



Workshop/Colloquium

Ian Afflerbach, University of North Georgia

**Surveying American Late Modernism:
Partisan Review and the Cultural Politics of the Questionnaire**

**Wednesday, June 26, 10 – 1 a.m.
conference room ground floor ,Philo II (building 1158)**

In 1939, William Phillips and Philip Rahv, editors of *Partisan Review*, attempted to map the “Situation in American Writing” by sending a questionnaire to a “representative list” of writers, including Wallace Stevens, Gertrude Stein, Sherwood Anderson, John Dos Passos, and James Agee. Working at the boundary of periodical studies, material culture studies, and the emerging field of late modernist studies, my essay identifies this collaborative exchange between authors, editors, and readers as a signal moment for *Partisan Review*’s intellectual community as well as for the questionnaire as a genre. “The Situation in American Writing,” I argue, marks a distinctly late phase of American modernism, in which artists struggled to reconcile the ideals of a transnational, avant-garde art movement with the reality of global war, a growing cultural nationalism, and the challenges of professional authorship.

This essay was recently published with *Modernism/modernity*, after presenting earlier versions at the Obama Institute, Modernist Studies Association, and American Literature Association.

All welcome!