

# URBAN HISTORY NEWSLETTER

from the Urban History Association

## UHA Biennial Conference Update

*UHA president Heather Ann Thompson sent a version of this message to UHA members on April 6, 2020.*

**As a result of the uncertainty resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, the Urban History Association has decided to postpone by one year our biennial conference previously scheduled for October 2020. The conference will take place October 21-24, 2021 instead of this coming fall.** Our intention is to move forward with essentially the same panels and people – or at least with all those willing and able to attend

a year later. We hope accepted participants can still join us a year later than anticipated.

In order to make this decision to delay the conference by one year, we were cognizant that a conversation would first have to take place with the Society for American and Regional Planning History (SACRPH). SACRPH's biannual conference typically occurs in the fall of odd-numbered years and complements the UHA's biennial conference in the fall of even-numbered years. It would be impractical and unwise for both organizations to hold separate

conferences within a few weeks of each other or to merge the two conferences. Fortunately, SACRPH's executive team was understanding of the UHA's situation and willing to change its plans. **Therefore, in addition to the UHA biennial conference moving to 2021, SACRPH will also move its next planned biennial conference to 2022.** (No decisions have been made yet about the sequencing and scheduling of UHA and SACRPH conferences beyond 2022.)

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### News from *The Metropole*

Avigail Oren and Ryan Reft  
Co-Editors of *The Metropole*

*The Metropole* continues to roll merrily along as the world crashes down around it. Since the last newsletter, we featured Accra and Detroit as Metropoles of the Month, focused in on The Visual City, and ran a blitz of book and film reviews. We also inaugurated two new series, "Socialism in the City" edited by Kenneth Alyass and "Cityscape" edited by Jim Wunsch, and our ongoing "Disciplining the City" series published a 2019 wrap-up of the newest contributions to the literature on the carceral state. And we continued to feature UHA Members of the Week and enjoyed a run of excellent *The Metropole* Bookshelf contributions.



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Website: [urbanhistory.org](http://urbanhistory.org)  
Blog: [themetropole.blog](http://themetropole.blog)

## ...Conference Update, continued from p. 1

The difficult decision to postpone our conference was made by the UHA's Executive Committee and the chairs of the Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee of the Detroit conference. We felt collectively that the unknown futures of the coronavirus and the duration of necessary social distancing measures make it impossible to go forward with the conference this year. Even in the best-case scenarios, we

worry about the havoc that might have been created in people's lives. We also worry about the state of institutional travel budgets next academic year, as well as individuals' personal finances.

We're grateful to our members for bearing with us during this uncertain time. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

### **April 2020 addendum:**

To facilitate the postponement of the UHA conference to October 2021, the UHA Board of Directors approved a one-year term extension for select UHA leadership positions, including the president, past-president, and program and local arrangements committee co-chairs and members.

## ...Metropole news , continued from p. 1

In other news, *The Metropole* decided to monetize and begin using affiliate links on the blog. We chose **Better World Books, a certified B Corp** that sells books to fund literacy programs around the world, as our affiliate partner. The experiment has not been an overwhelming success, but we forge onwards—it is not the bleakest specter on our current horizon.

We do look forward to our fourth annual Graduate Student Blogging Contest, whose theme will be

announced in June. We're also cooking up an interesting collaboration (more to tell everyone in the coming months). Our April theme, "Moving the City" will focus on transit and urban history as we look forward to highlighting digital humanities project in our annual Digital Summer School series beginning in June. If UHA members have any insights into compelling digital projects *The Metropole* should cover please do not hesitate to contact us at [uha-communicationsteam@gmail.com](mailto:uha-communicationsteam@gmail.com).

Thanks as always to our readers, assistant editors, and Twitter stans. *The Metropole* has been fortunate enough to record monthly all-time highs every month since November 2019 through March. We can only thank our readers for such success, and we look forward to surviving this already-weary year together with you all.

## UHA Announces Executive Director Transition

The UHA Board of Directors is delighted to announce the appointment of long-time UHA member Hope Shannon to the position of UHA Executive Director **effective May 11, 2020**. Hope will serve as interim director, replacing current Executive Director Peter Siskind, whose university administrative duties require him to step down in advance of his term's end. The Board of Directors appointed Hope to this transitional term most enthusiastically as she comes to the Executive Director position with more than a decade of administrative experience as well as excellent scholarly credentials. Hope has been the UHA newsletter editor since spring 2017. She is also a former Executive Director of the South End Historical Society in Boston, MA and she co-founded Omnia History, a public history collaborative and consultancy, in 2017. Hope holds a PhD in United States history and public history from Loyola University Chicago, as well as a MA in history from Simmons College and a BA in history and archaeology from Boston University.

In addition to taking on the Executive Director's regular duties, including the tasks associated with hosting the UHA's next conference in Detroit, Hope will work with the UHA president and board of directors throughout this transition phase to reimagine the Executive Director's role within the UHA as it moves from a fully volunteer service post into a position that carries with it a regular stipend. A formal and open call to fill the next (5-year term) Executive Director position, a position for which interim director Hope Shannon is fully eligible and encouraged to apply, will be posted no later than March 1, 2021. That position will be filled no later than April 31, 2021 following a vote of the UHA Executive Committee and full Board of Directors.

Any questions about this interim appointment to the Executive Director position of the UHA, or the future scope of the UHA Executive Director position, can be directed to UHA president Heather Ann Thompson.



