



2025 New Jersey History Conference Call for Proposals

The New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) and RevolutionNJ are pleased to present the 2025 New Jersey History Conference, which will be held at The College of New Jersey on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

The New Jersey History Conference is an annual program that highlights the importance of studying and sharing state and local history by inviting established and emerging scholars, educators, public historians, and a broad spectrum of social science and humanities researchers to present new research that facilitates greater public awareness of New Jersey history.

Theme

Memory is a powerful force. Who and what we choose to remember impacts individual identities and national narratives. How we curate our cultural memory can foster unity and spark discord. Based on the RevolutionNJ theme “the historical process,” this year’s conference, titled “Memory and Memorialization,” will explore what we in New Jersey protect from our past, how we reconstruct the forgotten, and the ways in which these histories affect our public spaces and conversations.

Conference Proposals

We encourage proposals that feature diverse figures, events, and narratives. Presentations and workshops exploring memory and memorialization in New Jersey may address topics including, but not limited to:

- History of public monuments
- Oral history and traditions
- History of erased histories/ censorship
- Stewards of cultural memory
 - E.G. museums, libraries, archives, and historical cemetery organizations
- Evolving perceptions of the past
- Commemoration of historical events
- Silences in archives
- Depiction of historical events in art and media

The Conference Planning Committee will also review and consider proposals on general topics in New Jersey history unrelated to this year's theme.

Session Types

The Conference Planning Committee is accepting proposals for:

- Individual presentations
- Full panels
- Workshops

Accepted individual presentations will be allotted 15 – 20 minutes and will be combined with other presentations to create a full panel. Accepted full panels will be allotted 75 minutes to be divided at the discretion of the panelists. Full panel proposals that include a moderator are encouraged; however, a moderator can be assigned after the panel is accepted. Accepted workshops will be allotted 75 minutes and must include an interactive component or activity for participants.

Submission

The conference attracts a mixed audience that includes scholars, students, public historians, and history enthusiasts. We highly recommend that presenters do not read their papers. Presentations that summarize research or projects and encourage audience discussion receive better feedback from attendees. As such, the Committee accepts proposals for individual presentations and does not require a full paper submission; however, the Committee does request that the topic's historical context and relevance to theme are provided as part of the proposal abstract. Some presentation summaries and papers may be selected for publication in *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, the online journal co-sponsored by Middlesex County, the NJHC, and Rutgers University Libraries.

Please submit your proposal via this [link](#) by the deadline of June 19, 2025. Your submission will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee, and you will be notified of the acceptance of your proposal no later than July 24, 2025. We will only consider one submission per individual/group.

Proposals MUST include:

- Contact information
- The title of the paper or presentation.
- A one-paragraph presenter bio
 - Full panel proposals must include a bio for each presenter on the panel
- A speaker headshot

- Full panel proposals must include a headshot for each presenter on the panel
- Your preferred name, title, and affiliation stylization (how you would like to be listed in the conference program).
 - Full panel proposals must include this information for each presenter on the panel
- An abstract of 350 - 500 words per paper or presentation. Abstracts must include a description of the historical context and the proposed topic's relevance to conference theme.
- Full panel proposals must include a short description of the panel to be printed in the conference program.
- Workshops must include a short description of the workshop to be printed in the conference program.
- Workshops must include a description of the interactive component for the audience.
- All proposals must select their proposed target audience

To submit a proposal, please click [here](#).

For questions, contact Rachel Thimke at rachel.thimke@sos.nj.gov.