

106TH ANNUAL MEETING & VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

CO-HOSTED BY THE ASALH FLORIDA BRANCHES

September 14-30, 2021



2021 BLACK HISTORY THEME, THE BLACK FAMILY: REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY, AND DIVERSITY

To: ASALH Executive Council; Academic Program Committee
From: Tara Y. White and Shawn Leigh Alexander, Academic Program Co-chairs
Re: **2021 Academic Program Committee Report**
Date: December 16, 2021

APC Member Roster

Tara White (Co-Chair, Wallace Community College-Selma/UNC-Wilmington), Shawn Alexander (Co-Chair, University of Kansas), Hilary Green (Vice Chair, University of Alabama), Lionel Kimble (Vice President for Programs, Chicago State University), TaKeia Anthony (Kentucky State University), Michael Blum (Jarvis Christian College), Deidre Bennett Flowers (Queens College, Columbia University), Jarvis Ray Givens (Harvard University), LaShawn Harris (Michigan State University), Aaisha Haykal (College of Charleston), Eric R. Jackson (Northern Kentucky University), Ida E. Jones (Morgan State University), Cherisse R. Jones-Branch (Arkansas State University), Thura Mack (University of Tennessee-Knoxville), Lopez D. Matthews (Howard University), Zebulon Vance Miletsky (Stony Brook University), Adreonna Nicole Simmons-Bennett (UNC Charlotte), Rose C. Thevenin (Florida Memorial University), Dwight Watson (Texas State University), Kenvi Phillips (Harvard University/Brown University)

Overview

The 2021 ASALH Annual Meeting and Conference was the second virtual conference for the Association. It was held from September 14th to 30th. Sessions were held on Tuesdays, Thursdays (12:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) and Saturdays (11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.). The 2021 theme was The Black Family: Identity, Representation, and Diversity.

The Executive Council of ASALH decided that the 2021 Annual Conference and Meeting would be virtual due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the need to keep our members safe. The initial Call for Papers for the 2021 Annual Conference was issued at the 105th Annual Conference in September 2020. See the call in Appendix A. The Early Bird submission deadline for panels and individual papers was March 15, 2021. The final submission deadline for panels and individual papers was April 30, 2021. The review process began March 1, 2021 and ended May 30, 2021. Panelist notification was scheduled for June 1, 2021 and session creation and scheduling began on June 10. The co-chairs had regular conference calls with the AP Committee and regular conference calls with each other and the Executive Director. We anticipated having the schedule completed and uploaded into All-Academic by July 16.

The virtual conference used the All Academic and Zoom platforms. Additionally, a [padlet](#) was created to encourage networking. No conference program was developed, but there is a [Conference Souvenir Journal](#), which has information about the committee, the award winners, sponsors, and exhibitors.

Committee Activities

The APC was divided into subcommittees with a chairs and/or vice-chairs as listed below

APC Committees

- Film Festival-Ida Jones
- Poster-Aaisha Haykal
- Felix Armfield Series-Rose Thevenin
- Public History-Aaisha Haykal and Kenvi Phillips
- Review-Hilary Green
- Evening/Social- TaKeia Anthony
- Hine-Horne Book Roundtables-LaShawn Harris and Jarvis Givens
- Communications/Marketing-Rose Chandler and Zebulon Miletsky

Hired Staff

In April/May 2021, ASALH hired Janae Cofield, a graduate student, to create session panel intro slides and to work in the All Academic back end, checking presenter confirmation forms. Cofield also maintained a spreadsheet to track the marketing collateral (speaker bios, titles, headshots, etc.). She was paid \$5,000.

Marketing/Social Media

The conference was promoted on social media (Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook). To support these efforts flyers were created for each platform and for specific events (film festival, awards ceremony, plenary sessions, key sessions, social events, etc.). A limited number of promo videos were also created and posted to ASALH TV. To encourage conversations online the following hashtags were used: #ASALH2021, #BlackFamily, #CarterGWoodson, #ASALHFamily, #ASALH

Committee Adjustments/Challenges

Changes in All Academic, specifically the addition of the Zoom package, presented a number of challenges. The mandatory assignment of chairs and co-chairs as Zoom hosts, a requirement for the scheduling of the Zoom webinar and meetings, presented a challenge that was not initially clear. Also, the scheduling of sessions, namely the limited amount of time available before the sessions that panelists and presenters could set up for their panels, was insufficient. We were not apprised of the exact amount of time. Finally, the short amount of time past the end of sessions proved shocking to panelists who did not observe the time constraints and experienced an abrupt ending to the session. Many of these issues were not made apparent or discussed with us by All Academic. It is our hope that a review of these issues will facilitate a discussion on how to best streamline the function of the Academic Program Committee.

