ASALH Virtual Conference

06.05.2020

Virtual Conference Task Force
ASALH
Rhode Island
Washington, DC
Overview

Due to the public health crisis brought on by the Covid-19 virus it is not wise for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) to have an in-person conference in Montgomery, AL September 23-27, 2020. Thus, it is the suggestion of the task force that the Association pursue a virtual conference.

Goals

1. Have a scholarly event that promotes the annual theme, African Americans and the Vote
2. Increase awareness of the importance of African American history
3. Serve as a resource for academics and independent scholars to present their research on African American life and history

Task Force Members

Aaisha Haykal, Lionel Kimble, Sylvia Cyrus, Eric Jackson, Tara White, Evelyn Higginbotham, Zebulon Miletsky, Natanya Duncan

Specifications

A virtual Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) conference will be a smaller conference than our in-person conferences. The task force is suggesting we limit the number of sessions to no more than 75 sessions over an 8 day period of September 3-26, 2020 (on Thursdays and Saturdays for three hours). As of June 4, 2020, in All-Academic there are 95 individual submissions and 46 sessions.

The virtual conference will consist of the following events

- Paper Sessions: recorded sessions
- Panels and Workshops: recorded sessions and live sessions
- Book Roundtables: live sessions
- Plenaries: live sessions
- Exhibit Hall Booths/Author’s Book Signing: Live (discount codes, links to sell books)
- Poster Session: recorded session with posters being submitted to ASALH social media for comments/feedback
- Networking: live session
## Tentative Session Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursdays</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM Plenary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM Live Concurrent Session Block 1 (2-3)</td>
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<td>2:30 PM Live Concurrent Session Block 2 (2-3)</td>
<td>2:30 PM Live Concurrent Session Block 2 (2-3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM Networking Blocks (scheduled,</td>
<td>3:30 PM Exhibitors (Drop in Times, scheduled)</td>
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<td>5:00 PM Evening Activity (film screening or</td>
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<td>reception)</td>
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<td>Week 2: Author’s Book Signing at 4:30 PM</td>
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9:00 AM on Thursday release of recorded sessions (8 per week, semi-live). The speakers will have the opportunity to engage with the public via social media hashtags.

Outside of the Conference schedule is the:

- ASALH Business Meeting on September 30th
- ASALH Awards TBD
- Branch Chartering TBD
- Branch Workshop to be held in September or October during the normal branch meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month

All times are in Eastern Standard Time Zone

### Week 1: History of the Black Vote

- Sessions will discuss the issue of the Black vote generally, with a focus on regional, state, and national issues
- Thursday Plenary: Views from My Alabama Porch
- Key People: Sonia Sanchez, Angela Davis, Ruby Sales, Hasan Jefferies, Martha Jones, Saladin Ambar, Melynda Price,
Week 2: Black Women and the Vote

- Sessions will discuss the issue of Black women's political participation
- Thursday Plenary: African American Women and the Vote - Tribute to Rosalyn Terborg Penn
- Key People: Martha Jones, Tarana Burke, Tamika Mallory, Latesha Brown, Pero Dagbovie, Shennette Garrett-Scott, Charles McKinney, Brandon Winford, LaShawn Harris
- 1 Concurrent Session: Book Roundtable (Martha Jones) - Thursday Block 1
- 1 Concurrent Session: Book Roundtable (Carol Anderson) - Thursday Block 1

Week 3: Collective Memory of Black Participation

- Sessions will discuss the issues of how Black political participation has been documented, preserved, interpreted, used for Black agency, and weaponized against Black communities
- Key People: Peniel Joseph, Jelani Cobb, Kim Gallon, Nishani Frazier, Conra Gist, Kaye Whitehead, LaVonne Neal, Alicia Moore, Martha Jones, Gary Bledsoe, Michelle Duster, Gregory Moss, Yohuru Williams, Shirletta Kinchen, Pero Dagbovie, Jeanne Theoharris
- 1 Concurrent Session: Book Roundtable (Peniel Joseph) - Thursday Block 1
- 1 Concurrent Session: Book Roundtable (Jelani Cobb) - Saturday Block 1
- 1 Concurrent Session: Documenting Covid-19 - Saturday Block 2
- Evening Activity: Netflix Party - potentially with Kevin Wilmott

