



Conference Title:

Oral History in Times of Crisis

Conference Dates:

Friday April 30 (business meeting, keynote, and all presentations)

Saturday May 1 (remote interviewing workshop)

Location: Virtual

Deadline for Submissions: January 15

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) invites paper, panel, and poster proposals for its 2021 Annual Meeting, “Oral History in Times of Crisis.” Papers, panels, and posters need not be related to this theme in order to be considered. Submissions on all topics related to the mid-Atlantic region or by oral historians in the mid-Atlantic region are welcome. The conference will be held virtually due to the ongoing public health crisis.

Oral history does not only take place during peace and calm; it can be a significant tool in addressing and documenting crises. This theme explores how the oral history community can play a particular role in combating, documenting, and understanding ongoing and past crises. How can participating in oral histories about crisis and in times of crisis be useful to narrators and interviewers? How can we mitigate trauma for all participants in such interviews? When is it ethical to approach potential narrators and when is it not? What are the decisions involved in choosing when to do an oral history project about a particular crisis and how to craft an equitable project design? How might crises alter oral history forms and methods, either temporarily or permanently? How do we grapple with the demands of deadlines and funding stipulations while also creating longitudinal projects that allow for narrators to participate when they are ready? How have oral histories of crises contributed valuable, actionable lessons at the time and/or in the future? How have they influenced how societies, organizations, and countries address the crisis and its lasting effects? How might they do so in the future?

OHMAR encourages presenters to interpret the conference theme creatively in the context of their own work and community projects.

Possible topics may include:

- Oral history and natural disasters
- Oral history and public health crises



- Oral history and war
- Oral history and struggles for human/civil rights
- Oral history and conflicts over history/historical interpretation and public memory
- Oral history and personal crises
- Oral history and poverty
- Any topic related to oral history in the Mid-Atlantic region

Application Guidelines:

The program committee invites proposals for panels or roundtables, as well as for individual papers. We encourage proposals from students, early career oral historians, and community practitioners, and we welcome presentations that feature audio-visual components. We also welcome proposals for alternative session types, including experiential modules, “point-counterpoint” debates, and community viewpoints comprising the narrators and interviewers of an oral history project. Given this conference’s format, we highly encourage oral historians to use this opportunity to include their narrators as co-presenters.

Individual paper/presentation proposals should include a brief abstract of 250-500 words, a 1-paragraph biographical summary about the author(s), and contact information. Roundtable proposals should include a 250-500 word abstract of the roundtable topic, and a brief biographical summary and email address for each invited participant. Panel proposals should include a broad, 1-2 sentence description of the panel theme and brief abstracts of 150-200 words for each paper.

Poster proposal submissions should include a 200-300 word abstract, a roughly one paragraph biographical summary of the creator, and the creator’s contact information. Accepted participants will ultimately submit a 3-5 minute recording in which they discuss their project, for a pre-recorded poster session viewable throughout the conference.

The deadline for all all submissions is January 15. All submissions should be emailed with attachments to ohmar.conference@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact us at that email address at any time with questions.

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OHMAR also invites proposals for the 2021 conference program cover design! The prize for the winning design is free conference registration.

**Design Submission Requirements:**

letter size (i.e., 8.5” x 11”)



include the following:

OHMAR logo (large)

conference title

conference dates

social media info: (@OHMidAtlantic #OHMAR2020)

OHMAR's website: <http://ohmar.org>

submitted as a PDF

**Submission Deadline:** January 15