



2021 New Jersey History Conference Call for Proposals

The [New Jersey Historical Commission](#) (NJHC) is pleased to present the 2021 New Jersey History Conference, to be held virtually on Friday, November 12, 2021. An in-person keynote plenary session is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2021, location to be determined.

This conference is dedicated to promoting and exploring the diversity of Indigenous life in contemporary and historic New Jersey. The land now known as New Jersey has been home to the Lenape for over 14,000 years. The removal and forced displacement of Indigenous communities by European colonizers resulted in a historic diaspora. Some tribal nations, officially recognized by the state of New Jersey, maintain communities that still thrive in the state today. For federally-recognized tribal nations and First Nations located in other parts of North America, New Jersey and the greater mid-Atlantic region is an ancestral homeland. In addition, intertribal peoples and others who identify as Indigenous are a part of the rich cultural legacy of Native peoples in the state. The 2021 New Jersey History Conference will explore the history, cultural heritage, and contemporary issues facing diverse Native American communities through the lens of New Jersey studies.

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 Indigenous history and life may address topics including, but not limited to:

- Native American history prior to and after European colonization
- Archaeological studies (especially Indigenous approaches to archaeology and cultural heritage practices)
- Laws and treaties; language and language revitalization; economics and trade; residential schools; Native Americans and slavery; environmental justice; land acknowledgements; governmental recognition; NAGPRA; civil rights and the American Indian Movement
- Indigenous foodways and food sovereignty; cultural practices including music, art, dance, literature and theatre; oral history projects and museum exhibitions
- Explorations of indigeneity (e.g. how contemporary Latinx/Latinos conceptualize their relationships in the Indigenous diaspora and topics in Afro-Indigenous history)
- Contemporary issues such as Native American mascots, depictions in the media, education, land sovereignty, repatriation, and approaches to decolonization

We recommend that presenters consider how topics in Native American history and studies connect to New Jersey. For example, presenters may consider how the Lenape language contributes to place names around the state or explore the historic environmental impact of colonization on Native communities in 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 Native American history and life.**

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. **Indigenous and Native-identifying scholars and students are strongly encouraged to submit proposals.**

Please submit your proposal via this [link](#) by the deadline of June 28, 2021. 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 2021. **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:

- 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.**
- Your preferred name, 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.**
- 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 on Friday, November 12, 2021.** 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. To submit a proposal, please click [here](#). Contact Greer Luce at greer.luce@sos.nj.gov with any questions.