DRAFT 2022 MHA Conference Program

Last Updated: March 31, 2022*

* Subject to change at the discretion of conference organizers

(IP) – In Person Attendance
(V) – Virtual Attendance
(TBD) – Unregistered
DAY 1: Thursday, May 19, 2022

MHA Business Meeting: 7:00 am-7:45 am

Session 1: 8:00 am-9:30 am

**Michigan Stories of Resistance to Slavery**
Chair: Jamon Jordan, Black Scroll Network (TBD)
- “From Kentucky to Canada: The Journey of 28 Freedom-seekers, April 1853”
  Rochelle Danquah, Wayne State University (IP)
- “What an Odawa/Ojibwa Oral Tradition Tells Us about Michigan's Underground Railroad”
  Dr. Roy Finkenbine, University of Detroit Mercy (IP)
- “The Odyssey of John Freeman”
  Leon Bates, public historian (IP)

**Religion and the Midwest I**
Chair: TBD
- Midwest Local Agents of the Industrial Removal Office
  Dakotah Willems, Hastings College (V)
- Industrial Removal Office: Jewish Women as the Gatekeepers of Detroit’s Jewish Community
  Emily Murphy, Eastern Michigan University (TBD)
- Rethinking Midwestern Catholicism: The Importance and Impact of Smaller Dioceses
  Joshua Hoxmeier, University of Illinois Chicago (V)
- Catholic Responses to the Kennedy Candidacy During the Wisconsin Primary
  Adam Petersen, Marquette University (TBD)

**Midwestern Reformers and Activists**
Chair: TBD
- “For the Common Good of All:” Suffragists, Prohibition, Temperance, and the Fight for the 1916 Iowa Suffrage Referendum
  Tracie Grube-Gaurkee, Texas Christian University (IP)
- “The internationalism that is so peculiarly American:” Jane Addams, Grace Abbot, and the Promise of the Cosmopolitan Neighborhood, 1907-1917
  Michael Steiner, Professor Emeritus of American Studies at Cal State Fullerton (TBD)
- Gateways to Reform: Pathways Forged by Women of the Great Plains Within the Populist Movement, 1880-1900
  Ann Vlock, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (IP)
Session 1, Continued

Re-imagining and Rewilding Midwestern Environmental History
Chair: Lynne Heasley, Western Michigan University (TBD)

“Not Endowed with Extraordinary Natural Features’: Re-imagining Midwestern Places and the Failed Attempt to Create The Lincoln Homestead National Recreation Area”
Camden Burd, Eastern Illinois University (IP)

“Rewilding a Silent Spring: The Pine River, Community Health, and Urban Renewal in St. Louis, Michigan”
Brittany Fremion, Central Michigan University (TBD)

“Saving a Cursed Dumping Ground: Local Activism, Binational Ambition, and Stymied Plans in the Detroit River”
Ramya Swayamprakash, Michigan State University (TBD)

Brandon Ward, Perimeter College-Georgia State University (TBD)

Chicago’s Second Greatest Fire: Union Stockyards Fire of 1934 (Individual Slideshow)
Jeffrey Stern, Independent Scholar (TBD)

Break: 9:30-10:00 am
Session 2: 10:00 am-11:30 am

Writing the Region
Co-chairs: Jacob Bruggeman, Editor-in-Chief, Cleveland Review of Books, and Mitch James, Managing Editor, Great Lakes Review (IP)
Andy Oler, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (IP)
Kari Gunter-Seymour, 2020 Ohio Poet of the Year, Poet Laureate of Ohio (V)
Ron Riekk, Independent Scholar (TBD)
Chris Harding Thornton, Independent Scholar (TBD)

Race, Resistance, and Identity I
Chair: TBD
“I forgot you were a cheesehead”: Colin Kaepernick and Wisconsin
Eric Burin, University of North Dakota (IP)
The Black Separation Movement in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
James Huenink, Independent Scholar (IP)
Bringing the History of anti-Black Violence in Indiana into Public Spaces
Madeline Hellmich (IP) and Haley Brinker (V), IUPUI

Settlement on the Edges
Chair: Tony Mullis, US Army Command and General Staff College
Why Did a ‘Howling Wilderness’ Become Michigan’s Capital?
Eric Dobberteen, Independent Scholar (IP)
Combatting Insurrection in Kansas: The Limits of the 19th Century Communication Revolution
Tony Mullis, US Army Command and General Staff College (IP)

The Midwest During and After World War I
Chair: TBD
“Chronicling the ‘Polar Bears’: The American Sentinel and the ANREF Experience, 1918-1919”
Jeff Schultz, Luzerne County Community College (V)
Immigrant Americanization as a Threat to Civil Liberties: World War I Iowa as a Test Case
Robert Zeidel, University of Wisconsin-Stout (IP)
The Paradox of Vigilantism in World War I Wisconsin
Leslie Bellais, University of Wisconsin (IP)
Session 2, Continued

