

Call for Proposals:  
Sixth Annual Midwestern History Conference  
Tuesday and Wednesday, May 12-13, 2020  
Grand Rapids, Michigan



**Call for Proposals: Sixth Annual Midwestern History Conference**  
**Tuesday, May 12 – Wednesday, May 13, 2020**  
**Grand Rapids, Michigan**  
**Proposal Submission Deadline: Friday, January 3, 2020 (non-**  
**negotiable)**

The Midwestern History Association and the Hauenstein Center at Grand Valley State University invite proposals for papers to be delivered at the Sixth Annual Midwestern History Conference, to be held May 12-13, 2020, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This conference continues a vibrant discussion which has grown significantly over the last five years, at collaborative conferences designed to spark – and sustain – a revival of Midwestern studies in American historiography. Infused with the varieties of original research pursued by scholars from many different career paths and stages,

this annual gathering strives to cultivate rigorous historical understanding of a complex, dynamic, and misunderstood region. Last year's Midwestern History Conference attracted more than 180 participants serving on 50 panels. Plenary speakers at the Midwestern History Conference in previous years have included winners of the Pulitzer, Bancroft, and Parkman Prizes, a National Book Award Finalist, and a past president of the Labor and Working Class History Association.

We welcome papers relating to all aspects of the history of the American Midwest, in all its diversity. At this time, the Midwestern History Association is particularly interested in receiving submissions that use race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, Indigeneity, class, diaspora, and transnationalism as topics and categories of analysis for exploring Midwestern history.

**Proposals for panel and roundtables**, with a moderator and/or chair, should be a maximum of 1,000 words.

**Individual paper proposals** are also welcome and should be a maximum of 300 words.

All proposals must be accompanied by short vitas of the participants. All proposals must also contain contact information for every presenter included in the proposal.

In an effort to promote scholarly conversation and collaboration, the MHA and the Hauenstein Center urge applicants to limit their proposals to one panel or roundtable.

**Proposals should be sent to Jakob Bigard of Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center at [bigardja@gvsu.edu](mailto:bigardja@gvsu.edu).**

The Midwestern History Association, created in the fall of 2014, is dedicated to rebuilding the field of Midwestern History, which had suffered from decades of neglect and inattention. The MHA advocates for greater attention to Midwestern history among professional historians, seeks to rebuild the infrastructure necessary for the study of the American Midwest, promotes greater academic discourse relating to Midwestern history, and offers prizes to scholars who excel in the study of the Midwest.

**To become a member of the Midwestern History Association, please contact the University of Nebraska Press at the link below:**

<https://nebraskapressjournals.unl.edu/society/midwestern-history-association/>

Members can receive a subscription to Middle West Review, the association's journal of record. Members are also added to an email list that provides access to news about upcoming conferences, calls for papers, and other proposals related to Midwestern

history. Standard member dues are \$40; the student rate is \$20. The MHA also gladly accepts donations toward the cost of annual prizes and other expenses, as well.

Inspired by Ralph Hauenstein's life of leadership and service, and based at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Hauenstein Center is dedicated to raising a community of ethical, effective leaders for the twenty-first century. Launched with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Center's Common Ground Initiative engages leading scholars, writers, and public officials in conversations about the cultural, political, and intellectual challenges that Americans face.

As a proud partner of the Midwestern History Association, the Hauenstein Center is committed to supporting historical scholarship on the American Midwest. Bounded by the Great Plains and Great Lakes; known for agriculture and industry; for irenic countryside and great cities; labeled the Breadbasket, the Heartland, and the Rust Belt; the history of the Midwest – its peoples and places, cultures and conflicts, aspirations and afflictions – is the history of America's most common ground.

**PROPOSALS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 3, 2020.**

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