



**FORTY-SIXTH  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**JULY 17-20, 2025**

**PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

# CONFERENCE PLANNING

## **Program Committee 2025**

Kabria Baumgartner, Northeastern University, co-chair  
Peter Wirzbicki, Princeton University, co-chair  
Nicole Breault, University of Texas at El Paso  
Tara Bynum, University of Iowa  
Erik Chaput, Western Reserve Academy  
Brian DeLay, University of California, Berkeley  
Tom Foster, Howard University  
Jonathan Gienapp, Stanford University  
Sarah Gronningsater, University of Pennsylvania  
María Esther Hammack, The Ohio State University  
Eric Herschthal, University of Utah  
Michael Jirik, University of Missouri  
Ousmane Power-Greene, Clark University  
Joshua Rothman, University of Alabama  
Samantha Seeley, University of Richmond  
Jameson Sweet, Rutgers University, New Brunswick  
Karin Wulf, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

## **Local Arrangements Committee 2025**

Morgan Grefe, Rhode Island Historical Society, co-chair  
Karin Wulf, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University,  
co-chair  
Patrick H. Breen, Providence College  
Linford Fisher, Brown University  
Jordan Goffin, Providence Public Library  
Christopher Grasso, Brown University  
Sharon Murphy, Providence College  
James Kabala, Community College of Rhode Island  
CJ Martin, College of the Holy Cross  
Marcus Nevius, University of Missouri  
Emily Owens, Brown University  
Mike Vorenberg, Brown University

## **National Conference Coordinator**

Erika Huckestein, Widener University

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# EVENT SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

## Thursday, July 17

- TBD K-12 Teacher Professional Development Workshops  
Location: John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence
- 9:00 am-4:00 pm Biography Workshop  
Location: John Carter Brown Library, Room 011
- 12:00-3:00 pm SHEAR Advisory Council Meeting  
Location: Blackstone Room (Omni)
- 12:30-4:30 pm Second-Book Writers' Workshop  
Location: Andrews House, 13 Brown Street, Providence
- 1:00-5:00 pm Tour: Library Crawl  
Starting Location: Omni Lobby
- 3:00-5:00 pm Conference Registration  
Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby (Omni)
- 5:00-6:30 pm President's Plenary  
Location: Salomon Center for Teaching Auditorium, Brown University
- 6:30-8:00 pm Plenary Reception  
Location: John Hay Library, Brown University

## Friday, July 18

- 8:00-9:00 am Perk Up with the *JER* Editors  
Location: South County (Omni)
- 8:30-10:00 am Touring Providence's Disappeared Places: Hardscrabble and Snowtown  
Location: Omni Lobby

# EVENT SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

## Friday, July 18

- 8:30-11:00 am Morning Coffee Break  
Location: Providence Ballroom (Omni)
- 8:30 am-4:00 pm Conference Registration  
Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby (Omni)
- 8:30 am-5:00 pm Book Exhibit  
Location: Providence Ballroom (Omni)
- 9:00 am-12:45 pm Sessions  
Location: See session schedule
- 12:45-2:15 pm *JER* Editorial Board Meeting  
Location: Waterplace Ballroom III (Omni)
- 1:00-2:00 pm Spotlight Session: Ten Things to Know About the American Revolution  
Location: Providence Public Library, Seminar Room, 150 Empire Street
- 1:00-2:00 pm Graduate Student Lunch  
Location: TBD (Omni)
- 2:00-4:30 pm Afternoon Coffee Break  
Location: Providence Ballroom (Omni)
- 2:15-6:00 pm Sessions  
Location: See session schedule
- 6:00-7:00 pm Early Career Mentorship Reception  
Location: Fleet Library, RISD, 15 Westminister Street, Providence

# EVENT SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

## **Saturday, July 19**

- 7:30-9:00 am Boydston Women's Breakfast  
Location: Providence Public Library,  
Mural Room, 150 Empire Street
- 8:30-11:00 am Morning Coffee Break  
Location: Providence Ballroom  
(Omni)
- 8:30 am-4:00 pm Conference Registration  
Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby (Omni)
- 8:30 am-5:00 pm Book Exhibit  
Location: Providence Ballroom  
(Omni)
- 9:00 am-12:45 pm Sessions  
Location: See session schedule
- 12:45-2:15 pm 2026 Program Committee Meeting  
Location: Waterplace Ballroom III  
(Omni)
- 2:00-4:30 pm Afternoon Coffee Break  
Location: Providence Ballroom  
(Omni)
- 2:15 pm-4:00 pm Sessions  
Location: See session schedule
- 4:15-5:45 pm *JER* Roundtable: Mid-Career Blues  
Location: TBD (Omni)
- 6:30-7:30 pm Presidential Address & SHEAR Prizes  
Location: Salomon Center for  
Teaching Auditorium, Brown  
University
- 7:30-9:00 pm Awards Reception  
Location: Brown University

# EVENT SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

## **Sunday, July 20**

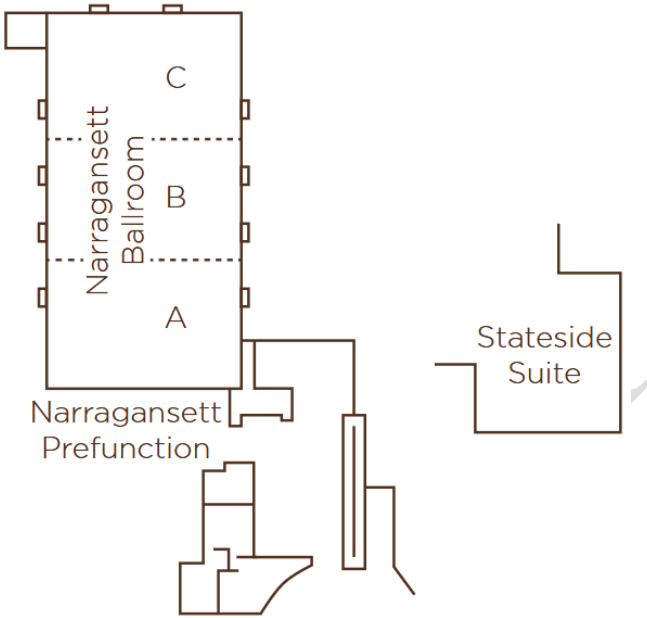
- 7:45-8:45 am SHEAR Business Meeting - open to all  
Location: Waterplace Ballroom III  
(Omni)
- 8:30-11:00 am Morning Coffee Break  
Location: Narragansett Prefunction  
(Omni)
- 8:30-10:30 am Conference Registration  
Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby (Omni)
- 8:30-11:00 am Book Exhibit  
Location: Narragansett Prefunction  
(Omni)
- 9:00 am-12:45 pm Sessions  
Location: See session schedule

## **Wednesday, August 20**

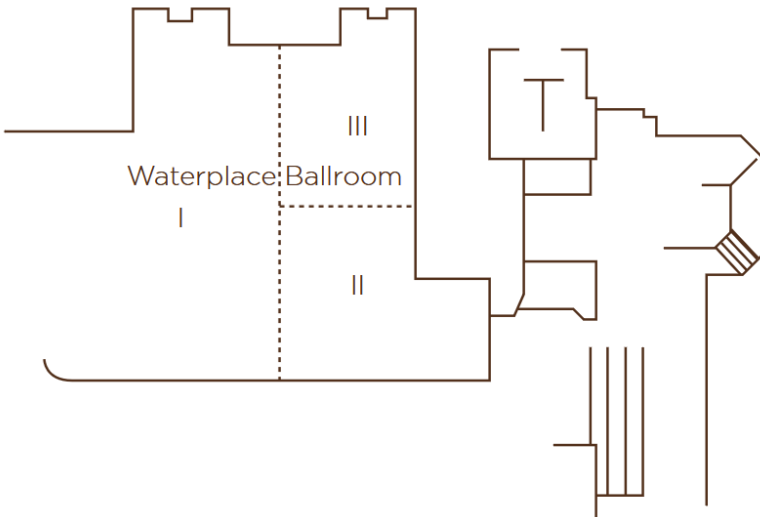
- 9:00 am-2:00 pm Conference Paper to Journal Article  
Workshop with the *JER*  
Location: Online

