



# NEHA

## New England Historical Association

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

Hosted by Westfield State University

Ely Campus Center  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
577 Western Avenue  
Westfield, MA 01085

### **Spring Conference Program**

Conference hashtag #NEHASP2025

Schedule at a Glance

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Registration & Complimentary Breakfast | 8:30 – 9:00am     |
| First Morning Sessions                 | 9:00 – 10:30am    |
| <i>Break</i>                           | 10:30 – 10:45am   |
| Second Morning Sessions                | 10:45am – 12:15pm |
| Lunch and Business Meeting             | 12:30 – 1:30pm    |
| Afternoon Sessions                     | 1:45 – 3:15pm     |
| <i>*Quiet Work/Rest/Relaxation</i>     | 8:30am – 3:15pm   |

### **First Morning Sessions, 9:00 – 10:30am**

#### **Panel 1 – Global Texts and Contexts: Hawaii, Georgia, and Brazil (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Thomas Balcerski, Eastern Connecticut State University

Katherine A. Hermes, Connecticut Explored

“‘Give Me A Ship to the Pacific:’ American Voyages of Exploration in the Wake of Captain Cook, 1780-1830”

Teresa Fava Thomas, Fitchburg State University

“Under Fire and Underway: Memories of Crew and Command of the USS Reid at Pearl Harbor”

Diego Benning Wang, Princeton University

“The Bolshevization of a Poetic Proto-Renaissance: The Sovietization of a Medieval Georgian Epic Poem and Its Mysterious Author”

Cristina Mehrrens, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
“Gendered Metaphors: Towards a Transnational History of Female Urban Professionals in Twentieth-Century Brazil and USA”

**Panel 2 – When the Personal is Political: Friendship, Affiliation, and Rivalry in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century America (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Allison Lange, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Campbell Tacey, University of Massachusetts Lowell \*  
“The Reign of Terror in Women’s Private Sphere”

Adam Garcia, Stonehill College \*  
“‘The Better Judge’: Defining Women’s Education: Mary Lyon’s, Zilpah Grant, and the Women’s Seminary Movement in 19<sup>th</sup>-century New England”

Zachary Filmore, Stonehill College \*  
“‘Delay Is Ruining Us’: The Friendship and Disunion of Abraham Lincoln and George B. McClellan”

Olivia Perriera, Stonehill College \*  
“The New Bedford Woman’s Club: A Hub of Friendship & Affiliation”

**Panel 3 – Secret Societies, Kinship, and Objects in Early America (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Maura Jane Farrelly, Brandeis University

Jonathon Derek Awtrey, Fairfield University  
“Moses Michael Hays & Freemasonry in British North America”

Robert Justice, New York University  
“Making Montaukett: An Exploration of Law, Land, Race, and Kinship on Eastern Long Island”

Kate E. Benoit, Barrington Public Schools  
“‘Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice and Hear the Word of God’: Mormonism and Mass Media Missionary Work, 1922-19”

Heather Hole, Simmons University  
“Now You See It: A Native American Basket in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum”

**Second Morning Sessions, 10:45am – 12:15pm**

**Panel 4 – Antislavery and Progressivism in American History (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Nicholas Aieta, Westfield State University

Michael Dorn, Independent Scholar

“Contested Claims to Equal Rights in Literatures of Politics, Ethnology, and Popular Science After 1835”

Robert S. Wolff, Central Connecticut State University

“The Seeming Paradox of Elihu Burritt’s Antislavery Thought”

Christopher Clark, University of Connecticut

“The American Civil War and Revolutions on the Land”

Donald W. Rogers, Central Connecticut State University

“A Diffuse and Uneven Struggle: A New Look at Connecticut’s Progressive-Era Labor Movement”

**Panel 5 - Engaged and Experiential History Pedagogies in the First Year Seminar (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Jessica Frazier, University of Rhode Island

Kathryn Lamontage, Boston University

“Connecting High Impact Pedagogies: 1st Year Gen Ed, Study Abroad, and Field Visits”

Maria Gapotchenko, Boston University

“Learning through Historical Role-Play in First-Year Writing: A Path to Linguistic Maturity”

Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Roger Williams University

“Engaging Non-History Majors with Roger Williams and His 17th-Century World”

Kristen Petersen and Anthony Lacina, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

