman Mailer and James Jones: The Wilkes
University Connection** (Simms 231)

Kaylie Jones, Bonnie Culver, J. Michael Lennon

Moderator: Matthew S. Hinton

3:50-4:50

**Panel #9: A Celebration: 20 Years of the MFA in Creative
Writing at Wilkes University** (Simms 231)

Kaylie Jones, David Hicks, Barbara Taylor, Wayne Benson,

J. Michael Lennon

5:00-7:00

Cocktail Hour (Foyer outside Simms 231)

Sponsored by Bonnie Culver and David Hicks

7:00-

Dinner on your own

Saturday, October 11

9:30-10:45 a.m.

Panel #10: Of the Making of Men and Their Manuscripts
(Henry Student-Miller Conference Center, 2nd floor)

Peter Balbert, “Prescience, Zemblanity, and Death: Ruminations on
Mailer’s ‘Ten Thousand Words a Minute’”

Jared Young, “’A New Breed of Man’: War Wounds, Veterans, and Anti-Remasculinization Narratives in *An American Dream*”

Matthew S. Hinton, “The Blurbs of Norman Mailer Revisited”

Moderator:

11:00-12:00 p.m.

The Castle in the Forest: A Reading by the Wilkes University Reader’s Theatre (Henry Student-Miller Conference Center, 2nd floor)

Bonnie Culver and Matthew S. Hinton

12:00-2:30

Luncheon (Paul and Jean Adams Ballroom, 2nd floor)

Keynote Address by Rudy Langlais