# OMNI PROVIDENCE HOTEL MAPS

## *Providence Ground Floor*

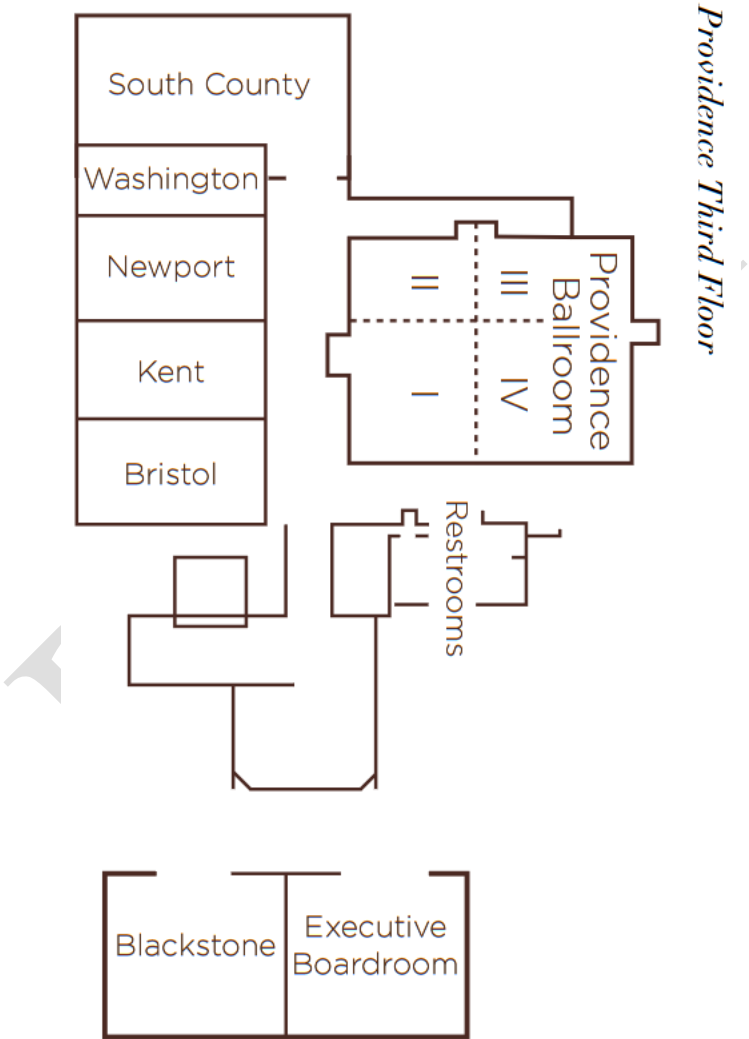


## *Providence Second Floor*





# OMNI PROVIDENCE HOTEL MAPS CONTINUED



## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Welcome “SHEARites” to the Forty-Sixth Annual meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in Providence, home to the Narragansett nation, religious dissenters, and my personal favorites, abolitionists Moses Brown, Alfred Niger, Elizabeth Buffum Chace, and in nearby Kingston, Sarah Harris Fayerweather. In these fraught times when academic freedom and the study of history itself is contested, their example of

educational and social activism is inspirational. I hope this conference will provide all of you a space to connect with old friends and welcome new members to our growing professional home of early Americanists. SHEAR prides itself rightfully for its welcoming atmosphere for graduate students, contingent and junior faculty, and in the recent past, schoolteachers from across the nation. The conference reflects this spirit.

Any success of the conference is largely due to our indefatigable conference coordinator, Erika Huckestein, Assistant Teaching Professor of History at Widener University. Erika, who hit the ground running as the SHEAR conference coordinator last year, is already well known for her legendary efficiency. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for shepherding every aspect of the conference program. This conference would simply not have been possible without her Herculean efforts. A note of thanks to Martha Howard, SHEAR's Executive Coordinator, for not only expertly managing the affairs of our organization but also getting the word out to our vast membership, past and present, on all conference related matters.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to the brilliant scholar and SHEAR friend Karin Wulf, Director of the John Carter Brown Library, who donned multiple hats as Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, member of the Program Committee, and liaison to Brown University's conference and events for her invaluable support. Her liberality has made it possible for us to hold the Thursday Presidential Plenary and Reception and the Saturday Presidential Address, Awards Ceremony, and Reception at Brown University. Shuttles will be available to transport conference attendees from the Omni Providence Hotel, where most of the sessions will be held, to Brown. Thanks also to Morgan Grefe, Co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee and to all its members, Patrick H. Breen, Linford Fisher, Jordan Goffin, Christopher Grasso, James Kabala, CJ Martin, Sharon Murphy, Marcus Nevius, Emily Owens, and Michael Vorenberg, for the wonderful set of tours, events, and recommendations in Providence that they put together in short order. I want to draw your attention particularly to the "library crawl" scheduled on Thursday and the tour of Providence's historic Hardscrabble (1824) and Snow Town (1831) neighborhoods on Friday.

I would like to express my appreciation to the following organizations for their generous sponsorships of the various receptions, lunch and coffee breaks at the conference: the Draper Endowment at the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Old Sturbridge Village. Nora Slonimsky of the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona University deserves special thanks for continuing to sponsor SHEAR's Early Career Mentorship Reception, which will be held at the Fleet Library, Rhode Island School of Design on Friday evening. The Graduate Student Luncheon will be held earlier that day at the Omni Providence and is generously sponsored by the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello and the American Antiquarian Society. Our annual Boydston Women's Breakfast will be held at the Providence Public Library on

Saturday morning, sponsored by the Omohundro Institute. I would also encourage attendees to meet the editors of the *Journal of the Early Republic* for their coffee “Perk Up” on Friday morning and “Mid-Career Blues” roundtable on Saturday afternoon.

I am deeply grateful to the 2025 SHEAR Program Committee co-chaired by Kabria Baumgartner and Peter Wirzbicki for putting together a stellar program. I can only take credit for appointing them and the members of the Program Committee, Nicole Breault, Tara Bynum, Erik Chaput, Brian DeLay, Tom Foster, Jonathan Gienapp, Sarah Gronningsater, María Esther Hammack, Eric Herschthal, Michael Jirik, Ousmane Power-Greene, Joshua Rothman, Samantha Seeley, Jameson Sweet, and Karin Wulf. They have put together an outstanding conference that reflects the richness and diversity of early American history, showcasing cutting edge and innovative scholarship from graduate students to senior scholars. The depth and reach of the conference program reflect the amount of time and intellectual energy they have contributed to SHEAR. For that, I will forever be in their debt.

It is to the credit of the Program Committee that we received a record number of submissions. In keeping with the conference theme of contestation as we mark the semi quincentennial of the start of the American Revolution this year, I would like to highlight a spotlight session, “Ten Things You Need to know about the American Revolution,” on Friday afternoon at the Providence Public Library. The numerous sessions scheduled this year cover a broad range of sub fields, old and new, in early American history, from political economy to disability studies. I am confident that all attendees will find their own intellectual feasts in Providence. On Thursday, they may also attend our regular Second Book and Biography workshops. To these, we have added all day K-12 Professional Development workshops, which schoolteachers can attend for credit.

The conference will officially start on Thursday evening with the Presidential Plenary on “Slavery and Emancipation in the Early American Republic,” featuring some of our leading historians on topics dear to my own scholarly trajectory, at the Salomon Center for Teaching Auditorium, Brown University. It will explore the dialectic between the process of emancipation in the United States and beyond from the Revolution to the Civil War and the persistence and expansion of racial slavery and indigenous dispossession and servitude. These constitute some central subjects in early American history and our all-star lineup will trouble conventional wisdom from the vantage of their path-breaking scholarship. A reception will follow at the John Hay Library, Brown University.

The Presidential Address, “The First American Republic: An Alternative Genealogy,” and Awards ceremony will also be held at the Salomon Center for Teaching Auditorium, Brown University on Saturday evening and will follow up on the issues raised at the Presidential Plenary and the conference theme of “sites of contestation, conflict, and contingency.” Having recently completed a book on post-Civil War Reconstruction, *The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic*, I decided to focus on the First American Republic, when many of the questions I dealt with in my book arose. Paul Erickson’s lively presidential address last year did a deep dive into one writer’s narratives of the American Revolution. My address will zoom out to examine the ways different Americans of the founding generation sought to will into being their alternative visions of the republic. Following the address, we will get to the best part of the conference, recognizing the wonderful work of SHEAR members in the awards ceremony. A reception will follow at Brown University.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as your President and I would not have been able to do it without the assistance of the Executive Council, the Advisory Council, the Nominations Committee, and staff of SHEAR. I want to

thank members of the Investment Committee for jumpstarting our SHEAR250 capital campaign and the ad hoc Bylaws committee, whose proposed changes the membership will be able to discuss at the conference. In addition, I would like to thank the Chairs and members of all the Book and dissertation prize committees, the editors and staff of the *JER*, the DEI Committee, and the Jan Lewis Mentorship Fund Committee. Your service keeps the wheels of SHEAR turning. Above all, I would like to thank all SHEAR members for your commitment and contributions to our organization. I wish you all a wonderful conference and look forward to seeing you in Providence in July.

Manisha Sinha  
SHEAR President

## ABOUT SHEAR



Established in 1977, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic is an association of scholars dedicated to exploring events and meanings of United States history

between 1776 and 1861.

