



2022 New Jersey History Conference Call for Proposals

The [New Jersey Historical Commission](#) (NJHC) is pleased to present the 2022 New Jersey History Conference, to be held virtually in November (TBD).

[An in-person keynote plenary session is tentatively scheduled for TBD, location to be determined.]

Working Title: New Jersey and Histories of Immigration/Migration (2022)

New Jersey, with one of the most diverse populations in the country, has long been the site of the movement of people—whether they moved voluntarily out of need or want, were forced or coerced to move, or found borders moving around them. In the year 2022, the NJHC will focus on narratives of immigration and migration related to New Jersey.

The 2022 New Jersey History Conference will address the history of different forms of movement within, to, or from the state. We will ask how interpretations of stories can help illuminate our understanding of the present. The conference will explore the history, cultural heritage, and contemporary issues facing immigrant communities through the lens of New Jersey studies. The NJHC particularly welcomes projects that investigate stories and questions related to this topic.

Conference Proposals

The New Jersey History Conference is an annual program that highlights the importance of studying and sharing state and local history and invites 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.

We encourage proposals that feature diverse figures, events, and narratives. Presentations exploring immigration history and life may address topics including, but not limited to:

- Native American migration history prior to and after European colonization to the present day
- Dutch and English settler and colonial culture in early New Jersey
- African, Asian, European and Central and South American, and other migration/immigration histories in the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth centuries, and the contemporary period
- Nativism in New Jersey
- Spirituality, religious history, and place-making
- Contemporary issues, cultural and language rights
- Whiteness studies

- Digital and social media use, and other ways to maintain familial relationships over distance
- Cultural practices including music, art, dance, literature, foodways, and theatre; oral history projects and museum exhibitions
- African American Migration (Underground Railroad, Great Migration Movements)
- Caribbean, West Indian, and Unincorporated U.S. Territories and their relationships to immigration and cultural history in New Jersey
- Political immigration/migration for justice; refugees and asylum seekers, deportation, and detention centers
- Best practices for teaching about immigration in the classroom

We recommend that presenters consider how topics in immigration history and studies connect to New Jersey. For example, how has immigration shaped the development of communities and place names throughout New Jersey?

Although the focus of the conference is New Jersey, topics relating to the broader Mid-Atlantic region will be considered. The Conference Planning Committee will also review and consider proposals on general topics in New Jersey history unrelated to histories of immigration/migration.

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. The Committee will also accept proposals for a full panel of speakers presenting on a given topic. Some presentation summaries and papers may be selected for publication in *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, the online journal co-sponsored by Monmouth University, the NJHC, and Rutgers University Libraries

Please submit your proposal via this link <https://bit.ly/2022NJHCconf> by the deadline of **June 28, 2022**. Your submission will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee, and you will be notified of the acceptance of your proposal no later than August 2022. We will only consider one submission per individual/group. If you are accepted as an individual, it is highly likely that the Committee will combine your proposal with other accepted proposals to form a panel session. Sessions will likely last 75 minutes.

Proposals **MUST** include:

- Your name, pronouns, title, and affiliation stylization (how you would like to be listed in the conference program). If you are submitting for a group panel, please include this information for each speaker.
- Contact information (address, telephone, email).

- The title of the paper or presentation.
- A one-paragraph bio. If you are submitting for a group panel, please include a bio for each speaker.
- An abstract of no more than 500 words.
- Speaker(s) preference for presenting virtually or in-person. As of the issuing of this call, potential presenters should anticipate presenting virtually in November with a few opportunities for live presentation. We are collecting data about speaker preferences in the event of any changes.

To access the call for proposals online, please visit history.nj.gov. Submit a proposal via this link <https://bit.ly/2022NJHCconf>.

Contact Noelle Lorraine Williams at noelle.williams@sos.nj.gov with any questions.