



CALL FOR PAPERS

ASCH 2023: “Experimentation”

American Society of Church History Annual Meeting

January 5-8, 2023 || Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Program Chair: Jonathan Ebel, University of Illinois

#ASCH23

All further conference details forthcoming

The theme for the 2023 American Society of Church History annual meeting is **Experimentation**. The Program Committee seeks proposals that think creatively about experimentation and its significance throughout the history of Christianity. As experiments have often occurred at the boundaries, physical and social, of imperial spaces, we especially encourage panels that explore experimentation as understood and undertaken among oppressed, disadvantaged, or otherwise marginal communities. We especially welcome submissions from scholars of the ancient and medieval world. The Program Committee is also interested in experimental approaches to the program itself. How might we connect in more meaningful ways? What types of interactions might inspire and provoke in new ways? What locations in our host city might enhance the discussion of your work?

Proposals from the following periods and categories, inter alia, are welcomed:

- 1) Early Christianity and Patristics
- 2) Medieval and Byzantine Period
- 3) Reformation and Early Modern Atlantic World
- 4) Africa and the African Diaspora
- 5) American: Colonial to 20th Century
- 6) Latinx and Latin American
- 7) World Christianities
- 8) Religious Philadelphia

Types of Proposal

We solicit four types of proposals for presentation: regular panels, roundtables, experimental sessions, and individual papers. Each type is defined below.

Regular Panel: Structured presentations from three (or, rarely, four) scholars of original research papers. These papers must be no more than twenty minutes each. Moderated by a chairperson, these presentations are often commented upon by a respondent, after which there is a conversation among the panelists as well as time for audience questions.

Roundtable: Structured group discussion of a topic, question, theme, or book significant to the discipline of the history of Christianity. Such a discussion can be proposed in a variety of ways, at the discretion of the person submitting the proposal. Roundtables are limited to five participants, along with the chairperson. The aim of the roundtable is a discussion among the participants, who may present short papers (~five minutes each) to frame their further contributions. The roundtable format should reserve a substantial amount of time for interaction with the audience at the end of the formal discussion.

Experimental Session: Keeping with the theme of the conference, this category is for novel (dare we suggest, fun) approaches to the presentation and discussion of research. In addition to a full description of the scholarly content that the session will engage, proposals should specify what exactly is experimental about the session and why this particular experiment ought to matter for the Society.

Individual Paper: While the Program Committee gives strong preference to regular panel and roundtable proposals, one can also propose an individual paper for presentation on the conference program. If accepted, an individual paper will be placed into a panel — usually constructed from multiple individual paper submissions — by the Program Committee. **To be considered for inclusion in the program, individual papers must align with one or more of the following keywords:**

- Empire
- Community
- Technology
- Performance
- Illness/healing
- Authority
- Interreligious interaction

To ease scheduling and foster diverse dialogue, ASCH limits the participation of conference attendees to:

- 1 presentation of a paper
- 1 comment on a session, participation on a roundtable, or chairing of a session.

Deadlines for Proposals

Note: The ASCH deadline for proposals is March 15, 2022.

Proposals seeking joint sponsorship between ASCH and the American Catholic Historical Association should indicate this desire during the submission process by checking the appropriate box. We will not be co-sponsoring any panels with the American Historical Association this year.

The Program Committee will do its best to announce the results of all submissions by the first week of July 2022.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

In order to submit a proposal for a **regular panel**, you will first need to [submit the panel proposal via the panel submission form](#). In doing so, you will be prompted for a panel title, panel description (up to 300 words), a mini-description (up to 50 words; to be included in the conference program if accepted), email addresses for all panelists (inviting them to submit abstracts for their papers), and names for the panel chair and respondent.

In order to submit proposals for a **paper** (either as part of a regular panel or as an individual submission), a **roundtable**, or an **experimental session**, please use the [standard submission form](#). Submitters will be required to enter basic information about their proposal, including title, an abstract of their presentation (up to 300 words), a mini-abstract (up to 50 words; to be included in the conference program if accepted), and information about the presenter(s). **Please note: after a regular panel proposal has been submitted, all panelists (but not chairs or respondents) will need to submit abstracts for their papers using this standard submission form.**

If involving multiple presenters, all proposals must specify how their panel demonstrates diversity (gender, ethnicity, rank, scholarly location, etc.) in their composition.

Sessions are typically ninety minutes in length and allow for three or four papers, a formal response, and audience interaction. The committee reserves the right to reconfigure sessions as needed.

A/V Support

Panels or papers requiring video or audio projection should provide a clear rationale for doing so, as the expense involved is considerable. While we will make every effort to accommodate requests, unfortunately the Program Committee cannot *guarantee* that projection equipment will be available for every presentation.

Membership and Registration Requirements

All session participants, including session chairs and respondents, (with the exception of participants living and working outside the United States) must hold a 2023 ASCH membership by November 15, 2022 in order to remain on the program. For information about ASCH membership, go to <http://www.churchhistory.org/membership>

All session participants, including session chairs and respondents, must also register for the 2023 Annual Meeting by November 15, 2022 in order to remain on the program.

Additional Questions

If you have any questions related to the Call For Papers or the conference program, please contact the ASCH at asch@churchhistory.org