SHEAR's mission is to foster the study of the early republican period among professional historians, students, and the general public. It upholds the highest intellectual standards of the historical profession and encourages the broad diffusion of historical insights through all appropriate channels, including schools, museums, libraries, electronic media, public programming, archives, and publications. SHEAR cherishes a democratic ethos in scholarship and cultivates close, respectful, and productive exchanges between serious scholars at every level of experience and recognition.

SHEAR membership is open to all. Most members are professional historians employed in colleges, universities, museums, and historical parks and agencies, as well as independent scholars and graduate students.

The ideas and institutions of the United States' founding era are part of the cultural legacy of every American. The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic seeks to enrich that legacy with the deepest insights of historical research, combined with a spirit of intellectual democracy best expressed in ongoing communication with the public. For more information, please visit [www.shear.org](http://www.shear.org).

# SHEAR OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Manisha Sinha
<b>President-Elect</b>	Carolyn Eastman
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Paul Erickson
<b>Executive Coordinator</b>	Martha Howard
<b>JER Editors</b>	Johann Neem Ronald Angelo Johnson
<b>Advisory Council</b>	Emily Conroy-Krutz, 2023-2025 Vanessa Holden, 2023-2025 Dael Norwood, 2023-2025 Kariann Yokota, 2023-2025 Rachel Engl, 2024-2026 Maeve Kane, 2024-2026 Martha King, 2024-2026 Marcus Nevius, 2024-2026 Kellie Carter Jackson, 2025-2027 Allison Madar, 2025-2027 Deirdre Cooper Owens, 2025-2027 Rosemarie Zagarri, 2025-2027
<b>D/E/I Committee</b>	Mark Boonshoft, co-chair Rebecca Brannon, co-chair Lori Daggar Adam Jortner Will Mackintosh Nora Slonimsky
<b>Nominations Committee</b>	James Ambuske, co-chair, 2023-2025 Jennifer Dorsey, co-chair, 2023-2025 Antwain Hunter, 2024-2026 Jessica Linker, 2024-2026 María Esther Hammack, 2025-2027 Brenna Holland, 2025-2027



# RESEARCH *the* REVOLUTION!

The American Revolution Institute (ARI) of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc. is proud to offer research fellowships for graduate students and advanced scholars who are conducting research that may benefit from access to the Institute's library and collections. Library collections include books, manuscripts, maps and works of art on paper from the Colonial and Revolutionary era which support the in-depth

study of 18th-century naval and military history and the art of war in the age of the American Revolution.

Fellowships provide \$2,000-\$2,500 toward the cost of travel, housing and per diem expenses to support a scholar working in the

Institute's library for a period of at least five days. More information can be found on our website.



[www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/research-fellowships/](http://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/research-fellowships/)

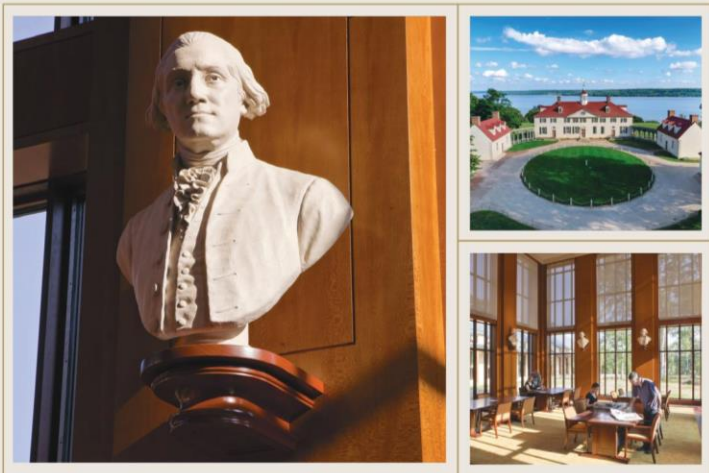
# SHEAR NOMINATING COMMITTEE



## Interested in serving SHEAR?

The SHEAR Nominating Committee invites you to chat with them about getting involved. Find them at the conference located near the Book Exhibit.

DRAFT



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Spend up to 6 months as a research fellow at the Washington Library, located at George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia.

Research fellowships include housing, travel reimbursement, and stipends.

Apply by December 31.

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# FRIENDS OF SHEAR

Becoming a FRIEND of SHEAR is easy. Select a level of giving and either pay online at <http://www.shear.org/friends-of-shear/> or return your check, made payable to SHEAR, to the address below. FRIENDS membership includes a subscription to the *Journal of the Early American Republic*.

<b>Sojourner Truth Friend</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Thomas Skidmore Friend</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Nicholas Biddle Friend</b>	<b>\$150</b>

SHEAR  
P.O. Box 200  
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Donations are tax deductible, less the cost of the journal subscription.

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The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic is committed to fostering a democratic ethos in scholarship and cultivating close, respectful, and productive exchanges between scholars at every level of experience and recognition. If you experience or witness an adverse event, please submit an incident description using the online form accessible from the QR code. You may choose to include your name or report anonymously.



# SHEAR PRIZES

SHEAR presents six awards immediately after the Presidential Address on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

The James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize is awarded to the best monograph by a new author published in the previous calendar year and dealing with any aspect of the history of the early American republic.

The Ralph D. Gray Article Prize honors the best original article published in the previous volume of the *JER*.

The SHEAR Dissertation Prize is presented in cooperation with the University of Virginia Press to an exceptional unpublished dissertation pertaining to the history of North America from 1776 to 1861.

The Mary Kelley Prize in the History of Women, Gender, and Sexuality honors the best book published on the history of women, gender, or sexuality in the early American republic.

The James C. Bradford Biography Prize is awarded to the author of an original biography, broadly defined, of a person active during the era of the Early Republic.

The SHEAR Book Prize is awarded to the book that makes the best primary scholarly contribution to the history of the early American republic.

The SHEAR Distinguished Service award recognizes generous and enduring service on behalf of the goals and programs of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. It recognizes the kind of commitment without which voluntary organizations such as SHEAR could not thrive. Since it was established in 2014, the award has been presented ten times.

Citations of award recipients are at <https://shear.org/shear-book-prizes/prize-winners/>.

# WELCOME TO PROVIDENCE

## **Welcome to Providence for SHEAR 2025!**

The Local Arrangements Committee has organized two formal tours, an exhibit to show in the coffee break room, and will soon share further recommendations for enjoying Rhode Island, including food.

**Tour: Library Crawl, Thursday 17 July, 1:00-5:00 PM.** Meet in the Omni lobby. Limited to 20 but we will create a wait list and a second staging if needed.

Providence is home to a marvelous set of libraries and archives, and we hope folks will come early and stay late to do research or just relish being with historical materials in historic settings. There are many more research opportunities than we could include, but the Library Crawl will take participants on a route to view some special items at the Providence Public Library, the Providence Athenaeum, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the John Hay Library at Brown University, and the John Carter Brown Library. Librarians and archivists at each location are pulling out some marvels of their collections, but have also pulled together information that will be available by June 1 about how to sign up for extra research hours, and how to search their collections. Come join us for some library joy!

**Touring Providence's Disappeared Places: Hardscrabble and Snowtown, Friday 18 July 8:30-10:00 AM.** A bit more than a mile total. Meet in the Omni lobby. Limit of 15.

Led by CJ Martin of Holy Cross, a historian of Black history and antebellum Rhode Island, this tour highlights the incidences of racial violence that took place in Providence's

Hardscrabble (1824) and Snow Town (1831) neighborhoods. Stopping at historical markers that memorialize them, we will discuss the story of these particular riots, these particular neighborhoods, the victims and the perpetrators, but also the deeper meaning of antebellum racial and political violence in Providence and beyond.

Karin Wulf, Local Arrangements Chair

DRAFT

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**Biography Workshop, Thursday 17 July.** Presenters will cover topics related to historical biography followed by breakout working groups that have read and will offer feedback on each other's projects.

**SHEAR Advisory Council, Thursday 17 July.** The Advisory Council meets at 12:00pm.

**Second-Book Writers' Workshop, Thursday 17 July.** Senior scholar mentors will each facilitate a workshop session for historians of the early American republic who are currently working on second book projects.

**Tour: Library Crawl, Thursday 17 July.**

The Library Crawl will take participants on a route to view some special items at the Providence Public Library, the Providence Athenaeum, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the John Hay Library at Brown University, and the John Carter Brown Library. FREE. Registration Required.

**President's Plenary, Thursday 17 July.** SHEAR's 46<sup>th</sup> annual conference opens at 5:00 pm with the President's Plenary, "Slavery and Emancipation in the Early American Republic," at Salomon Center for Teaching Auditorium, Brown University.

**President's Plenary Reception, Thursday 17 July.**

Immediately following the President's Plenary, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, at the John Hay Library, Brown University. Co-sponsored by the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University and the Draper Endowment, UConn Foundation.

