

## CALL FOR PAPERS, “Contested Cities,” Detroit, October 8-11, 2020



The Urban History Association invites submissions for its 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Detroit in October 8-11, 2020. The Program Committee is looking for panel sessions, workshops, and papers (including single papers) on all aspects of urban, suburban, and metropolitan histories from any corner of the world and any time period (past, present, and even future).

The conference theme, “Contested Cities,” reflects both the growing interdisciplinarity of urban studies, and at the same time, the clear sense that there isn’t one urban history or a single set of critical urban actors. Cities are places of constant struggle, persistent remaking, and endless public and private battles -- in city council chambers and on street corners, on subways cars, in the columns of PTA newsletters and on-line chat rooms, at sporting events and neighborhood festivals, in the light of day and way past midnight. These contests over space, power, and legitimacy take place in mega-cities, edge communities, mid-sized downtowns, and along Main Streets from Disneyland to Springfield to Seoul. Residents fight over laws, taxes, regulations, licenses, transportation, prisons, police, housing, education, parks, water, and trash. These contests, sometimes quiet and other times pitched, are expressed in letters to the editor, Yelp reviews, protests, parades, celebrations, banners, songs, dance, murals, walking tours, museum exhibits, and monuments (both those still standing and those recently taken down).

We encourage submissions that explore the broadest range of contests over the city as a particular place and an idea from historians, sociologists, anthropologists, geographers, landscape architects, food studies scholars, filmmakers, youtubers, and journalists, from anyone thinking about the city, its inhabitants, and its cultural influences. We would especially welcome conversations that challenge our basic understandings of the city and theories of urbanity.

The program committee welcomes traditional panels with a number of tightly-focused papers, a chair, and a commentator as well as roundtables, lightning rounds, workshops, sessions on influential books and articles, documentary screenings, and digital engagement. We are looking for a number of state-of-the-field panels as well as teaching discussions (and syllabus exchanges) exploring best practices in undergraduate and graduate instruction. Successful panel and paper

proposals need not adhere strictly to the conference theme. We are looking to create the most robust and interesting conversation about all things urban as possible.

To submit a multi-person proposal, please click on this [link](#). For a single paper submission, please use this [link](#).

Please submit your proposals by February 1, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Committee co-chairs, Elizabeth Hinton and Bryant Simon at [uhadetroit2020@gmail.com](mailto:uhadetroit2020@gmail.com)

### **UHA 2020 Program Committee**

William Deverell (University of Southern California)  
Joanna Dyl (Independent Scholar)  
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