

ASEH Call for Proposals

2018 Conference in Riverside, California – Environment, Power & Justice

The ASEH invites proposals for its conference that will convene March 14-18, 2018 in Riverside, California. Long attractive for its dry Mediterranean climate, Riverside, located in the Inland Empire along the Santa Ana River, has witnessed several immigrations and dispossessions – from the immense diversity of indigenous groups to the multiple ethnicities, races, and cultures since European arrival. The tapping of aquifers and the three-way junction of transcontinental railroads subsequently helped transform a broad sage scrub plain with springs that hosted Native Americans and later Spanish ranchos, into the center of California's citrus industry and a focus for aviation. Home to one of the most diverse populations in the state, alongside multiple economic enterprises from agriculture to aeronautics, the Riverside region has also faced numerous challenges such as high poverty rates, income inequality, severe air pollution, and collapsing home prices after 2008, among others. Today, Riverside is home to vibrant arts communities, rapidly expanding logistics facilities, advanced engineering, green energy manufacturing, and high tech companies, as well as diverse and growing food, immigration and environmental justice movements. Its environmental history of migration and agro-industrial booms and busts combined with proximity to the coast, the deserts and the U.S.-Mexican border make Riverside an ideal place to consider how factors including race, class, and gender, among others, figure into present-day struggles such as climate change, public health, immigration reform, living wages, and sustainability.

The Program Committee for the Riverside conference thus invites consideration of the roles of various forms of power in environmental change and its narration at different levels. The committee will consider a broad range of sub-themes and topics, including multiples ways that material, economic, and political power have influenced historical landscapes and environments and the people who live in them. The committee particularly encourages papers that engage with multi-disciplinary perspectives, including the social and "hard" sciences, and that consider power in its myriad forms from political and economic power to the power of ideologies which are so often informed by the (his)stories we tell, environmental and otherwise. A consideration of power in environmental history has the potential to increase the relevance of environmental history for contemporary policy debates and to contribute more robustly to a "sustainable" future.

Guidelines:

The Program Committee welcomes teaching sessions, non-traditional formats, and sessions that encourage active audience participation. It encourages panels that include historians at different career stages and different types of institutions (academic and public) and that are gender and racially diverse. ***This year, we are introducing "lightning sessions" – individual presentations of 5 minutes each with up to 10 slides.*** For other sessions, we strongly prefer to receive complete session proposals, although we will endeavor to construct sessions from proposals for individual presentations. Sessions will be scheduled for 1.5 hours. It is ASEH policy to allow at least 30 minutes for discussion in every session. No single presentation should exceed 15 minutes, and each roundtable presentation should be ten minutes or shorter since roundtables are designed to maximize discussion. Commentators are allowed but not required. *Please note that individuals can propose to present or comment on only one panel or roundtable session (but can chair additional sessions).*

ASEH remains committed to inclusivity with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression and identity, sexual orientation, and physical abilities in terms of participation and topics discussed at our conferences. The program committee is more likely to accept sessions that reflect these values.

Deadline for Submissions: July 14, 2017. See www.aseh.net for more information. Online proposal submission system will be activated in May 2017.