**Coffee Breaks, Friday 18 July – Sunday 20 July.** Take a morning or afternoon coffee break to meet and mingle with other conference attendees. *Coffee breaks sponsored by the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University.*



**Perk Up with the *JER* Editors, Friday 18 July.** Ronald Angelo Johnson and Johann Neem invite graduate students and early career scholars to meet for coffee and an informal early-morning conversation.

**Touring Providence's Disappeared Places:**

**Hardscrabble and Snowtown, Friday 18 July.** Led by CJ Martin of Holy Cross, a historian of Black history and antebellum Rhode Island, this tour highlights the incidences of racial violence that took place in Providence's Hardscrabble (1824) and Snow Town (1831) neighborhoods. FREE. Registration Required.

***JER* Editorial Board Meeting, Friday 18 July.** The *JER* editorial board meets at 12:45 pm.

**Spotlight Session: Ten Things to Know About the American Revolution, Friday 18 July.** This spotlight lunch session from 1:00 to 2:00 will feature ten speakers each addressing in three minutes, and a single slide, features of the American Revolution that we hope or wish everyone would know. FREE. Additional registration required.

**Graduate Student Lunch, Friday 18 July.** Graduate students at the conference can meet for lunch and conversation from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. *Co-sponsored by the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello and the American Antiquarian Society.* FREE. Registration required.

**Early Career Mentorship Reception, Friday 18 July.** Reception from 6:00 to 7:00 pm for those participating in the mentorship program or interested in participating in the future. *Sponsored by the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona University.* FREE. Registration required.

**Boydston Women's Breakfast, Saturday 19 July.** The women of SHEAR will gather from 7:30 to 9:00 am for their sixteenth annual breakfast honoring the life and career of

long-time SHEAR member and supporter Jeanne Boydston. *Sponsored by the Omohundro Institute.* Tickets \$35.00. Registration required.

**2026 Program Committee Meeting, Saturday 19 July.** The Program Committee for the 2026 SHEAR conference in Philadelphia, PA will meet at 12:45 pm.

**JER Roundtable: Mid-Career Blues, Saturday 19 July.** The goal of this *JER*-sponsored stand-alone session is to create a space to have an important roundtable conversation about the shared and different experiences of being a midcareer scholar of the early republic. The session will be held at 4:15pm.

**Presidential Address, Saturday 19 July.** The 2025 presidential address begins at 6:30 pm. SHEAR President Manisha Sinha will discuss “The First American Republic: An Alternative Genealogy” at the Solomon Center for Teaching Auditorium at Brown University.

**Awards Ceremony, Saturday 19 July.** The SHEAR awards ceremony will immediately follow the Presidential Address at the Solomon Center for Teaching Auditorium at Brown University.

**Awards Reception, Saturday 19 July.** The SHEAR Awards reception follows immediately after the awards ceremony at Brown University. *Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society, the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, and the Draper Endowment, UConn Foundation.*

**SHEAR Business Meeting, Sunday 20 July.** Join us at SHEAR’s business meeting, open to all.

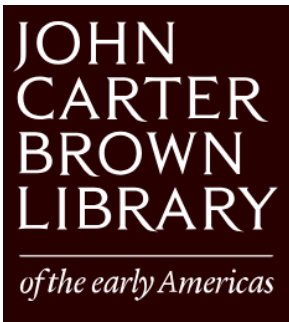
**From Conference Paper to Journal Article Workshop, Wednesday 20 August.** The *JER* editors and peers will meet online to discuss feedback and plans for revising conference papers into publishable journal articles. *Post-conference online workshop.*

# SPONSORS

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# SOCIAL MEDIA

OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING HASHTAG: **#SHEAR2025**

SHEAR welcomes real-time social media posting and sharing during the conference. Presenters who wish for their content **NOT** to be shared on social media should make an announcement at the start of the session.

Follow SHEAR on social media:



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of the Early American Republic

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

SHEAR will follow local guidelines and supports all attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and staff who continue to wear masks in SHEAR meeting spaces (breakout rooms, exhibit hall, receptions, etc.). We will update this as necessary in response to changing health guidelines.

THURSDAY, JULY 17 5:00–6:30 PM

**1. President's Plenary: Slavery and Emancipation in the Early American Republic**

Location: Salomon Center for Teaching Auditorium, Brown University

Welcome:

Manisha Sinha, University of Connecticut  
Kabria Baumgartner, Northeastern University  
Peter Wirzbicki, Princeton University

Chair: Manisha Sinha, University of Connecticut

Panelists:

Mia Bay, Cambridge University  
Linford Fisher, Brown University  
James Oakes, CUNY Graduate Center  
Adam Rothman, Georgetown University  
Amy Dru Stanley, University of Chicago

Comment: Audience

FRIDAY, JULY 18 9:00–10:45 AM

**2. Roundtable: Author Meets Readers: Amrita Myers' *The Vice President's Black Wife***

Location: South County (Omni)

Chair: Honor Sachs, University of Colorado Boulder

Panelists:

Alison Parker, University of Delaware  
Mary T. Freeman, University of Maine  
Nicole Maskiell, Dartmouth College  
Anastasia Curwood, University of Kentucky

Comment: Amrita Myers, Indiana University

FRIDAY, JULY 18 9:00–10:45 AM

**3. New England's South: Guns, Gins, and Spindles**

Location: Blackstone (Omni)

Chair: Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Massachusetts Historical Society

*Northern Industry and Southern Slavery: The Case of Guns*  
Lindsay Schakenbach Regele, Miami University

*Spindles & Slavery: How Northern Textile Mill Workers Grappled with Ties to the Cotton Kingdom*  
Elizabeth Herbin-Triant, Amherst College

*New England's Cotton Gin Makers and the Politics of Slavery*  
Ian Delahanty, Springfield College

Comment: Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Massachusetts Historical Society

**4. Servants, Loyalists and Ladies: Negotiating Identity, Labor, and Power during the American Revolution**

Location: Newport (Omni)

Chair: Serena Zabin, Carleton College

*Servants of War: How the Revolutionary Army Shaped U.S. Military Servitude Policy*  
Yoav Hamdani, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Sisters in Affliction and Your Real Friends: The Role of Gender and Religion in the Petitions of Quaker Exiles*  
Jordann Heckart, Baylor University

*Loyalism, Motherhood, and Memory: How Elizabeth Fisher and Margaret Coghlan Remembered Revolution*  
Emilee Robbins, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Comment: Serena Zabin, Carleton College

FRIDAY, JULY 18 9:00–10:45 AM

**5. Science, Sovereignty, and Settler Colonialism in the Early Republic**

Location: Washington (Omni)

Chair: Whitney Martinko, Villanova University

*The Science of Settlement: Western Land Companies and Eastern Scientific Societies in the early National United States*

Laura Clerx, Boston College

*“We will stand on the same ground”: Broken Promises in Wabanaki Diplomacy, 1775 - 1795*

Kevin March, Boston College

*Traces of Indigenous Presence in a Colonized Landscape: Lancaster County, PA from 1780 to 1815 Through the Journals of Henry Muhlenberg*

Tanya Kevorkian, Millersville University

*Visions of Expansion: The Internal Improvements Debate and Native American Dispossession*

James Stocker, Trinity Washington University

Comment: Jessica Lepler, University of New Hampshire

**6. Queer Bodies, “Leaky” Women, and Caged Animals: The Boundaries of Scientific Knowledge in the Early Republic**

Location: Bristol (Omni)

Chair: Rana Hogarth, University of Pennsylvania

*“A (Living) Specimen”: Knowledge and its Limits in the American Menagerie*

Alexander Clayton, University of Vermont

*Nature, Gender, and the Shamed Body*

Elaine LaFay, Rutgers University

FRIDAY, JULY 18 9:00–10:45 AM

*Queer Spirits: Rethinking the Gender Binary in Early America*

Rachel E. Walker, University of Hartford

*Re-Storying Trans Indigenous Contact on the Northwest Coast, 1774-1890*

Jamey Jespersen, University of Victoria, SHEAR DEI Fellow

Comment: Rana Hogarth, University of Pennsylvania

**7. Roundtable: More than a Joke: Humor and Conflict in the Early Republic**

Location: Kent (Omni)

Chair: Nan Wolverton, American Antiquarian Society

*Antebellum Cartoons and Women's Emancipation*

Teresa Prados-Torreira, Columbia College Chicago

*Entertainment for the Ladies? Political Caricature and Audience, 1790-1810*

Allison Stagg, Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany

*"I Acknowledge the Wheat": Henry Bibb's Rhetoric of Humor in Life and Adventures*

Rod K. Taylor, Ball State University

*54° 40' or What?: Stumped by the Oregon Question*

Todd Thompson, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

*Davy Crockett Comic Almanacs and the Making of a White Man's Democracy*

Eran Zelnik, California State University, Chico

Comment: Nan Wolverton, American Antiquarian Society



FRIDAY, JULY 18 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**8. Gendering the Early American Republic: A Roundtable**

