CALL FOR PAPERS

Echoes
47th Annual D.C. History Conference
Washington, D.C., November 12-13, 2020
Virtual Conference

Submission Deadline: Monday, August, 31, 2020, 11:59 p.m.
Submit online

“I was talking about time. It’s so hard for me to believe in it. Some things go. Pass on. Some things just stay. I used to think it’s just my rememory. You know. Some things you forget. Other things you never do. But it’s not. Places, places are still there. If a house burns down, it’s gone, but the place - the picture of it - stays, and not just in my rememory, but out there, in the world. What I remember is a picture floating around out there outside my head. I mean, even if I don’t think it, even if I die, the picture of what I did, or knew, or saw is still out there. Right in the place it happened.”

- Beloved, Toni Morrison

How do memory and history echo through time? In a year of disruption, upheaval, loss, war, pandemic, and protest, echoes of past years of turmoil resonate. If we are to talk about time, place, and the state of the world, as Toni Morrison suggests we should, what might our “rememory” direct us to examine, deconstruct, or revisit? How do moments and eras in history stretch our understandings of memory?

The 2020 D.C. History Conference theme, “Echoes,” explores the shared frequencies between our contemporary era and critical historic moments that left an indelible impact on Washington, D.C. in the early twentieth century. History and its conflict and confluences often produce compelling moments of resonance. The Spanish influenza pandemic sets the stage for major public health interventions, but also exemplifies
persistent social hierarchies and discrimination that echo into the explosive Red Summer of 1919 that in turn sound a chord of familiarity into contemporary public health crises. How do we picture, remember, and come to understand our city through the echoes of its history?

The D.C. History Conference seeks interdisciplinary submissions built around a theme that explores but that is not limited to:

- Red Summer of 1919
- Spanish Influenza Pandemic
- Race and xenophobia in the nation and Washington, D.C.
- Public health and public discourse on identity
- World War I
- D.C. in local and national politics
- Suffrage and the expansion of electoral politics
- Washington, D.C. and the politics of statehood and representation
- Washington, D.C. in local and national politics
- Framing the city through the visual and performing arts and literature
- Anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act

We invite interdisciplinary inquiry and exploration that considers but is not limited to any of the following:

- How do we account for and understand the confluence of race and medicine during global pandemics?
- How do public health crises, like the Spanish influenza or the HIV epidemic, impact the culture, communities, and built environment of the District?
- How have public health crises impacted communities in the District?
- How do communities remember or make claim to space?
- What impact did the 1919 pandemic have on the culture of Washington, D.C.?
- How does race structure the built environment of the District?
- How does rememory shape historic narratives and archival commitments?
- How might we understand the protests of the summer of 2020 in conversation with the Red Summer of 1919?
- What might we learn by studying public health policies in the District?
- What is the legacy of monuments and how do their meanings change over time?
- How have Washingtonians fought for representation, parity, and justice, political and otherwise?
- How does the concept of “being inside the Beltway,” play a role in the national imagination of D.C. as a place, city, or community?
- How might we account for and contextualize the conflicts and tensions around voting access?
- What was the impact of World War I on the local Washington, D.C. community?
How is your discipline or field using new methods or approaches to advance and expand that work it does and how it does it?

The D.C. History Conference focuses on topics related to the history, archaeology, and culture of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; including, nearby Maryland and Virginia as well as the federal government. DCHC is an interdisciplinary conference. We seek papers from public and cultural historians and researchers and scholars across the public humanities, scholars in other fields, artists, community members, local organizers, and practitioners. We encourage the participation of students at all education levels, particularly graduate students, as they develop their research.

To see panels and information about past conferences, visit:
http://www.dchistory.org/programs/d-c-history-conference/

Conference Format
This year’s conference, “Echoes,” will be conducted fully online and with a modified format to accommodate a virtual conference gathering. The conference will begin on Thursday, November 12, 2020 with the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture, named in honor of pioneering scholar of African American history Letitia Woods Brown. Friday morning begins with a plenary session followed by symposium-style presentations.

In recognition of the transition to an online format, the D.C. History Conference will conduct a training session for all selected presenters to guide them through the digital platforms we are using.

Submission Categories & Format
All submissions will be evaluated by the D.C. History Conference Committee. The submission deadline is Monday, August 31, 2020, by 11:59 p.m. Selected panels, presenters, posters, papers, and forums will be notified in early September.

Individual papers may be submitted for the conference committee to combine into panels with related papers. Panels last one hour and 15 minutes. Typically, three speakers each take 15-20 minutes to present their research followed by 10-15 minutes of discussion with audience participation. Submit your paper title and a 150-word abstract along with a CV or resume, professional title and institutional affiliation (if applicable), and contact info.

Moderated panels consist of three to four speakers on a single topic or theme, submitted together. Submit a 150-word description of the panel session proposal complete with panel title and titles of each presentation. Include the role of each panelist, professional titles and institutional affiliations (if applicable) and a CV or
resume, with the name of the moderator, and a 150-word abstract for each presentation.

**Forums** are interactive sessions focused on conversation and dialogue. Submit a 150-word proposal for a forum designed to engage participants in an interactive experience exploring a critical issue to D.C. history or contemporary issues in the city.

**Posters** are visual representations of your research. This year posters will be presented on Instagram displayed in 3 to 5 square images in jpeg format. Presenters may choose to submit a video of up to one minute in mov or mp4 format featuring you describing your research. Submit a 150-word abstract describing your project and briefly explaining how you would present your research in a visual presentation. You may also send an example.

**Scholar Spotlight** are presentations on significant projects of original research including digital projects, curated exhibitions, dissertations, and books published within the calendar year since the previous conference. Submit a 150-word description of your project, including release dates, and contact information.

**The History Network** is an opportunity for organizations and projects focused on history to promote their work, recruit new members, and meet other historians. This year the History Network will be conducted via social media. To participate in the History Network please email conference@dchistory.org.

**How to Submit Your Proposal:**
Please submit your proposal using this Google form by August 31, 2020, by 11:59 p.m. All submissions will be evaluated by the D.C. History Conference Committee. Selections will be finalized in early September, when submitters will be notified. Submissions require your name and contact information, the type of presentation you are offering, the title, fellow panelists (if applicable), and an abstract or summary. You have the opportunity to upload additional materials in a single file if you wish.

Like the D.C. History Committee has done in the past, we want to give you the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about how to create a strong proposal. You’re invited to sign up for a 20-minute consultation with one of our experienced committee members who review submissions and know what makes a great presentation:

**D.C. History Conference Virtual Office Hours:**