

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

2017 CALL FOR PAPERS

THE CRISIS IN BLACK EDUCATION

102ND ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

Hilton Cincinnati • Netherland Plaza Hotel

The theme for 2017 focuses on the crucial role of education in the history of African Americans. ASALH's founder Carter G. Woodson once wrote that "if you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race." Woodson understood well the implications associated with the denial of access to knowledge, and he called attention to the crisis that resulted from persistently imposed racial barriers to equal education. The crisis in black education first began in the days of slavery when it was unlawful for slaves to learn to read and write. In pre-Civil War northern cities, free blacks were forced as children to walk long distances past white schools on their way to the one school relegated solely to them. Whether by laws, policies, or practices, racially separated schools remained the norm in America from the late nineteenth century well into our own time.

Throughout the last quarter of the twentieth century and continuing today, the crisis in black education has grown significantly in urban neighborhoods where public schools lack resources, endure overcrowding, exhibit a racial achievement gap, and confront policies that fail to deliver substantive opportunities. The touted benefits of education remain elusive to many blacks of all ages. Tragically, some poorly performing schools serve as pipelines to prison for youths.

Yet, African American history is rich in centuries-old efforts of resistance to this crisis: the slaves' surreptitious endeavors to learn; the rise of black colleges and universities after the Civil War; unrelenting battles in the courts; the black history movement; the freedom schools of the 1960s; and local community-based academic and mentorship programs that inspire a love of learning and thirst for achievement. Addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's past, present, and future.

Deadlines for submission of proposals are as follows:

Early Bird submission deadline for individual papers and organized panels is April 15th. After this date, all individual and panel submissions will be accepted until the deadline of April 30th.

All proposals must be submitted electronically to ASALH through the All Academic online system.

For complete panels submitted by April 15th, day and time preferences will be given on the basis of first come, first served. Please refer to the ASALH website for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for submission requirements for the various kinds of sessions.

Audio/Visual: Only panel proposal submitters will receive complimentary audio/visual equipment on a first-come, first-served basis.

For proposals for the Film Festival and for the Film Media Sessions, please refer to the ASALH website for further information and submission requirements.

More details will be available at www.asalh.org.

The Academic Program Committee, program@asalh.net