Location: Blackstone (Omni)

Chair: Craig Thompson Friend, North Carolina State University

Panelists:

Jacqueline Beatty, York College of Pennsylvania  
Antwain Hunter, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ashley E. Moreshead, University of Central Florida

Comment: Craig Thompson Friend, North Carolina State University

**9. Capitalism and the Political Economy of Slavery and Anti-Slavery**

Location: Newport (Omni)

Chair: Holly Brewer, University of Maryland

*Iron and Intellect in Antebellum Capitalist Development*  
Alec Israeli, University of Chicago

*Cotton Union: The Proslavery Political Economy of David Christy*

Alex Kueny, University of Connecticut

*“Shall We Not Confront Capital?” How Labor Reformers Prompted Abolitionists to Reconsider Capitalism in Antebellum America*

Sean Griffin, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

*Laws of Morality and Economy: Buying Freedom, Abolition, and Complicity*

Julia Bernier, Washington and Jefferson College

Comment: Holly Brewer, University of Maryland

FRIDAY, JULY 18 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**10. Circulating Body Parts: Migration, Movement,  
and the Material Histories of Early America**

Location: Washington (Omni)

Chair: Keith Beutler, Missouri Baptist University

*“Around This Sacred Sarcophagus”: The Bones of George Washington in Debates Over Slavery*

Jamie Brummitt, University of North Carolina,  
Wilmington

*Intimate Labors: Caregiving, Bodily Fluids, and the Material Realities of Healthcare in Late Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia*

Meg Roberts, Cambridge University

*Live Teeth: Live Tooth Transplantation, George Washington, and Interpreting Enslaved Bodies*

Lucy Smith, University of Michigan

Comment: Keith Beutler, Missouri Baptist University

**11. New England’s Hidden Histories at 20: The  
Opportunities and Challenges of Recovering  
Hidden Sources and Stories**

Location: Bristol (Omni)

Chair: Kyle Roberts, Congregational Library & Archives

*Black and Indigenous Voices in Settler Church Archives*

Richard Boles, Oklahoma State University

*Abigail and Ezekiel: Indigenous Congregationalists in Hassanamesit/Grafton*

Lori Rogers-Stokes, Independent Scholar

*Revolutionizing History: From Textbook to Transcription*

Helen K. Gelinias, Cairn University

Comment: Tricia Peone, Congregational Library & Archives

FRIDAY, JULY 18 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**12. Roundtable: Assessing the Use of History & Tradition in the U.S. Supreme Court**

Location: South County (Omni)

Chair: Jacob Charles, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law

Panelists:

Saul Cornell, Fordham University  
Jennifer Tucker, Wesleyan University  
Gautham Rao, American University  
Jed Shugerman, Boston University

Comment: Jacob Charles, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law

**13. New Directions in Early U.S. Immigration History**

Location: Kent (Omni)

Chair: Kevin Kenny, New York University

*American Nativism, Past and Present*

Luke Ritter, St. Louis Community College

*Refuge of Oppression*

Evan Taparata, University of Colorado, Colorado Spring

*Citizenship*

Connie Thomas, University College London

Comment: Kevin Kenny, New York University

FRIDAY, JULY 18 2:15 –4:00 PM

**14. Roundtable: Enslaving and Freedom-Seeking  
Women in the Atlantic World**

Location: South County (Omni)

Chair: Fay Yarbrough, Rice University

*“I must think favourably of the Slave Trade”*: Women and  
Anti-Slavery in the British Atlantic

Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers, University of California,  
Berkeley

*Family Freedom Strategies in the French Caribbean*

Deirdre Lyons, University of Chicago

*Concubinage and Freedom in the Anglo-Atlantic*

J. E. Morgan, Jule Collins Smith Museum, Auburn  
University

*Claiming and Withholding Freedom in St. Croix*

Dana Elizabeth Weiner, Wilfrid Laurier University

Comment: Fay Yarbrough, Rice University

**15. New Directions in Early American Carceral  
History**

Location: Blackstone (Omni)

Chair: Melanie Newport, University of Connecticut

*“Killing by inches”*: Class and early Republic Incarceration

Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan, Rutgers University

*“Police Officers are Made the Judges of Freedom”*:

*Constructing Race and Legal Status inside the Slave Prison*

John Bardes, Louisiana State University

*The Many Faces of Policing in the Early U.S. Republic*

Adam Malka, University of Oklahoma

Comment: Melanie Newport, University of Connecticut

FRIDAY, JULY 18 2:15 –4:00 PM

**16. Precarious Freedoms: Black Families, Legal Struggles, and Activism in the Early Republic**

Location: Newport (Omni)

Chair: Grant Stanton, Drew University

*“Taken From the Squalid Abode of Misery and Want”:  
Poverty, Disease, and Black Childhood in Orphan Asylums*  
Cameron Sauers, Pennsylvania State University

*Manumission, Freedom Suits, and the Precarity of Black  
Family Freedom in Louisiana*  
Taneil Ruffin, Princeton University

*A Family Affair: Reputation, Honor, and Credit on the New  
Frontier of Slavery*  
Ashlea Fishburn-Moore, University of Pittsburgh

*The Salem Street Sunday School Fragment Society and the  
Legacy of School Segregation in Early Republic Boston*  
Janika Isakson Dillon, Northeastern University

Comment: Grant Stanton, Drew University

**17. Roundtable: Insights from Indian Country:  
Rethinking Traditional American History  
Narratives**

Location: Washington (Omni)

Chair: Alexandra E. Stern, City College of New York

*Mary Peter’s America: Indigenous Women’s Empowerment  
in the Early Republic*  
Kallie Kosc, Oklahoma State University

*The Age of Junaluska: Cherokee Alternatives to the Age of  
Jackson*  
Stuart Marshall, Sewanee, The University of the South

FRIDAY, JULY 18 2:15 –4:00 PM

*“Foreign States in the Sense of Our Constitution and Laws”:  
The Law of Nations, Native Americans, and the Marshall  
Court*

Zachary Brown, Yale University

*Conflict at the Treaty of Hopewell: Federal Authority,  
Sovereignty, and the Meaning of Treaties in the Early  
Republic*

Zoe Waldman, University of Michigan

Comment: Alexandra E. Stern, City College of New York

## **18. Reinterpreting and Reconsidering the History of the U.S. Antislavery Movement**

Location: Bristol (Omni)

Chair: Matthew Mason, Brigham Young University

*Black Distributors of Print in the Mid-Atlantic and the  
Diverse Movements for Black Freedom in and Beyond the  
Early U.S. Republic*

Nathan Jérémie-Brink, New Brunswick Theological  
Seminary

*A Pioneer of Political Antislavery: Charles Miner and the  
Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia*

Timothy Brown, University of Connecticut

*“Worthy to Be Counted”: The Postbellum Slave Narrative  
and Civil War Memory*

Lincoln Hirn, University of Connecticut

*Attitudes and Activism: The Early Years of the Philadelphia  
Female Anti-Slavery Society*

Susan J. Stanfield, University of Texas, El Paso

Comment: Matthew Mason, Brigham Young University

FRIDAY, JULY 18 2:15 – 4:00 PM

**19. Contested Grounds: Britain's and America's  
Relationship Spanning Before and After the  
American Revolution**

Location: Kent (Omni)

Chair: Lorri Glover, Saint Louis University

*An American Revolutionary in London: William Lee's  
Wilkite Radicalization, 1765-1777*

J. Patrick Mullins, Marquette University

*The Church and the State in the British Atlantic:  
Transatlantic Unitarians and the Development  
of American Exceptionalism, 1820-1860*

Spencer Drake, University of Oxford

*Perilous Journeys of the American Revolution: Women  
Adapting to War while Abroad*

Kate Kaitcer, Texas Christian University

Comment: Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch, University of Toledo

FRIDAY, JULY 18 4:15 – 6:00 PM

**20. Intersections of Race and Disability in Early  
America**

Location: Blackstone (Omni)

Chair: Dea Boster, Columbus State Community College

*Borderland between Earth and Heaven*

*Legacies of Disability and Enslavement in Boston's Home  
for Aged Colored Women*

Kathryn Angelica, Purdue University Fort Wayne

*Critical Bodies: Disability, Gender, and Law in Early  
Republic Virginia*

Kimberly V. Jones, University of Denver

FRIDAY, JULY 18 4:15 – 6:00 PM

*Becoming “Mumbet”: Disability, Domestic Labor, and the Limits of Emancipation in the Early Republic*

Jennifer W. Reiss, University of Pennsylvania

Comment: Dea Boster, Columbus State Community College

**21. Roundtable: Telling Complicated Revolutionary Histories in Public**

Location: Newport (Omni)

