



ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WHAT IS THE COST?

EXPLORING THE HUMAN AND
FINANCIAL TOLL OF ORAL HISTORY

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MARCH 30-31

SCIENCE HISTORY INSTITUTE

315 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION
2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SPECIAL THANKS TO

OWEN ROGERS, 2023 Conference Chair

JILLIAN DECKER, Program Design

DAVID CARUSO & SCIENCE HISTORY INSTITUTE, 2023 Conference Hosts

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Conference Theme	3
OHMAR Board Members	4
A Message from the OHMAR President	5
Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors	6–9
Keynote Speaker	10
Conference Schedule	11-14
Martha Ross Prize	15-16
Forrest Pogue Award	16
OHMAR Board Member Elections	17

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WHAT IS THE COST?

EXPLORING THE HUMAN AND FINANCIAL TOLL OF ORAL HISTORY

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MARCH 30–31, 2023

This year's theme, "What Is the Cost? Exploring the Human and Financial Toll of Oral History," broadly interprets the price of oral history. Oral history projects present a variety of material and immaterial challenges, including emotional labor, unpaid labor, contested histories, and the financial burden of collecting, preserving, and making narratives accessible to future generations. We look forward to hearing your ideas, your experience, and your vision as we engage in challenging conversations on the weight of our community and institutional work.

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



OHMAR BOARD MEMBERS

MELISSA ZIOBRO, President

Monmouth University

ANNA F. KAPLAN, Vice President

American University

CATHERINE MAYFIELD, Secretary

Maryland Center for History and Culture

DAVID J. CARUSO, Treasurer

Science History Institute

JILLIAN DECKER, Development Director

Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

OWEN ROGERS, Communications Director

Veterans History Project, Library of Congress

LUCAS WILSON, At-Large Board Member

University of Toronto and Seneca College

JOHN HORAN, At-Large Board Member

State Archives of North Carolina

PATTY CHAPPINE, At-Large Board Member

Gratz College, Stockton University

CAROL FOWLER, At-Large Board Member

National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey

MOLLY GRAHAM, At-Large Board Member

NOAA's Voices Oral History Archives

MAEVE WARNOCK SHEEHAN, At-Large Board Member

Independent

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



A MESSAGE FROM THE OHMAR PRESIDENT



ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

OHMAR is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and improvement of oral history. This body represents the needs of those actively practicing or otherwise interested in oral history in the Mid-Atlantic region.

OHMAR provides a forum for sharing information about the techniques and application of oral history, promotes standards of quality among practitioners, and assists those interested in the subject. Members include public and academic historians, librarians, archivists, teachers, folklorists, and independent researchers.

Our vision is to support established and emerging oral historians in the practice of oral history by providing information and resources, an accessible community of expertise, and a vibrant professional and social network. Identified by our leadership and affirmed by our members, all priorities and actions will be guided by these five values: openness, passion, community, education, and expertise.

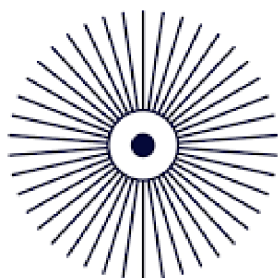
Melissa Ziobro, President | mziobro@monmouth.edu | OHMAR.org

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Science
History
Institute



Chemistry · Engineering · Life Sciences

The Science History Institute is a multifaceted nonprofit organization whose mission is to expand knowledge and challenge perspectives in the history of chemistry, engineering, and the life sciences; to reveal how developments in these fields are embedded in our daily lives; and to

catalyze the reimagining of our scientific and technological future.

We believe access to the past empowers individuals to build better futures. As the natural repository for the history of science, the Institute's museum and Othmer Library make our rapidly expanding collections, archives, and works readily available to the scientifically curious public and scientists alike.

Distillations—our articles, podcast, and videos—tell compelling stories at the heart of science and society. Our Center for Oral History and Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry offer exceptional opportunities for academic scholarship. And our conference center is an elegant venue for creating unforgettable occasions.

