**Call for Proposals: Ninth Annual Midwestern History Conference**

**Thursday, May 18 and Friday, May 19, 2023**

**Richard M. DeVos Center and L.V. Eberhard Center**

**Proposal Submission Deadline: Friday, January 6, 2023 (non-negotiable)**

**Conference Theme: “Many Histories, One Midwest?”**

The Midwestern History Association and the Hauenstein Center at Grand Valley State University invites proposals for papers to be delivered at the Ninth Annual Midwestern History Conference, to be held May 18-19, 2023, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This conference continues a vibrant discussion which has grown significantly over the last eight years by placing Midwestern studies at the center of American historiography. Scholars from many different career paths and stages with original research gather at this annual meeting, striving to cultivate rigorous historical understanding of a complex, dynamic, and often misunderstood region. 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.

The 2022 Midwestern History Conference attracted more than 113 participants from institutions across the country serving on 35 panels and plenary sessions. *Please be on the lookout for more details in the coming months.*

Building on last year’s theme of “Many Midwests: Constructing Place, Recasting Identity,” we welcome papers relating to all aspects of the history of the American Midwest. This year’s theme of “Many Histories, One Midwest?” is intended to encourage submissions that examine and contextualize whether commonalities may be found among the diverse people and places of the Midwest. We strongly encourage the use of visual aids, digital media, and interactive elements to be incorporated into panel presentations, making them as engaging as possible for a hybrid audience.

Proposals for panel and roundtables are encouraged, with a moderator and/or chair and 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 and 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 will limit participants to a single panel or event this year. Proposals should include new research or innovative interpretations and should avoid substantially repeating the contents of presentations the scholar has previously made at the Midwestern History Conference.

In addition to welcoming proposals from scholars affiliated with colleges and universities, the MHA encourages proposals from public historians, students, and independent scholars. Successful proposals should demonstrate sound historical methods and professional research.

*[Proposals can be sent to Grand Valley State University’s Hauenstein](https://www.gvsu.edu/hc/cms-form-edit.htm?formId=D7560A66-06B0-9301-4C6E8CE119AFF31E)*

*[Center at this link.](https://www.gvsu.edu/hc/cms-form-edit.htm?formId=D7560A66-06B0-9301-4C6E8CE119AFF31E)*

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.

To sign up for the Midwestern History Association’s monthly newsletter, [click here](https://www.midwesternhistory.com/).

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.

[*To find past conferences, check out this page.*](https://www.gvsu.edu/hc/midwestern-history-conference-440.htm)

PROPOSALS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN January 6, 2023.