Conference Activities

Registration Numbers as of 10.7.21: 942 Paid/60 Gratis/72 Invoiced = 1,074 Registrants
Total as of 10.7.21

Type	Number of Registrants
General	485
Student	191
Senior	262
Sponsored	65
Gratis	60
Exhibitors	11
Total	1,074

Number of submitted sessions (2020): 148	Number of submitted sessions (2021): 167
Number of individual papers (2020): 190	Number of individual papers (2021): 266
Total number of records in All Academic (2020): 338	Total number of records in All Academic (2021): 433

Other Session Types

Posters (12)	Plenaries (7)
Film Festival (7)-See listing in Appendix B	Author Book Signings (14)
Exhibitors (11)	Presidential (2)
Roundtables (27)	Workshop (6) and Mellon's Social Justice Workshop Wednesday (5)
Media Session (6)	Darlene Clark Hine & Gerald Horne Book Roundtable Panel (7)
Felix Armfield Series (4)	Social/Evening (3)

- Conference registrants had access to conference programming until October 31, 2021. Individuals could register for the conference and access the content up until then.

ASALH TV

- ASALH's YouTube channel, ASALH TV was used to livestream plenary and author book talk sessions to the public. After the conference, selected sessions (exhibitor sessions, author book talk, and presidential) continue to be available on ASALH TV.

Film Festival

- Estimated 100+ people who attended the festival
- The largest audiences attended *Invisible Histories*, *Mama Gloria*, *I am Just a Layman*, and *Geographies of Kinship*.
- Unknown number attended Gloria Browne Marshall's two films.

Conference Attendee Support

- Virtual Help Desk was accessible on conference days. It was staffed by members of the APC and the ASALH Executive Director
- Training and orientation on All Academic were provided to conference presenters and attendees and sessions were recorded and made accessible on ASALH TV
- The ASALH National office registered folk over the phone and provided customer assistance via email
- The ASALH Conference website provided handouts about virtual presentations and how to access All Academic

Additional Meetings/Activities

- Awards Ceremony was pre-recorded and made accessible via ASALH TV on September 28th at 7 p.m.
- The ASALH EC Meeting was held on September 16th at 8 p.m.
- The Branch Meeting was held on Saturday, September 18th at 9 a.m. via Zoom. It was led by the National Membership Committee
- The ASALH Membership Meeting was held on Thursday, September 30th at 6 p.m. via Zoom

General Observations/Recommendations for future conferences

1. Procedures
 - a. As we approach ASALH 107th annual conference, a thorough review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document including timelines is needed, specifically adjustments regarding virtual conferences. Lionel will make the first revisions and will review with the team on Friday, December 3
 - i. Input APC meeting schedule in SOP
 - b. To avoid the last-minute proofing of the program book there needs to be more consistent communication between the AP Committee and session chairs. We need to institute a more efficient manner to remove names of submitters who do not join, register or reply in a timely fashion so the PRINT document can be

available at least 3 weeks prior to the conference. Proofing should take place heavily on the front end so that there is less to do on the back end.)

- c. Have clearer instructions about session roles: Zoom Host, Session Chair, Zoom Meeting Alternate Host, and Moderator
 - d. Make clearer to subcommittee chairs that they CANNOT expend funds not already in the budget
 - e. All expenses for the conference must follow the ASALH EC funding process and policies
2. Structure
- a. Organize an executive committee composed of the APC co-chairs and the chairs of the subcommittees to strengthen the work of the AP Committee
 - b. Outline of roles and responsibilities of the subcommittees.
 - c. Outline responsibilities of co-chair and vice chairperson to ease communication across the committee
 - d. APC Subcommittees
 - i. Proposal Review Committee
 - ii. Plenary Sessions
 - iii. Messaging Committee to support Social Media;
 - iv. Film Festival;
 - v. Key Panels;
 - vi. Poster Committee (IP of ASALH)
 - vii. Proofing Committee (during the submission process and prior to going to print)
 - viii. On-site AP Committee Information Table
 - ix. Virtual Session Monitors
 - x. Emerging Professionals/Felix Armfield
 - xi. Chair and Commentator Recruitment and assignments
 - xii. APC Liaison to the Local Arrangements Committee
3. Vetting of AP Committee Members
- a. Individuals who serve on the committee should know that this is a working committee and only the names of active members will be printed.
 - b. We must review the list of sub-committees, their roles and responsibilities, the timelines, etc.
 - c. APC Chair should make every effort to attend conference oversight meetings, usually held on Monday or Tuesday evenings.
4. Sessions/Program
- a. Prioritize panels over papers
 - b. Have separate registration code for presenters, which will make them review the terms and conditions, versus having to chase individuals down
 - c. Revise All-Academic to only accept submissions with full information;
 - d. Chair evaluation forms will be put on line and will be created electronically
 - e. The Academic Program Committee does not enter proposals
 - f. Make clearer on conference materials that
 - i. Presenters agree to join ASALH by xx/xx/2022.