The Science History Institute was formed by the merger of the Chemical Heritage Foundation and the Life Sciences Foundation.

The Institute has been led by several distinguished presidents, starting with founder Arnold Thackray, who set the organization on an ambitious course. He moved the fledgling organization from two basement rooms on the University of Pennsylvania campus to the heart of Old City Philadelphia, and shaped it into a premier institution preserving the history of chemistry, chemical engineering, and the life sciences.

David Cole, PhD, President and CEO | sciencehistory.org

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Located along New Jersey's northern coastline, Monmouth University offers a welcoming and dynamic setting for student

development. Innovative academic programs, individual faculty attention and nationally ranked Division I athletics make our private university a great place to find your future.

Monmouth's beautiful coastal campus sits at the heart of a vibrant culture rich in history, the arts, technology and entrepreneurship. Just one hour from New York and Philadelphia, we take pride in preparing students to succeed in life after graduation. Our renowned faculty are actively involved in advancing academic research nationwide while encouraging meaningful community involvement and critical thinking for self-fulfillment.

The disciplines of History and Anthropology focus on the study of the human experience, past and present. The Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University is built on the characteristics that the disciplines share and is supported by those that make each unique. We offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in History and Anthropology, as well as joint degrees in History and Education and Anthropology and Education. The department is also home to minors in History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Geography, Geographic Information Systems, Public History, Race and Ethnic Studies, and Religious Studies. We are committed to providing our students with an engaging, rigorous educational experience that prepares them for diverse careers and for life after college.

Christopher DeRosa, PhD, Department Chair | [monmouth.edu/departments-history-and-anthropology](https://monmouth.edu/departments/history-and-anthropology)

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Columbia ▶ Oral History Master of Arts

OHMA is the first and only program of its kind in the United States, a one-year interdisciplinary degree training students to record and amplify first-person stories using a range of technological, creative, and analytical

tools. We teach oral history as a practice of co-creating dialogic, critical conversations about the past, in the present, which are oriented towards the future.

Oral history as an academic research practice has deep roots at Columbia, stretching back to the founding of the Oral History Research Office in 1948 by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and journalist Allan Nevins. At OHMA we are building on that tradition of producing oral histories as primary source documents for the historian's archive, while also centering creative production, social science inquiry, the oral history practices of indigenous people, and the many traditions of collective critical life history analysis such as popular education, consciousness raising, and testimonio.

Amy Starecheski, PhD, Director | www.oralhistory.columbia.edu

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sarah Dziedzic will deliver the OHMAR 2023 keynote, “Laboring, Listening, and Organizing for Better Working Conditions in Oral History.”

Dziedzic is an oral historian, teaching artist, project consultant, and workshop facilitator based in New York City. She has produced numerous oral history projects in partnership with museums, archives, school programs, and community groups on NYC neighborhood history, visual arts, and cultural heritage. She is a vocal advocate for economic accessibility within the oral history profession and across the cultural work sector, and in 2022

received an NEH-funded mini-grant from the Oral History Association to carry out research on this topic.

She has also produced literary memoirs with Seven Stories Press and Autonomedia, and was a founding board member of Word Up Community Bookshop, a volunteer-run, multilingual bookstore and cultural space. She graduated from Columbia's Oral History Master of Arts program in 2011.

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



THURSDAY, MARCH 30

8:00 – 9:00 AM

CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST

Check-in: Lobby

Breakfast: Franklin Room

9:00 – 9:30 AM

WELCOMING REMARKS

OHMAR President, Melissa Ziobro

Franklin Room

KEYNOTE

Sarah Dziedzic, "Laboring, Listening, and Organizing for Better Working Conditions in Oral History"

Franklin Room

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM

9:45 – 11:15 AM

PANEL 1:

THE QUEENS MEMORY PODCAST: REFLECTIONS ON FOUR SEASONS OF AN ORAL HISTORY-INSPIRED PODCAST PROJECT

Haas Room

- Merel Agish, Queens Public Library
- Melody Cao, Freelance Journalist
- Jordan Gass Poore', Investigative Journalist
- Natalie Milbrodt, Queens Public Library
- J. Faye Yuan, Curator, Producer, and Editor

