

American Printing History Association

*To Encourage
the Study of
Printing History*

48th Annual APHA National Conference
“The Printed Weird: Book History from the Margins”
Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin
October 12-14, 2023

The American Printing History Association (APHA) is pleased to announce a call for papers for its 2023 annual conference at the Harry Ransom Center of the University of Texas at Austin. The theme of this year's conference is “The Printed Weird: Book History from the Margins.” We draw our theme from the long-standing (and much-debated) local culture rallying cry to “Keep Austin Weird.” Our broad theme invites submissions that raise questions about established printing and book historical practices, knowledge, and objects; particularly those that present the odd or alternative, the apparently exceptional or idiosyncratic, the out of the mainstream, the contradictory to received wisdom. Possible topics include:

- Innovations in printing and presses, especially the short-lived and lesser-known
- Bibliographical conundrums and oddities
- The place of non-books, including art prints and ephemera, in printing history
- Current books and book arts that engage with historical printing practices

This conference is geared towards scholars and practitioners related to printing and book history, including book and printing historians, librarians, archivists, museologists, curators, conservators, restorers, technicians, theorists, academics, students, and others with an interest, professional or not, in these disciplines.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals are due by Friday, May 5, 2023. You will receive a timely acknowledgment that your proposal has been received. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Please send e-mail proposals as attachments in Microsoft Word or PDF format to: proposals@printinghistory.org.

Proposals will be accepted by blind judging, so your name, biography, and contact information will be separated before judging by the APHA Programs Committee.

Proposal Guidelines

We are soliciting proposals for 20-minute individual presentations, 50-minute group panels, or posters. Proposals for individual presentations must include the paper topic, a title, and an abstract (500 words maximum). Proposals for panels of three or four speakers (each allotted 15 minutes) must include the panel topic, a title, and an abstract (500 words maximum). Proposals for posters must include the poster topic, a title, and an abstract (300 words maximum).

All proposals must include the following information in the following order:

1. Name(s) of presenter(s) (if proposing a group panel, include names of all-group participants)
2. Contact information (mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address)

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3. Short biography (100 words maximum for each participant)
4. Three or four keywords to aid in presentation scheduling
5. Title of presentation, panel or poster
6. Abstract of presentation, panel or poster
7. Please begin each item on a separate line; items 1 through 3 must be on a separate page to ensure blind judging.

Conference Location

The Harry Ransom Center is an internationally renowned humanities research center at The University of Texas at Austin whose extensive collections provide unique insight into the creative process of some of our finest writers and artists, deepening the understanding and appreciation of literature, photography, film, art, and the performing arts. The Ransom Center encourages discovery, inspires creativity, and advances understanding of the humanities for a broad and diverse audience through the preservation and sharing of its extraordinary collections. Further details about the conference and lodging options will be posted on the APHA website later this spring.

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