Week 4: Black Joy

- Sessions will discuss issues relating to topics that provide Black people with pleasure. The sessions will highlight the ways that in the face of violence, disenfranchisement, abuse, segregation, etc. Black people did not let it take away ways to have fun, be sensual, loving, and joyful. Sessions will make clear that throughout history Black people being joyful is a political act.
- Thursday Plenary: With Faith in God and Heart and Mind: History of the Omega Psi Phi
- Key People: Yaba Blay, Girl Trek Rep, James D. Anderson, Derrick Aldridge, James Harper, Jonathan Matthews, Maurice J. Hobson, Eddie Cole,
- 1 Concurrent Session: Felix Armfield Session - Thursday Block 1
- 1 Concurrent Session: Young Adult/Youth Session - Saturday Block 2
- Evening Activity: DJ Party
Costs

Registration
Registration costs will include membership costs
- General - Membership $80 plus $70 registration totaling $150.00
- Senior (65 years and over) - Membership $55 plus $45 registration totaling $100.00
- Student - Membership $45 plus $35 registration totaling $80.00

Expenses
The staff cost will be $24,100. This is the portion of the salaries for the ED, Ops Manager, and Administrative Assistant that will be charged to the event.
The direct costs $15,000
Conference Revenue $50,000 from registration

Sponsors, Exhibitors, Advertisers

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Messaging/Why people would attend

- Support and enhance ASALH’s mission and vision
- Maintain the goal to back the efforts of graduate students
- View the works of younger and new scholars
- Continuous access to the conference’s many sessions
- Save money as a result of no hotel and transportation cost
- Ability to view and learn on own schedule
- Make connections, exchange ideas, and discover innovative research projects

Timeline

I. Send out acceptances, speaker survey, and rejections to submittors: June 15-31, 2020

II. Submission of Virtual Conference Report to ASALH Executive Council: June 2020
   Submission of report for approval

III. Selection of Platform: June 2020
    Select platform based on the budget options for the ASALH Executive Council

IV. Public Announcement of Decision: June 2020

V. Communicate with selected vendor: June 2020

VI. Deadline for return of speaker survey: July 3, 2020

VII. Editing deadline for session proposers: July 3, 2020
VIII.  Sessions on training on platform for back end: July 1-July 20, 2020

IX.  Schedule sessions: July 1-July 20, 2020

X.  AP committee start inputting schedule into platform: July 21, 2020- August 1, 2020

XI.  Sessions on training on platform for back end: August 1-5, 2020

XII.  Deadline for recorded sessions to be submitted: August 5, 2020

XIII.  Testing and Review of platform for panelists: August 20-31, 2020

XIV.  Conference held: September 3-26, 2020

**FAQ**

Why doesn’t ASALH Conference cancel this year’s conference?

It is financially necessary for ASALH to hold a conference this year

What about Montgomery, AL?

The Association will return to Montgomery for the 2023 conference

Will the sessions be accessible after the conference?

Yes, the aim to have all of the sessions recorded
Appendix 1: Survey for Panelist Commitment

1. Name
2. Email
3. Session Title
4. Commitment to presenting at the 105th Annual Meeting of ASALH. Y/N
5. The Annual Meeting will be a virtual conference, do you have experience in this environment?
   a. Yes. I have experience with presenting in webinars and online events, and I would be comfortable presenting my session virtually.
   b. Yes. I am new to presenting virtually, but I am willing to learn.
   c. No, I would not be able to present my session virtually.
6. In order to best assist you in this endeavor, which of the following would be true for you?
   a. I would need technology training as a moderator/facilitator to field questions, keep time, etc.
   b. I would need to pre-record my remarks/presentation.
   c. I would need to share a video/audio recording as part of my presentation.
   d. I would need to use screen sharing to deliver my presentation.
   e. I would be willing to have my presentation/session live-streamed via video + audio.
   f. I would be willing to have my presentation/session live-streamed via audio only.
   g. I do not have the technology at home/work to participate fully.
   h. My session would not convert well to virtual presentation.