PANEL 2:

TRAUMA INFORMED INTERVIEWING WITH ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND VETERANS

Franklin Room

Moderator: Melissa Ziobro

- Sarah M. Cole, Author, Filmmaker, and Independent Scholar
- Carol Fowler, National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey
- Mike Thornton, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**PANEL 3:
ORAL HISTORY AND HUMAN
RESILIENCE**

Haas Room

Moderator: Owen Rogers

- Linda Lotz, Independent Scholar, *Iraqi experiences during the Gulf War*
- Chrissie Reilly, Tinker Air Force Base, *"At least it isn't Afghanistan": The Cost of Fighting a Not-War from Germany*
- Lewis Fermaglich and Shira Strongin, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, *FDA's Rare Disease Day 2023 Video Project*

**PANEL 4:
RACE, PLACE, AND LEGACY**

Franklin Room

Moderator: David Caruso

- Michael Johnson and Francesco De Salvatore, City of Alexandria, *Neglected, But Not Forgotten: The Role of Oral History Collection at the Douglass Memorial Cemetery and African American Burial Grounds*
- Guy Weston, Independent Scholar, *Reclaiming the Narrative: Rediscovering the Timbuctoo Cemetery through Oral History, Property Records, and 19th Century Newspapers*
- Tonia Merideth, Williamsburg Bray School, *The Emotional Cost of Rediscovery - Engaging with the Descendants of the Williamsburg Bray School*

BUSINESS SESSION AND LUNCH, 1:15 – 3:00 PM

Franklin Room

2022 MARTHA ROSS PRIZE PRESENTATION

Lucas Wilson

2023 MARTHA ROSS PRIZE PRESENTATION

Ariel Urim Chung

OHMAR BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTIONS

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:15 – 4:45 PM

3:15 – 4:45 PM

**PANEL 5:
ORAL HISTORY, LABOR, AND
ACTIVISM**

Haas Room

Moderator: Anna Kaplan

- Megan Wetherington, Duquesne University, *How Can I Help You?: An Oral History of Frontline Museum Workers*
- Ben Spohn, Hagley Museum and Library, *Reforming the Railroad: An Oral History of Conrail*
- Cassidee Knott, Duquesne University, *Students of Their Generation: Duquesne University's Third Alternative*

**PANEL 6:
FUNDING YOUR ORAL HISTORY
WORK**

Franklin Room

Moderator: Catherine Mayfield

- Kathleen Burch, Duquesne University, *Oral History Internships: Learning and Labor*
- Ambar Johnson, Columbia University, TBD
- Sarah Schneider, Science History Institute, *Taking the Time to Update Archives: The Importance of Allocating Resources to Make Oral Histories Available Online*
- Jessica Solomon, Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County, *Finding the Value of Oral Histories: The Search for Funding for Inclusive Histories*

SOCIAL MIXER, 5:00 PM

NATIONAL MECHANICS

22 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



FRIDAY, MARCH 31

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM WORKSHOP



**ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: A METADATA ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

Presented by the Oral History Association Metadata
Task Force

- Natalie Milbrodt, Metadata Services Coordinator and Director of the Queens Memory Project, Queens Public Library
- Steven Sielaff, Senior Editor & Collection Manager, Baylor University Institute for Oral History

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



MARTHA ROSS MEMORIAL PRIZE

Throughout her career, Martha Ross was instrumental in encouraging students and young professionals to practice oral history. As an educator, Martha believed that “We must be diligent in preparing and training as oral historians, so that our duty to capture and preserve an individual’s story contributes to and fosters the historical narrative.”

Named in honor of our late founding member, OHMAR’s Martha Ross Prize is awarded annually to an undergraduate or graduate student creating original work in oral history. This award both recognizes the achievements of the student and the contributions to the field of oral history and provides financial assistance for the student’s current project.

