

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Indiana Historical Society will present its Midwestern Roots 2021 conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 30-31, 2021. The pre-conference will take place on July 29, 2021. Deadline for submissions is August 10, 2020.

The program committee is looking for engaging and energetic presenters to help tell the many stories of the Midwest. We have the chance to discover, interpret and share the stories of our communities and families. Our relationship to the Midwest supports our individual stories and how we view the world around us. Every person and every community have stories waiting to be told.



MIDWESTERN ROOTS 2021 THEME Immigration and Migration

When creating session proposals, presenters should be asking **"How did the many communities who immigrated and migrated to the Midwest impact its story?"**

Midwestern Roots 2021 will be led by Featured Storytellers Blaine T. Bettinger Ph.D., J.D., Tim Pinnick, and Curt B. Witcher for their expansive work in social history, equity research, advancing genetic storytelling, and the preservation and accessibility of those stories for generations to come.

In the spirit of the many stories that make up the Midwest, the program committee seeks proposals that:

- Challenge a homogenous narrative
- Explore the everyday lives and stories of communities and resources that are ethnically, religiously, and geographically diverse
- Contextualize the histories around immigration and migration
- Engage new speakers, new audiences and different learning levels
- Imagine new ways to research, craft and share stories
- Are the most engaging format appropriate for the topic

Topics for sessions must fit one of the below categories:

- **Lecture (1 hour)** – Traditional format with a 45-minute presentation and 15 minutes for questions with the audience.
- **Conversation (90 minutes)** – You, the facilitator, pose predetermined questions with which attendees participate. The facilitator monitors the conversation to keep it on track. You are a guide, not a one-person show.
- **Experience (90 minutes)** – Don't just talk about your topic – Do it! Hands-on immersion without a computer lab.
- **Panel Discussion (1 hour)** – Up to three participants have a curated discussion about a topic that guests can listen to for 45 minutes and then ask questions for 15 minutes. There should be only one primary contact for session submission and communication.

- **Creative (30 minutes)** – Do you have a super non-traditional, creative way to present information about research, everyday life of the past, historic events, storytelling or family history that relates to the theme? This is the format for you.
- **Workshop (2 hours, 3 hours, 6 hours)** – Only available Thursday, July 29. This is a long-form session designed to teach special skills related to managing genealogy and local history societies, conducting research, computer skills, writing, and organization. Proposals should specify the skills the workshop will teach as well as the methods and techniques instructors will use. Computer labs can be made available.

Presenters who wish to submit session proposals may submit up to five sessions electronically—preference is given to more than two submissions per person of varying formats and sessions that are new. Presenter compensation is described in detail on the website.

- You can submit up to five session proposals.
- Selection preference is given to those who submit more than two proposals of varying formats.
- Selection preference is also given to those who submit sessions for a new format.
- Every presenter is required to submit one video, up to four minutes in length, that best highlights their presenting energy by telling the committee a short story (any story).

Each proposal requires the following:

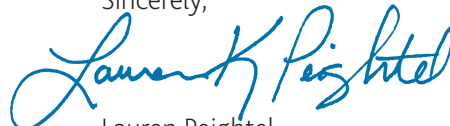
- Session title (not to exceed 10 words)
- Session description for marketing (not to exceed 50 words)
- Brief but comprehensive outline of content to be covered (not to exceed 200 words)
- Description of the importance of the topic to the theme (not to exceed 50 words)
- A list of the five most recent previous presentations for the topic (including event names, city locations, and dates)
- Name, mailing address, telephone and email of all presenters and biographies (not to exceed 25 words)
- Presenter's knowledge and experience to proposed session topic (not to exceed 150 words)

Please do not submit a session that has been presented nationally or regionally (Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan) in the last two years, is scheduled to be presented before August 2021, and/or is available for free online.

Midwestern Roots 2021 will also include other session and discussion formats presented by the Featured Storytellers. More information will be released closer to the conference time.

To submit session proposals and presenter videos, please visit indianahistory.org/midwesternroots.

Sincerely,



Lauren Peightel
Midwestern Roots 2021 Conference Program Co-Organizer
Indiana Historical Society
Indianapolis, Indiana