“An Army of Women:” A Diverse Midwest in World War I Women’s Registration Cards
Chair: Robert Franciosi, Grand Valley State University (IP)

The Importance of the Midwest and a Survey of Race and Ethnicity
Jo Ellyn Clarey, Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council (IP)

A Close Look at African American Women Outside a Major Urban Center
Sophia Ward Brewer, Grand Rapids Community College (IP)

The Personal Lives of Professional Women
Ruth Van Stee, Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council (IP)

The Midwest as a Region
Chair: Gregory Rose, The Ohio State University at Marion (IP)

Do We Have Anything in Common? Grassroots Research and the Quest for Midwestern Identity
Stephen Cusulos, Independent Scholar (TBD)

An Outsider’s View: Searching for an Understanding Within the “Many Midwesterns: Constructing Place, Recasting Identity”
Peter Krats, University of Western Ontario (V)

Public Memory and Politics in the Making of Iowa History
Mila Kaut, Northwestern University (V)

Recentering the Fringe: Exploring the Anti-School Centralization Policy in Chautauqua County, New York
Casey Jakubowsky, Medaille College (V)

Lunch: 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Session 3: 1:00 pm-2:30 pm

Steel Valley Elegy: Poems about Life in Ohio (individual Presentation)
William Heath, Mount Saint Mary’s University (IP)

Forming Rural Faith Communities: Midwestern Religion in National and Global Contexts, 1830-1920
Chair: Emily Conrow-Krutz, Michigan State University (IP)
   “Open a Fountain for Future Generations to Drink At”: New England Congregationalists, Settler Colonialism, and Education on the Illinois Frontier, 1830-1860”
   Jenny Barker-Devine, Illinois College (IP)
From Sioux County to Bloemfontein: Rural Religion and the Building of a Global Community, 1870-1902
   Andrew Klumpp, State Historical Society of Iowa (IP)
The Town’s Preachers: Community, Identity, and the Fundamentalist-Modernist Debates of the 1920s
   David Mislin, Temple University (IP)

Immigrants and Immigration
Chair: TBD
   Irish and German Immigrants in Madison, Wisconsin, during the Civil War
   Jesse David Chariton, Iowa State University (IP)
   Budding Roses, or Withering Weeds, in the New Eden? The Rise, and Fall, or Irish Colonization on the Minnesota Frontier, 1876-1884
   Timothy Forest, University of Cincinnati (TBD)
   Great Migrations: Black Homesteaders Stake Their Claims in the Great Plains
   Jacob Friefeld, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and Museum (TBD)
   Does Census Nativity Data from 1880 Support the Concept of Latitudinal Migration?
   Gregory Rose, The Ohio State University at Marion (IP)
Session 3, Continued

Environment and Agriculture in the Midwest
Chair: Dustin Gann, Midland University

“I Gave a Dam about a Dam:” Jim Jontz and the Fight for Big Pine Creek
Ray Boomhower, Indiana Historical Society Press (IP)

Planting Seeds and Preserving the Land: Understanding Sierra Club Offshoots in Nebraska, 1971-1990
Dustin Gann, Midland University (IP)

A Century of Crop Consolidation and Agricultural Land Use Change in the Midwest
Christopher Laingen, Eastern Illinois University (IP)

The Midwest During and After World War II
Chair: TBD

The Pride of the Midwest: Indiana and Dogs for Defense
Hannah Palsa, Kansas State University (V)

From War to Horror and Black Humor in Comics of the Postwar Midwest
Mike Kugler, Northwestern College (V)

Midwestern Congressmen and the British Loan Bill of 1946
Philip Grant, Pace University (IP)

Break: 2:30 pm-3:00 pm
Session 4: 3:00 pm-4:45 pm

10 Questions for Henry Ford (Documentary Screening)
Andy Kirshner, University of Michigan (IP)

The Indigenous Midwest
Chair: TBD

Expulsion, Erasure, Rememory, Restoration: Dakota Reclamations in the Shadow of Gustavus Adolphus College
Misti Harper, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (V)

Anishinaabe Place and Identity in U.S.-Canada Borderlands: The Swan Creek Black River Ojibwe, 1830-1950
Deborah Jackson, Earlham College (IP)

The Cross at the Straits: Northern Michigan Tourism, Religious Heritage, and Anishinaabeg Perseverance
Sean Jacobson, Loyola University Chicago (IP)

“They Are, Relatively to Us, What the Ancient Pict And Celt Were to Britain:”
Indigenous North Americans Recast as Europe’s Barbarian Tribes in The Writings of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft
Brandon Dean, Wayne State University (IP)

