



## Call for Papers

### Proposals due February 15, 2020

The History Graduate Student Association at Virginia Tech invites proposals for papers and panels to be presented at the 23rd Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference. This interdisciplinary conference will be held at Virginia Tech's Graduate Life Center in Blacksburg, VA, on March 20–21, 2020.

Our conference is an opportunity for graduates and advanced undergraduates to share research projects in a supportive, professional environment and a chance to network with future colleagues. Our conference values interdisciplinary approaches to the past, and we invite proposals from historians and students in related disciplines whose work represents “innovative perspectives in history.” Presentations on any aspect of history, time period, or world region are welcome.

For papers, please submit a one-page abstract and a short vita. For panels, please provide a paragraph describing the theme of the panel, an abstract for each paper that will be presented on the panel, and a short vita for each presenter. Paper and panel proposals are due by February 15, 2020. Please send them to our Panels Committee at [vthgsa@gmail.com](mailto:vthgsa@gmail.com).

## Brian Bertoti Award

Each year, HGSA acknowledges the best paper presented at the conference with the Brian Bertoti Award for Outstanding Historical Scholarship. To be considered for this award, participants must also submit their paper at presentation length (roughly 10 pages) to the Panels Committee by March 10, 2020. The paper selected for the best paper prize will represent exemplary scholarship, innovative methods, and unique perspectives in the historical discipline. Only graduate students are eligible for this award.

## Publication in the *Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review*

Outstanding undergraduate papers will also be considered for publication in the *Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review (VTUHR)*, including papers from other universities. If you would like your submission to be considered for publication, please send the paper to the Panels Committee by March 10, 2010.

## Conference Speakers

**Megan Kate Nelson** will deliver the keynote address on Friday, March 20. Her address, titled “History as Imagination: Dispatches from the Writing Life,” will discuss how to craft narrative histories and how to navigate historical work outside the academy.

Nelson is a writer and historian living in Lincoln, Massachusetts. Her new book, *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West*, will be published by Scribner in February 2020. This project was the recipient of a 2017 NEH Public Scholar Award and a Filson Historical Society Fellowship. Nelson is the author of two previous books: *Ruin Nation: Destruction and the American Civil War* (Georgia, 2012) and *Trembling Earth: A Cultural History of the Okefenokee Swamp* (Georgia, 2005).

She has also written about the Civil War, the U.S. West, and American culture for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Preservation* magazine, and *Civil War Times*. Her column on Civil War popular culture, “Stereoscope,” appears regularly in the *Civil War Monitor*.

**Matt D. Childs**, associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina, will deliver the luncheon address on Saturday, March 21. His address is titled “An African City in the Americas: Reframing Colonial Havana as a West African Port City, (1762–1867).” In it he will explore how the culture, history, and identity that Africans brought with them to Cuba influenced their experiences under enslavement from the 1760s to 1860s.

Professor Childs is the author of *The 1812 Aponte Rebellion in Cuba and the Struggle against Atlantic Slavery*, which was a finalist for the 2007 Frederick Douglass Book Prize and translated and published in Cuba in 2012. He has coedited with Toyin Falola *The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World* and *The Changing Worlds of Atlantic Africa: Essays in Honor of Robin Law*.

Childs served as an associate editor for the six-volume *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*. With James Sidbury and Jorge Canizares-Esguerra he has coedited *The Urban Black Atlantic during the Era of the Slave Trade*. Professor Childs has published articles in *The Journal of Latin American Studies*, *The Americas*, *The Historian*, *The History Workshop Journal*, and the *Latin American Research Review*, among other journals.

**For more information about the conference, speakers, or schedule please visit the conference website at**

<https://myvthistoryma.com/bertoti-conference/>