- ii. Membership fees are as follows. Students \$55/Seniors \$65/General \$80 and Associates with limited benefits \$65
- iii. In addition to membership, presenters agree to register for the conference by xx/xx/2022.
- iv. Basic registration fees range in price by General/Senior and Student rates and vary based on payment date and in-person (including tours) vs virtual
- v. Submitters agree to contact all individuals whose paper/participation entered to make them aware that their name has been submitted and to provide the requirements for presenting.

2022 Budget Suggestions from Academic Program Committee

- Virtual Conference: \$4,000 for All-Academic Zoom Host Codes
 - Make all conference sessions automatically record
- Conference Support Person: \$10,000 to manage online process and speaker follow up for confirmations and marketing needs/expectations. Hire this person in early 2022, so they are on the ground early.

Appendix A

Call for Papers and All-Academic Set-up:

<https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asalh/asalh21/>

The 2021 ASALH Academic Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers, entire sessions, presentations, performances, films, round-tables, workshops, conversations, or alternative formats dealing with the 2021 theme, “The Black Family”.

The Black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines such as history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the period of enslavement to our own time. Since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents, the Black family knows no single location. Not only are individual Black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the Black family writ large. While the role of the Black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the “foundation” of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective—as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as Black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The Black family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.

The Academic Program Committee seeks a diverse slate of presenters and panels representing a variety of professional and institutional backgrounds, perspectives, and voices. We are interested in detailed, comprehensive, and descriptive proposals that outline the theme, scope, and aim of participants. The committee particularly seeks presentations that probe the traditional fields of economic, political, intellectual, and cultural history; the established fields of urban, race, ethnic, labor, and women’s/gender history as well as southern and western history; along with the rapidly expanding fields of sexuality, LGBT, and queer history; environmental and public history; African American intellectual history; literature; and the social sciences.

We encourage proposals from scholars working across a variety of temporal, geographical, thematic, and topical areas in Black history, life and culture. We seek to foster a space of inclusion in the ASALH program and encourage submissions from anyone interested in presenting including: historians, students, new professionals, first-time presenters, activists, and practitioners from allied professions. Deadlines for submission of proposals are as follows: Early Bird Submissions will be accepted until March 15, 2021 at 5PM (EST). Responses to Early Bird submissions will be sent out by April 15, 2021 at 5 P.M (EST). After this date, the committee will accept all submissions until the deadline of April 30, 2021. Regular Submissions will be responded to by June 15.

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ASALH FILM FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY BETHEL DUKES BRANCH OF ASALH AND BRANCH MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 14TH - 25TH, 2021

Keeping with our 2021 Black History theme: The Black Family: Representation, Identity, & Diversity, this year's film selection gives voice to the daily lives of individuals and unsung heroes.

September 14, 2021, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

MAMA GLORIA

September 16, 2021, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

KINDRED SPIRITS

September 18, 2021, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

I'M JUST A LAYMAN

September 21, 2021, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**BREAKWATER STUDIO:
THE POWER OF SHORT FILMS**

September 25, 2021, 1:30pm - 3:30pm

SHOT: CAUGHT A SOUL

September 25, 2021, 6:15pm - 7:45pm

RACIALLY CHARGED

September 25, 2021, 8:00pm - 9:30pm

GEOGRAPHIES OF KINSHIP

September 28, 2021, 1:30pm - 3:30pm

DREAMS OF EMMETT TILL

September 28, 2021, 7:30pm - 9:30pm

**INVISIBLE HISTORY:
MIDDLE FLORIDA'S HIDDEN ROOTS**

VISIT WWW.ASALH.ORG/FILM