Ecce Homogenize: Indigenous Christian Identity in the Jacksonian Osage Plains
Joshua Rice, Christar International (V)

Break: 4:45 pm-5:00 pm

Social Hour: 5:00 pm-6:00 pm (At The Knickerbocker by New Holland Brewing Company)
MHA Annual Awards Presentation: 5:30 pm
DAY 2: Friday, May 20, 2022

Session 5: 8:00 am-9:30 am

**Midwestern Creative Expression**
Chair: TBD
- Mapping of Midwest in the History of Experimental and Electronic Music in the 20th Century
  Anastasia Chernysheva, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (V)
- The Detroit River Story Lab: Experiments in Community-Engaged Research and Teaching
  David Porter, University of Michigan (IP)
- Exploring the Mahjari Arts & Letters Movement in the Midwest
  Richard Breaux, University of Wisconsin La Crosse (IP)
- Making Dances: El Gran Baile and the Creation of Texas-Mexican Musical Community in Michigan and the Midwest
  Richard Cruz Davila, Michigan State University (V)

**Religion and the Midwest II**
Chair: TBD
- Evangelism Afloat: Protestant Missions on the Ohio River 1889-1910
  Gari-Anne Patzwald, Independent Scholar (TBD)
- “God Was Not in the Wind” Or, Maybe He Was: Religious Disputes in the Wake of the 1913 Easter Sunday Tornado in Omaha, Nebraska
  Catherine Biba, Hastings College (IP)
- Women and Recasting the American Muslim Identity in the Depression Era Midwest
  Ashley Johnson Bavery, Eastern Michigan University (IP)
- The Gospel of Labor: How Evangelicalism Shaped Immigrant Workers Unionism, and Became the Foundation of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party from the 1880s to 1917
  Rudin Mucaj, Kent State University (IP)

**American Liberalism in the Postwar Midwest: A Story in Three Acts**
Chair: Jon Lauck, University of South Dakota (IP)
- The 1984 Election: Morning in America and the Demise of the Midwestern Liberal Order
  Jeff Bloodworth, Gannon University (IP)
- Red Power Turned Blue
  Sean Flynn, Dakota Wesleyan (IP)
- The Rise and Disappearance of Liberal South Dakota
  Marc Johnson, Independent Scholar (IP)
Session 5, Continued

**Education in the Midwest**
Chair: Briana DeValk, Minnesota State University at Mankato

- **Introducing English: Language, Acculturation, and Norwegian American Children in Norman County Common Schools, 1870-1925**  
  Briana DeValk, Minnesota State University at Mankato (V)

- **Michigan’s Trailblazers: The Michigan State Normal College, Marvin Pittman, and the Grassroots Transformation of Rural Education, 1921-1934**  
  Maxwell Harrison, Iowa State University (IP)

- **Colonized Bodies: Shared Practices of the Lapeer State Home & Training School and the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School**  
  Allie Schloten, University of Chicago (IP)

- **From the State Public School in Owatonna, MN to the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC: The Life of August Hanson**  
  Andrew McGuire, Steele County Historical Society (IP)

**Women, Philanthropy, Recipes, and Social Progress: A Reexamination of Primary Resources**
Chair: Cynthia Clampitt, Independent Scholar (IP)

- **Catherine Lambrecht, Greater Midwest Foodways Alliance, Highland Park Historical Society (IP)**

- **Nicole Stocker, Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County, Illinois (IP)**

- **Nancy Webster, Archivist, Highland Park Historical Society (TBD)**

Break: 9:30-10:00 am
Session 6: 10:00 am-11:30 am

Many Iowas: Environmental Place, Developing Identities, and Cultural Change
Chair: Andrew Klumpp, State Historical Society of Iowa (IP)

Reconstructing the Lost Lakes
Kristen Greteman, Iowa State University (TBD)

From Coal Palace to Closing the Plant: The Social & Cultural Legacy of Coal in Southeastern Iowa
Kevin Mason, Waldorf University (TBD)

"Atlantic Plans to be Righteous": Iowa and the Culture Wars of the 1920s
Leo Landis, State Curator, State Historical Society of Iowa (TBD)

“Iowa: Place and Identity”
Jeff Bremer, Iowa State University (V)

Indigenizing Milwaukee: Wild Rice, Boarding Schools, and Visualizing Indigenous Presence in the Digital Humanities
Co-chairs: Dr. Bryan Rindfleisch, Marquette University, and Dr. Samantha Majhor, Marquette University
Clare Camblin, Marquette University (V)
Cameron Fronczak, Marquette University (V)
Danielle Barrett, Marquette University (V)
Rebecca DoBoer, Marquette University (V)

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society: Fifty Years of Documenting Indiana’s Jewish Identity
Chair: TBD
Ellie Lawson, IJHS Project Coordinator, Indiana Historical Society (IP)
Maire Gurevitz, Archivist, Indiana Historical Society (IP)
Kathy Mulder, Metadata Specialist, Indiana Historical Society (IP)