As is our tradition, our 2022 Martha Ross Prize winner is presenting (albeit virtually) at our 2023 conference: Lucas F.W. Wilson, PhD. Lucas's project, titled “Life at Liberty University and the Pursuit of Holiness: A Queer Cultural History,” is largely based on oral histories of queer students and alumni from Liberty University, the world’s largest fundamentalist college and Wilson’s alma mater. The Martha Ross Memorial Prize has helped Wilson to interview more queer students and alumni from Liberty.

Our 2023 Martha Ross Prize winner is “Ariel” Urim Chung, an Oral History MA candidate at Columbia University. Ariel's "Kitchen Project," developed in response to a wave of Asian hate crimes, is an oral history project recording stories of diasporic Asian mothers, daughters, and non-binary children on their relationship to food and care. Expanding the cut fruit narrative, a trope in immigrant narratives in which Asian parents only know how to express love

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



by cutting fruit for their children, the project seeks to record and experiment with creating a space for multifaceted Asian voices in an archive, an exhibition, and the kitchen. We look forward to hearing more about Ariel's project at our 2024 conference!

FORREST POGUE AWARD

Since 1979, OHMAR has recognized and promoted high standards in the field of oral history through the Pogue Award, an annual award for outstanding and continuing contributions to oral history. The award honors Forrest C. Pogue. Pogue pioneered the use of oral history in combat during World War II and also served as an early president of the Oral History Association.

We look forward to presenting the award at the 2023 Oral History Association annual meeting held from October 18 – 21, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland. Stay tuned for more information!

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



OHMAR BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

The OHMAR leadership team consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Development Director, Communications Director, Treasurer, and six at-large members. You can see more about the duties and responsibilities of each position [here](#). You can see the current leadership team at OHMAR.org.

Elections are held during the board meeting portion of our annual conference. This year, the following individuals are running for new positions: Anna Kaplan, PhD, for OHMAR President and Sara Schneider for OHMAR At-Large Board Member. We are also accepting nominations to fill an additional vacant at-large seat.

These elections were announced in advance via email to all OHMAR members, with additional nominations invited. Nominations from the audience are also allowed during the conference.

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ANNA KAPLAN FOR OHMAR PRESIDENT



Anna F. Kaplan, Ph.D., is a scholar and oral historian in Washington, DC, with a specialization in memory and public narrative creation around race in the US South. She is a Professorial Lecturer and Resident Public Historian at American University and serves as the Vice President of the Board for Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region and co-chair of the Oral History Association's Diversity Committee and Equity Audit Task Force. Anna is also a recipient of a 2022-2023 OHA/NEH mini-grant in support of her research project highlighting how pivotal Black women's labors were in establishing oral history programs and centers at institutions in the mid-20th century US.

She is currently working on her manuscript "Left by the Wayside: The Struggle over Control of the Memory of the University of Mississippi's Desegregation," which examines the use of memory to shape public narratives, challenging the notion that the University of Mississippi (UM) integrated in 1962 by reframing it as desegregation and the fight for integration as ongoing. She has worked on projects with the Department of State, National Park Service, the DC Oral History Collaborative, several Smithsonian Institution museums, and the US Golf Association Museum.

Anna earned her PhD in History at American University and MAs in Oral History and Anthropology at Columbia University.

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SARAH SCHNEIDER FOR AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER



Sarah Schneider is a passionate public and oral historian who currently works at the Science History Institute's Center for Oral History, highlighting the life experiences and contributions of scientists and engineers who immigrated to the United States in the 20th century.

Since 2015, Sarah has engaged with oral histories through her educational and professional work. She conducted and taught undergraduate students to conduct oral histories through the UCF Community Veterans History Project, utilized USC Shoah Foundation oral history interviews as a key source in her Master's thesis research, and led museum tours for school and community groups using content from oral histories in my interpretation.

In engaging with oral histories in community, museum, and archival settings, Sarah has gained oral history experience in a range of contexts. She hopes to bring this diversity of oral history experience to serving the OHMAR community, not only in her knowledge of the field but also in considering the diverse ways in which community members engage with oral history work.