“From Social Justice Movements to Health Policy: Lessons from a Cross-course Collaborative Project”

**Panel 6 - U.S. Women, Activism, and Action (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Melanie Gustafson, University of Vermont

Nicollette Heath, Boston University \*

“Love or Lies?: Arabella Hunt’s Annulled Marriage”

Kelly Marino, Sacred Heart University

“Among the Best of Her Age: Augusta Lewis Troup, Catholicism, and Reform in Turn of the Twentieth-Century America”

Jillian Plummer, Sacred Heart University

“Fighting for Justice: Agnes Mary Mansour’s Conflict with the Vatican Over Medicaid Abortions in the 1980s”

Christine Charie, Providence College \*

“The New Right-Wing Populist: The Blonde Mother of the Nation”

**Panel 7 – Wars, Served Cold and Hot: Massachusetts, Iceland, Afghanistan, and Cuba (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Erica Kelliher, Westfield State University

Josh Shanley, Independent Scholar

“Cold War Massachusetts: Infrastructure and Administration in a Transformative Era”

Caitlin Carenen, Eastern Connecticut State University

“David versus Goliath versus the United States: The British-Icelandic ‘Fish Fights’ and Intra-NATO Troubles”

Edward Hunt, Regis College

“The U.S. War in Afghanistan: A Geopolitical War for Empire, 2001-2021”

Anju Reejhsinghani, University of California, Santa Cruz

“Ten Years On: Whatever Happened to U.S.-Cuba Normalization?”

**Lunch and Business Meeting, 12:30 – 1:00pm**

**Lunch and Learn Plenary, 1:00-1:30pm**

**Afternoon Sessions, 1:45 – 3:15pm**

**Panel 8 – Planning for the Future in New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Philip Mosley, Penn State University

Robin Miller Radner, Boston College

“The Poughkeepsie Plan: How a Public-Parochial School Partnership Helped Transform the Disestablishment Movement in Nineteenth-Century America”

Samuel C. Gilvarg, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

“The 1887 Wildfires on Cape Cod”

Diego Benites, Saint Anselm College \*

“The New Lowell Plan: Historical and Cultural Interpretations of a Deindustrialized City”

**Panel 9 – Slavery and Freedom in the Public History Narrative: Community Partnerships Perspectives (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Roger Williams University

Cynthia Elder, Barrington Land Conservation Trust  
“Beyond Family History: Uncovering New 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Histories”

Rachel Fortuna Cabral, Roger Williams University \*  
“Telling Thomas’ Story: New Perspectives on a 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Freedom Seeker”

Richard McGee, University of Rhode Island  
“Quakers and the Question of Enslavement in Rhode Island, 1700-1865”

Makhai Pells, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
“Contested Histories: Reclaiming Black and Indigenous Histories in Massachusetts”

**Panel 10 – Awakenings Across Time and Place (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Paul Lambert, Nichols College

Richard Maximus Strahan, University of Massachusetts Lowell  
“Barbarian Emperors Diocletian’s and Constantine’s Seizure of the Roman Empire and Their Subsequent Innovation and Establishment of the Christian State”

Colin Anderson, University of Tampa  
“‘Jim Crow’ Meets ‘Billy Barlow’: Race and the Urban Geographies of Early Blackface Minstrel Sheet Music”

Mary Potorti, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
“Hunger, Food Insecurity, and the Racial Awakening of Malcolm X”

Brian Peterson, Shasta College  
“*Holiday Pops* (1998): Rebranding Boston’s Landmark December Tradition, 1995-1998”

**Panel 11 – Jimmy Carter’s Presidential Legacy (Room TBA)**

Chair/Comment: Michael Neagle, Nichols College

Emma Schafer, Eastern Connecticut State University \*  
“Red Power: Jimmy Carter and Native American Welfare during the 1970s”

Emma McCormack, Eastern Connecticut State University \*  
“Cold War Hostages: Soviet Interference in the Iranian Revolution and Carter’s Presidential Legacy”

David Evans, University of Connecticut  
“Moral Values, Human Suffering, World Hunger: Jimmy Carter and the Human Right to Adequate Food”

Connor Huey, Harvard University \*

“The Progressive Paradox: How the Democratic Party Won Rural Western Washington, 1976-2024”

\* *Denotes student presenter*