Chair: Donald F. Johnson, North Dakota State University

*Turning Worlds Upside Down: Podcasting Revolutionary Complexities*

James P. Ambuske, Roy Rosenzweig Center, George Mason University

*Re-Interpreting Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown*

Samantha Dorsey, Heirloom Consulting

*Newport 2025: Whose Side are You On?*

Donald F. Johnson, North Dakota State University

*Too Soon? Historical Memory & Battle over whether a British Encampment should be Preserved as Part of America 250*

Sue Kozel, Retired, Kean University

*Tory Hunting in the 21st Century: Colonial Revival Mythology versus Presentism*

William P. Tatum III, Dutchess County Department of History

Comment: Audience



FRIDAY, JULY 18 4:15 – 6:00 PM

**22. Roundtable: Developing a SHEAR Mentorship Program for the 21st Century (and commemorate the legacy of Jan Ellen Lewis)**

Location: South County (Omni)

Chair: Carolyn Eastman, Virginia Commonwealth University

Panelists:

Kevin Burton, Andrews University

Kenneth Cohen, Smithsonian Institution

Brooke Lansing Mai, Johns Hopkins University

Deirdre Cooper Owens, University of Connecticut

Amy Sopcak-Joseph, Wilkes University

Craig Steven Wilder, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Comment: Audience

**23. Climate, Empire, and Power from America to the Atlantic World**

Location: Washington (Omni)

Chair: Matthew Mulcahy, Loyola University Maryland

*Comparative Climate History in the Early Republic: Benjamin Vaughan on the ‘Counter Facts’ of China and Japan*

Anya Zilberstein, Concordia University

*Contagion, Climate, and the Urban Canopy: Environmental Politics in Revolutionary Philadelphia*

Blake McGready, City University of New York

*Deforestation, Drought, Dependency: West Indian Plantations and Environmental Crisis in the Revolutionary Era*

Francesco Yugiro Asano, New York University

Comment: Matthew Mulcahy, Loyola University Maryland

FRIDAY, JULY 18 4:15 – 6:00 PM

**24. Crafting and Commemorating Legacies of American Women in the Revolution and Early Republic**

Location: Bristol (Omni)

Chair: Charlene Boyer Lewis, Kalamazoo College

*“A Testimony of Cherished Affection”: Fashioning Legacy in the Early Republic*

Samantha Snyder, George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon

*“No body in this world can make me so happy, or so miserable as you”: Fathers, Daughters, and Memory in the Early American Republic*

Elizabeth Reese, Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House

*Mercy Otis Warren “On Her Way Up”: A Case Study in the Gendered Politics of Revolutionary War Commemoration*

Sara White, University of South Florida

*Gendered Memory in Creating and Contesting Narratives of the American Revolution*

Catherine Hutinett, University of Missouri

Comment: Kate Haulman, American University

**25. Beyond *Stolen Childhood*: The Lived Experiences of African American Children and Childhood in the Old South**

Location: Kent (Omni)

Chair: Beth Wilson, University of Oxford

*“If I couldn’t fight I’d kick; and if I couldn’t kick I’d bite”:  
Enslaved Children and Resistance in the Antebellum South*

Aisha Djelid, University of Oxford

FRIDAY, JULY 18 4:15 – 6:00 PM

*Punishment and Resistance of the Enslaved Children at the Hampton Plantation*

Michael Guy, George Washington University

*Poverty, Labor and Sexuality of Free Black Girls in Antebellum Baltimore*

Young In Jang, Binghamton University, SUNY

*“Dey never wanted us to git no larning” : Enslaved Children and Furtive Figures in the Antebellum South*

Meagan Wierda, Université de Montréal

Comment: Vanessa M. Holden, University of Kentucky

SATURDAY, JULY 19 9:00 – 10:45 AM

**26. Educated Voices: The Emotional and Social Labors of Young Women in Early American Contexts**

Location: Blackstone (Omni)

Chair: Lucia McMahon, William Paterson University

*The Art of Respectability: 19th-Century Black Schoolgirl Needlework*

Kelli Racine Barnes, American Conservation Experience

*Between Duty and Inclination: American Girlhood Abroad*

Katrina Ponti, United States Naval War College

*“With my whole heart” : Emotions as Resistance in Antebellum Young Women’s Educational Writings*

Sarabeth R. Rambold, University of Rochester

*“It Is Not Right or Natural—So They Say” : Romantic Attachments Among Female Academy Students, 1780-1870*

Jessie Vander Heide, American Antiquarian Society

Comment: Lucia McMahon, William Paterson University

SATURDAY, JULY 19 9:00 –10:45 AM

**27. Roundtable: Violence in the Early Republic**

Location: Newport (Omni)

Chair: Sam Watson, United States Military Academy

Panelists:

Joshua S. Haynes, Sam Houston State University

Kellie Carter Jackson, Wellesley College

Robert M. Owens, Wichita State University

Adam Pratt, University of Scranton

Comment: Sam Watson, United States Military Academy

**28. Native Nations and the Construction of  
American Empire in the Early Republic**

Location: South County (Omni)

Chair: Jessica Choppin Roney, Temple University and  
PEAES

*From Defeated Peoples to Sovereign Nation: Remaking  
Seneca Land Sovereignty after the American Revolution*

Elana Krischer, Marist College

*An “Ardent Sense of Freedom”: The Legal Efforts of the  
Mashpee Wampanoag against Guardianship,  
1788-1834*

James Hill, University of Pittsburgh

*Republican Monarchy, Indigenous Sovereignty, and the  
American Revolution’s Long-Term International  
Consequences*

Zach Conn, Southern Methodist University

*The Shape of States: Territoriality and Protection in  
the Great Lakes Region after the American Revolution*

Michael Borsk, University of Toronto, Mississauga

Comment: Jessica Choppin Roney, Temple University and  
PEAES

SATURDAY, JULY 19 9:00 –10:45 AM

**29. Roundtable: Revolutionary Interpretations of  
Enslavement and Freedom at Early American  
Historic Sites in New England**

Location: Washington (Omni)

Chair: Kristin Gallas, MUSE Consulting

Panelists:

Kelvis Hernandez, Rhode Island Historical Society

Emily Levine, Longfellow House-Washington's

Headquarters National Historic Site

Lauren McCormack, Marblehead Museum

Jennifer Steele, Boston African American National  
Historic Site

Gina Tangorra, Newport Restoration Foundation

Comment: Kristin Gallas, MUSE Consulting

**30. Race and Power in Early Liberia**

Location: Bristol (Omni)

Chair: Marie Stango, Idaho State University

*Race, Gender, and Power in Early Liberian Missions*

Ben Wright, University of Texas at Dallas

*Black Settler Colonialism in West Africa*

Khalil A. Johnson Jr., Wesleyan University

*Until Freedom is Done: Africa American Placemaking in  
Liberia*

Alison McCann, University of Miami

*Building the African-American Republic: Monrovia Life,  
American Outlooks, and Colonial Charms in the Early  
Liberian Republic*

Andrew N. Wegmann, Texas Tech University

Comment: Marie Stango, Idaho State University

SATURDAY, JULY 19 9:00 –10:45 AM

**31. Learning to Love the Constitution:**

**Constitutional Veneration and the Politics of Slavery in the Early Republic**

Location: Kent (Omni)

Chair: Paul Finkelman, Albany Law School

*A Constitution Beyond Redemption: How Political Backlash Against Antislavery Activism Forged the Compromise Constitution*

Nathaniel C. Green, Northern Virginia Community College

*Freedom in the Shadows: The Constitution and African American Self-Possession*

Lois Brown, Arizona State University

*Learning to Follow the Fathers: Constitutional Love in the Time of Slavery*

Aaron Hall, University of Minnesota

Comment: Paul Finkelman, Albany Law School

SATURDAY, JULY 19 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**32. Slavery and the Numbers Game at 50: A Roundtable Discussion**

Location: Blackstone (Omni)

Chair: Calvin Schermerhorn, Arizona State University

Panelists:

Sharon Ann Murphy, Providence College

Daniel Rood, University of Georgia

Jennie Williams, University of Virginia

Rosanne Adderley, Tulane University

Comment: Calvin Schermerhorn, Arizona State University

SATURDAY, JULY 19 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**33. Has the Money Been Followed? Finance in the Early Republic**

Location: Newport (Omni)

Chair: Stephen Mihm, University of Georgia

*Luck's Metropolis: Lotteries, Class, and Finance in Early America*

Anders Bright, University of Pennsylvania

*As Good as the Wheat: The Monied Activities of the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company*

Joshua Greenberg, *Commonplace: The Journal of Early American Life*

*Taking a Toll: Following the (Tax) Money in Indian Country*

Emilie Connolly, Brandeis University

*"E.W. Bancroft says they are as good as gold": Contested Credit Narratives in the Antebellum R.G. Dun & Company Ledgers*

Amanda Mushal, The Citadel

Comment: Stephen Mihm, University of Georgia

**34. Roundtable: New Directions in Early American Constitutional History**

Location: South County (Omni)

Chair: Jane Manners, Temple Beasley School of Law

Panelists:

W. Tanner Allread, UCLA School of Law

Mary Sarah Bilder, Boston College Law School

Julian Davis Mortenson, University of Michigan Law School

Rachel Shelden, Pennsylvania State University

Comment: Jane Manners, Temple Beasley School of Law

SATURDAY, JULY 19 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**35. French and Indigenous Communication  
Networks and the Construction of Historical  
Memory in Colonial Louisiana and Texas,  
1760s-1820**

Location: Washington (Omni)

Chair: Tamara Levi, Jacksonville State University

*“Reenter[ed] Upon Its Natural Right”: Patrimonial  
Sovereignty and the 1768 French Creole Revolt in Spanish  
Louisiana*

Charles L. Cox Jr., Texas Christian University

*Caddoan Messengers: The Eyes and Ears of an American  
Intelligence Network in the Louisiana-Texas Borderlands,  
1804-1806*

Jackson Pearson, University of Texas at Arlington

*The Barren Fields of Asylum: A Failed Bonapartist Colony  
in the Texas Borderlands*

Abi G. Schexnider-Scott, Kansas University

*Resistance and Resilience: A Case Study of the Karankawa  
Peoples of Texas*

Tim Seiter, University of Texas at Tyler

Comment: Tamara Levi, Jacksonville State University

**36. Seeing Stars: Political, Spiritual, and Cultural  
Dimensions of the Heavens in the Early  
Republic**

Location: Bristol (Omni)

Chair: Ann Fabian, Rutgers University

*Exploring the Collegiate Cosmos in Early Nineteenth-  
Century America*

Alexi Baker, Yale Peabody Museum



SATURDAY, JULY 19 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

*Ruling the Universe: The Republican God and American  
Governorship*

Eran Shalev, University of Haifa

*The Cosmic Reformation*

Trent MacNamara, Texas A&M University

*Imagining Extraterrestrials in Antebellum America:  
Universalist and Relativistic Perspectives in an Age of  
Human Difference and Hierarchy*

Tamara Plakins Thornton, SUNY, Buffalo

Comment: Gordon Fraser, University of Manchester

**37. The Clothes Make the Man: A Material History of  
Early American Masculinities**

Location: Kent (Omni)

Chair: Zara Anishanslin, University of Delaware and the  
David Center for the American Revolution at the APS

*“To make any figure upon the stage...”: Tales of Footwear in  
the Early Republic*

Kimberly Alexander, University of New Hampshire

*The Sartorial Legacy of George Washington*

Chloe Chapin, Independent Scholar

*Martial Ideals: Military Dress in the American Republic  
and the Loyalist Diaspora*

Matthew Keagle, Fort Ticonderoga

*A Buckskin’s Breeches: John Randolph of Roanoke and the  
Politics of Dress*

Kristen Stewart, Virginia Commonwealth University

Comment: Hilary Davidson, Fashion Institute of Technology

SATURDAY, JULY 19 2:15 –4:00 PM

**38. Roundtable: LGBTQ Histories: State of the Field**

Location: South County (Omni)

Chair: John Gilbert McCurdy, Eastern Michigan University

Panelists:

Rachel Hope Cleves, University of Victoria

Patrice Douglass, University of California, Berkeley

Greta LaFleur, Yale University

Gregory D. Smithers, Virginia Commonwealth  
University

Jordan Alexander Stein, Fordham University

Comment: Audience

**39. The Crisis of Antebellum American  
Protestantism**

Location: Blackstone (Omni)

Chair: Amy S. Greenberg, Pennsylvania State University

*Tower and Steeple: Critiques of Disestablishment in the  
Antebellum US*

Sarah Barringer Gordon, University of Pennsylvania

*American Romanticism, American Ritualism: The Church  
of the Advent and the Roots of Anglo-Catholicism in the  
Northern United States, 1825-1850*

Brent S. Sirota, North Carolina State University

*Abolitionism's Moral Arc: Theodore Parker's War Against  
American Churches*

Benjamin E. Park, Sam Houston State University

*Hannah Caleb's Song, Colonial Cacophony and the  
Reverberating Village Dish*

Anthony Trujillo, Harvard University, SHEAR DEI  
Fellow

Comment: Amy S. Greenberg, Pennsylvania State University

SATURDAY, JULY 19 2:15 –4:00 PM

**40. Contested Citizenship and Belonging in the United States, ca. 1810s-1830s**

Location: Newport (Omni)

Chair: Mark Boonshoft, Virginia Military Institute

*The right to remain: The Nature of Government Power in the early 19th century*

Anna O. Law, CUNY Brooklyn College

*A New Species of Monster: Race and the Gerry Mander*

Kevin Vrevich, Moses Brown School

*A New Birth of Unfreedom: Disenfranchisement and Emerging Racial Nationalism, 1815-1821*

Stewart Davenport, Pepperdine University

Comment: Mark Boonshoft, Virginia Military Institute

**41. Speculation and International Financial Ties in the Early Republic**

Location: Washington (Omni)

Chair: Michael Blaakman, Princeton University

*“Impossible For A More Sure Thing”: Transatlantic Speculation and James Swan’s Compagnie de colonisation americaine in Early Nineteenth Century Appalachia*

Erika Vause, St. John’s University

*Frances Wright, Haitian Coffee, and Black Emigration, 1824-1830: A Study in Financial Speculation, Antislavery Gradualism, and Cooperative Reform*

Arielle Alterwaite and Francis Russo, University of Pennsylvania

*The Ohio Valley in the Atlantic World*

Susan Gaunt Stearns, University of Mississippi

Comment: Tom Cutterham, University of Birmingham

SATURDAY, JULY 19 2:15 –4:00 PM

**42. Decentering Felicity Merriman: American Girl Dolls, Empire, and Indigenous Resistance at the Semiquincentennial**

Location: Bristol (Omni)

Chair: Allison Horrocks, National Park Service

*Kaya'aton'my's Representation and Resistance*

Emily Dixon Magness, College of William & Mary

*Singing Bird and Mariana's Survivance*

Colette Denali Dion Montoya, Lesbian Herstory Archives

*Caroline Abbott's Empire*

Emily Wells, College of William & Mary

Comment: Rebecca Brenner Graham, Brown University

**43. Roundtable: "The Question of Recovery: Slavery, Freedom, and the Archive": Reflections and Reassessments on the 10-Year Anniversary**

Location: Kent (Omni)

Chair: Greg Childs, Brandeis University

Panelists:

Max Mishler, University of Toronto

Justin Leroy, Duke University

Laura Helton, University of Delaware

Comment: Greg Childs, Brandeis University

SATURDAY, JULY 19 4:15–5:45 PM

**44. JER Roundtable: Mid-Career Blues: Lives and Careers across the Academic Historical Profession**

Location: TBD (Omni)

Chairs: Ronald Angelo Johnson, Baylor University  
Johann Neem, Western Washington University

Panelists:

Anne Farrar Hyde, University of Oklahoma  
Marcus P. Nevius, University of Missouri  
Emily Conroy-Krutz, Michigan State University  
Brian D. Schoen, Ohio University  
Wendy H. Wong, Temple University

Comment: Audience

SATURDAY, JULY 19 6:30–7:30 PM

**45. Presidential Address**

Location: Salomon Center for Teaching Auditorium, Brown University

Chair: Carolyn Eastman, Virginia Commonwealth University

*The First American Republic: An Alternative Genealogy*  
Manisha Sinha, University of Connecticut

**SHEAR Awards Presentation**

Location: Salomon Center for Teaching Auditorium, Brown University

- The James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize
- The Ralph D. Gray Article Prize
- The SHEAR Dissertation Prize
- The Mary Kelley Prize in the History of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- The James C. Bradford Biography Prize
- The SHEAR Book Prize

SUNDAY, JULY 20 9:00–10:45 AM

**46. Roundtable: The 1817 Project: Land, Culture, Memory, and Repair at the University of Michigan**

Location: Narragansett Ballroom A (Omni)

Chair: Michael Witgen, Columbia University

Panelists:

Jay Cook, University of Michigan

Jonathan Quint, University of Michigan

Gabrielle Ione Hickmon, University of Michigan

Paul Erickson, William L. Clements Library,  
University of Michigan

Comment: Michael Witgen, Columbia University

**47. Making Much of the Matter of Liberty:  
Constructing Meanings of Liberty in the Age of  
the American Revolution in New England**

Location: Narragansett Ballroom B (Omni)

Chair: Nathan Braccio, Clark University

*“This wild Spirit of liberty”: A Frontier Loyalist Considers  
the Costs of the American Revolution*

Richard A. Bailey, Canisius University

*No Taxation Without Consternation: The Consequences of  
Shifting Former Slaves to the Public Payroll in New  
England*

Joanne Pope Melish, University of Kentucky

*Beyond Beccaria, Blackstone, and Bentham: The  
Mythologizing of Black Criminality in Capital Crimes, 1750-  
1815*

