

Call for Papers
“Precarious Lives in Conrad and Ford”
Proposal for a Special Session at the 2018 MLA Convention
Jointly Proposed by the Ford Madox Ford Society and the Joseph Conrad Society of America

Insecurity, fragility, and contingency are pervasive states of being in the works of Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford. The precariousness of life may not be evident because of “the agreeable somnolence” with which “we go through life with eyes half shut, with dull ears, with dormant thoughts,” as Marlow reflects in *Lord Jim*. But it is ever ready to spring on the unsuspecting, often with devastating consequences. The sources of insecurity may be epistemological, ontological, moral, or political—any of the ways in which, for Conrad and Ford, our lives are vulnerable to displacement and dislocation because of forces, factors, or causes beyond our understanding or power. Proposals are invited for papers exploring any aspect of the states of insecurity represented in their fictions. Abstracts (250 words) should be sent no later than March 10 to Seamus O’Malley (seamusomalley@gmail.com) and Paul Armstrong (Paul_Armstrong@Brown.edu). This proposal for a non-guaranteed special session at the 2018 MLA Convention in New York City is jointly sponsored by the Ford Madox Ford Society and the Joseph Conrad Society of America.