The Urban Midwest
Chair: TBD

The Bean Pie: Black Muslims, Identity, and Environmental Justice in Early Twentieth-Century Detroit
Alexandra Bicknell, Western Michigan University (IP)

Fires in the Naptown: Collaboration and Resistance in Indianapolis During the Summer of 1969
Edward Frantz, University of Indianapolis (V)

The People’s War on Drugs: Anti-Crack Marches in Post-Industrial Detroit, 1986-1992
Kenneth Alyass, Harvard University (TBD)

Disarming the Urban Crisis: Gun Control in Chicago and the War on Crime
Joshua Salzmann, Northeastern Illinois University (V)
Session 6, Continued

Midwestern Lives
Chair: TBD

Hoosier Prophet: The Humanitarian Vision of Dan West, Founder of Heifer International
William Kostlevy, Asbury Theological Seminary (IP)

The Great Hope of Western Conservatives: Edmund Bates, the 1860 Presidential Election, and the Many Midwests
Andrew Wiley, Cumberland University (IP)

“Unswerving Integrity:” The Radical Friendship of Eugene V. Debs and Robert Ingersoll
Justin Clark, Indiana Historical Bureau (IP)

Watching Adrian C. Lewis Invent Adrian C. Lewis
David Pichaske, Southwestern Minnesota State University (TBD)

Destination Heartland History (Individual Slideshow)
Cynthia Clampitt, Independent Scholar (IP)

Lunch: 11:30 am-12:00 pm
The African American Midwest

Chair: Dan Manatt, Democracy Films (IP)
Erik McDuffie, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (IP)
Dr. Ashley Howard, University of Iowa (V)
Travis Wright, Indiana University (V)
Session 8: 2:00 pm-3:30 pm

The State of Midwestern History
Chair: Jon Lauck, Middle West Review/University of South Dakota (IP)
  Theodore Karamanski, Loyola University-Chicago (TBD)
  Donna DeBlasio, Youngstown State University/Editor, Ohio History (TBD)
  Jacob Bruggeman, Johns Hopkins University (IP)
  Nicole Etcheson, Ball State University (IP)
  Liesl Olson, Newberry Library (TBD)

Race, Resistance, and Identity II
Chair: TBD
  A Life Beyond Carl Sandberg’s Poem: Henry Stephens, Race Man and Union Man, a Protagonist of the Illinois Mine Wars
  Rosemary Feuer, Northern Illinois University (IP)
  Morrill Hall Sit-in and Black Student Activism at the University of Minnesota, 1968-1969
  Christopher Getowicz, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (TBD)
  Suing for Front Seats: Black Women’s Lawsuits & Litigiousness Against Bus Segregation in the Midwest During the Great Migration
  Mary-Elizabeth Murphy, Eastern Michigan University (IP)

The Translocal Midwest: Placemaking and Mobility in Midwestern Immigrant Narratives
Co-chairs: Andy Oler, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Emiliano Aguilar, Northwestern University
  A Midwest Mexican Migration Story in Maria’s Journey
  Emiliano Aguilar, Northwestern University (IP)
  Going Home After Mom and Dad Leave
  Himanee Gupta-Carlson, Empire State College (V)
  The Breakbeat Poets: Translocal Placemaking from the Windy City
  Andy Oler, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (IP)
  Recasting Minnesota Latinidad in Star Girl Clan
  Jessica Lopez Lyman, University of Minnesota (V)
Session 8, Continued

The Rural Midwest
Chair: Cory Haala, University of Houston

Justice or Efficiency: Rationales for Railroad and Grain Elevator Regulation in Nineteenth-Century Illinois
Matthew Norvell, Loyola University Chicago (IP)

You Can't Live off Pride: Welfare and Farm Aid in the Reagan Era
Jeremiah Brockman, University of Northern Iowa (V)

“Who is going to run this state: people or money?” Historicizing Rural Resentment in Wisconsin, from Dreyfus to Feingold
Cory Haala, University of Houston (IP)

Gender, Sexuality, and Agency in the Midwest
Chair: Nikki Berg Burin, University of North Dakota

Transvestites in the Heartland
Robert Hill, Independent Scholar (IP)

Documenting Chicago's Transgender Community and its Bonds and Splits with the Broader LGBTQ+ Movement
Sarah Woods, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (V)

Celebrity, Divorce, and the Melodrama in the Civil War Era
Anthony Stamilio, Loyola University Chicago (IP)

“Dear Florence:” Writing the History of an Early 20th Century Statutory Rape Case in the Era of Me Too
Nikki Berg Burin, University of North Dakota (IP)

Saying Goodbye: 3:30 pm-4:00 pm

End of Conference