Arrannè Rispoli, University of California, Los Angeles

Comment: Nathan Braccio, Clark University

SUNDAY, JULY 20 9:00–10:45 AM

**48. New Directions in Histories of Women and Politics**

Location: Waterplace Ballroom II (Omni)

Chair: Cassandra Good, Marymount University

*“Terrible as an army with banners”: Women and the Politics of Nativism in the 1840s*

Emily Arendt, Montana State University, Billings

*The Politics of Sojourner Truth’s Portraits*

Allison Lange, Wentworth Institute of Technology

*“I Have Always Electioneered”: Midwestern White Women in the Antebellum Democratic Party*

Hope McCaffrey, Northwestern University

Comment: Cassandra Good, Marymount University

Catherine Allgor, Tufts University

**49. Revolutionary Lives in the Greater Southeast**

Location: Narragansett Ballroom C (Omni)

Chair: Kathleen DuVal, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Tejanas in the Era of the American Revolution*

Amy M. Porter, Texas A&M, San Antonio

*The International Politics of Cherokee Hunting and Migration*

Austin Stewart, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri

*A Revolutionary Quid Pro Quo: Muscogees Politics and the American Revolution*

Christopher A. Thrasher, Pennsylvania State University

Comment: Kathleen DuVal, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

SUNDAY, JULY 20 9:00–10:45 AM

**50. Mighty Municipalities: Local Governments before, during, and after the American Revolution**

Location: Waterplace Ballroom I (Omni)

Chair: Andrew M. Schocket, Bowling Green State University

*Teaching Toryism Through Good Governance in Revolutionary New York*

Zachary W. Deibel, Virginia Military Institute

*“At a meeting held...” in any English-speaking public building this century or the last: Continuities in Local Government*

Gabriel Loiacono, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

*“The Importance of the Town to the United States”: Local Government, Political Economy, and Building the American State in the Early Republic*

Elliot Warren, College of William & Mary

*“Honest Sober and Industrious”: Huckster Women and Municipal Governments in the Early Republic*

Carolyn Zola, Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia

Comment: Ruth Wallis Herndon, Bowling Green State University



SUNDAY, JULY 20 9:00–10:45 AM

**51. Race, Law, and the City in the Early American Northeast**

Location: Waterplace Ballroom III (Omni)

Chair: Emily Owens, Brown University

*Church Discipline and Legal Order in Antebellum Philadelphia's Free Black Community*

Laura Nelson, Princeton University

*Marshalling Renditions: Local Policing and Federal Enforcement in 1851 Philadelphia*

Henry Dickmeyer, American University

*Trial Literature and Legal Spectacle: Reading Race in Early Republican New York*

Simone Gulliver, University of Pennsylvania

*How Changing Legal Frameworks Shaped Seneca Village, and How They Didn't*

Alexander Manevitz, City University of New York

Comment: Emily Owens, Brown University

SUNDAY, JULY 20 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**52. Freedom in the Age of Slavery: Race, Rights, and Liberty in the Early Republic**

Location: Narragansett Ballroom B (Omni)

Chair: Julie Winch, University of Massachusetts Boston

*"A Noble Fight and a Glorious Victory": The African American Struggle for High School Access in Antebellum Connecticut*

Jesse Nasta, Wesleyan University

*"to wil to ho I pleas": Black Legal Literacy and Inheritance*  
Donna J. Rilling, State University of New York, Stony Brook

SUNDAY, JULY 20 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

*“To live and die in the Land of their Nativity”: Adaptive Strategies for Protecting Free Status and Black Residency Rights in Virginia, 1816-1840*

Sheri Ann Huerta, George Mason University

*Settling in a Place Free from Slavery: Free People of Color in the Midwest*

Warren Milteer, Jr., George Washington University

Comment: Audience

### **53. Materializing Women’s Textile Labor in the Early Republic**

Location: Narragansett Ballroom C (Omni)

Chair: Laura Edwards, Princeton University

*Stephen Girard’s Mended Stockings: Labor, Maintenance, and Material Lives*

Emily Whitted, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

*Families, Weave Patterns, and Piecework Rates: Outwork Cotton Weaving Strategies in Preston, Connecticut, 1816-1817*

Mary Lycan, Independent Scholar

*Sartorial Sedition: How Caribbean Women of Color Revolutionized Fashion in the Colonial Atlantic World*

Mackenzie Moeller Elmore, University of California, Los Angeles

*“Perfect Mistress of Her Needle”: Enslaved Lives and Sartorial Repurposing*

Marina Nye, University of California, Los Angeles

Comment: Rebecca Beall & Derek Heidemann, Old Sturbridge Village

SUNDAY, JULY 20 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**54. Dark Empire: Gothic Storytelling in the Age of Expansion, 1820 – 1850**

Location: Waterplace Ballroom I (Omni)

Chair: Erin Dwyer, Oakland University

*“The Interminable Wastes of the Prairies”*: Gothic and Apocalyptic Landscapes in James Fenimore Cooper’s *The Prairie*

Leah Begg, University of Connecticut

*Those Infernal Machines: Steam-Powered Monsters on the Frontiers of Greed*

Jimmy L. Bryan Jr., Lamar University

Comment: Erin Dwyer, Oakland University

**55. Roundtable: New Directions in the Study of Early US Democracy**

Location: Waterplace Ballroom II (Omni)

Chair: Jeff Pasley, University of Missouri

*Matters of Faith: Democratic Insights from the Spiritual Discourse of Black Modernity*

Keidrick Roy, Dartmouth College

*What First Roused the Rabble?: The Political Underpinnings of Crowd Action in the Massachusetts Regulation of 1786-1787*

VanJessica Gladney, University of Pennsylvania

*Proslavery Visions of Democracy*

Michael Woods, University of Tennessee

*Ordinary Citizens and the Rise of Democracy in America*

Johann Neem, Western Washington University

Comment: Jeff Pasley, University of Missouri

SUNDAY, JULY 20 11:00 AM–12:45 PM

**56. The “Local State” on Contested Ground:  
Municipal Power and Native Governance in  
the Early American Republic**

Location: Waterplace Ballroom III (Omni)

Chair: Jacob Lee, Pennsylvania State University

*Sustaining Economies: Myaamia Territoriality and Local  
Industry*

Madison Bastress, New York University

*“An Excrescence of the Body Politic”:  
Defining and Contesting Indigenous Legal  
Belonging in Antebellum South  
Carolina, 1800-1840*

Nikki Locklear, Duke University

*“A Sound Whipping”:  
The Georgia Guard and White  
Policing of the Cherokee Nation*

T. Wyatt Reynolds, Columbia University

*“Committing a Trespass Upon Their Property”:  
Federal Law and Local Claims in Great  
Lakes “Indian” Territory*

Rachael Schnurr, Princeton University

Comment: Jacob Lee, Pennsylvania State University

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**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**SHEAR**  
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**16-19, July 2026**

The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic invites your proposals to present at our 47th annual meeting, to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 16-19, 2026.

The semiquincentennial of American Independence invites considerations of this epochal event as well as its causes, consequences, and afterlives. We expect to feature pathbreaking research into the early American republic and to broaden conversations through interdisciplinary explorations, public engagements, new media experimentation, and more. The organizers welcome your curiosity, your creativity, and your passion for this complex historical era, including how we teach it, how we represent it in public, and how we can better understand its great consequence, its untold stories, and its enduring relevance.

SHEAR is committed to involving as many voices as possible as we explore the history of the early republic in all of its depth and breadth. To better understand the fullness of the past, we are eager to welcome new perspectives, especially those that have been historically underrepresented within the organization. Potential panelists should include a statement about how the panel furthers this SHEAR commitment. All conference participants must abide by [SHEAR's Statement of Values](#). The Program Committee prioritizes proposals for complete panels including a chair and commentator, but individual paper proposals are also welcome. The committee will consider proposals for traditional panels (3-4 papers plus chair and comment), roundtables (4-5 presenters plus chair/moderator), or other creative formats. In select cases, the committee may choose to alter or rearrange proposed panels and participants. Refer to the guidance available at <https://shear.org/annual-meeting/proposal-guidelines/> as you prepare your proposal.

All submissions should be filed as a single document (Word doc preferred), labeled with the first initial and surname of the contact person (e.g., “SmithJ2026”). All proposals must include:

- Panel title, one-paragraph description of panel topic, and one-paragraph panel diversity statement
- Email addresses and institutional affiliations (if applicable) for all participants
- Title and 100-word abstract for each paper
- One-page curriculum vitae for each participant, including chairs and commentators
- Indication of any needs for ADA accommodation
- Indication of any audio-visual requests (please request only if A/V is essential to a presentation)

The deadline for submission is December 1, 2025. Please submit your proposals by uploading your materials at <https://www.shear.org/call-for-papers/>.

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