*Peter Siskind*



*Hope Shannon*

The UHA board extends a heartfelt thank you to Peter Siskind for his service and wishes him luck in his new role as Associate Provost for Finance and Planning at Arcadia University.

## News & Announcements

\* **Ron Bayor**, Emeritus Professor of History at Georgia Tech, received the **Lifetime Achievement Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society**. Dr. Bayor previously received the Immigration and Ethnic History Society's Distinguished Service Award, the Association for Asian American Studies Lifetime Service Award, and the Distinguished Editor Award from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals for his editorship of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. He served as president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society from 2006-2009.



\* **Joe Trotter**, UHA President-Elect, **was named University Professor**, the "highest distinction a faculty member can receive at Carnegie Mellon University." Read the full story [here](#).

\* The **UHA welcomes its new board members**, whose three-year terms began on January 1, 2020: Harold Bérubé / Université de Sherbrooke; Guadalupe García / Tulane University; Paige Glotzer / University of Wisconsin, Madison; Clayton Howard / Ohio State University; Alejandro Velasco / New York University; Matthew Vitz /

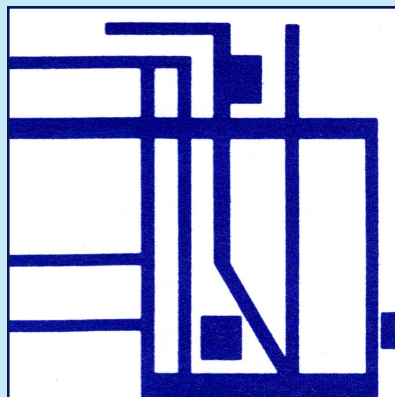
University of California, San Diego; Constanze Weise / Henderson State University.

\* **Member benefit:** UHA members have **free online access to the *Journal of Urban History***. Access is available for the current issue of the *JUH*, as well as the full run of past issues. To access the *JUH*, go to [urbanhistory.org](http://urbanhistory.org) and click on the "Members Only" section of the website to sign in.



\* Visit the **Global Urban History Project** at [globalurbanhistory.org](http://globalurbanhistory.org). It's a meeting place for scholars interested in exploring the cross-roads of urban history and global history. Their website has resources, event notices, and more.

\* The **UHA blog**, co-edited by Avigail Oren and Ryan Reft, features critical, field-defining urban history content, interviews with urbanists, and much more. Check out what's going on at [The Metropole](#) today.



Find us on the web:

<http://www.urbanhistory.org/>

### The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Newsletter is published twice yearly by The Urban History Association.

**Note to UHA members:** you can use the UHA Newsletter to announce new positions, awards received, publications, projects, and other news. Email announcements to Hope Shannon, UHA Executive Director, at [hshannon@urbanhistory.org](mailto:hshannon@urbanhistory.org).

For membership inquiries, please contact Kara Schlichting, UHA Membership Secretary, at [kara.schlichting@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:kara.schlichting@qc.cuny.edu).

For all other inquiries, please contact Hope Shannon, UHA Executive Director, at [hshannon@urbanhistory.org](mailto:hshannon@urbanhistory.org).

# URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

**Save the Date!**



**October 21-24, 2021**  
**Detroit, Michigan**



*Detroit, c. 1910-1930. Image courtesy of the [Library of Congress](#).*

Check [urbanhistory.org/Detroit2020](http://urbanhistory.org/Detroit2020) for updates.

## **Conference questions?**

Please contact Program Committee co-chairs Elizabeth Hinton and Bryant Simon at [uhadetroit2020@gmail.com](mailto:uhadetroit2020@gmail.com).

## **Detroit Conference Program Committee**

Co-chairs: Elizabeth Hinton (Harvard University) and Bryant Simon (Temple University).

William Deverell (University of Southern California); Joanna Dyl (Independent Scholar); Lila Fernandez, (Rutgers University); Doug Flowe (Washington University); Paige Glotzer (University of Wisconsin-Madison); David Goldberg (Wayne State University); Andrew Highsmith (University of California-Irvine); Matthew Lassiter (University of Michigan); Max Mishler (University of Toronto); Anke Ortlepp (University of Cologne); Mary Ryan (Johns Hopkins University); Timothy Stewart-Winter (Rutgers University-Newark); William Sturkey (UNC Chapel Hill); Coll Thrush (University of British Columbia); Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (Princeton University); and Sharon Zukin (CUNY).

## About the Urban History Association

The Urban History Association (UHA) was founded in Cincinnati in 1988 for the purpose of stimulating interest and forwarding research and study in the history of the city in all periods and geographical areas. It is affiliated with the International Planning History Society.

Today the UHA includes over 1,000 members worldwide. While the majority of members are from the United States and Canada, the UHA also includes members from Austria, Australia, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, the Netherlands, Japan, Germany, Hong Kong, and New Zealand. Our ranks include university faculty, architects, archivists, civil servants, editors, independent scholars, museum professionals, planners, public historians, and secondary school teachers. The UHA has made a particular effort to reach scholars and professionals whose interests lie

outside of North American history. In addition, the UHA welcomes scholars from any field who are interested in the history of the city in any period and geographical area. Our membership also includes scholars from the fields of American studies, sociology, women's studies, ethnic studies, urban planning, material culture, literature, demography, museum studies, historic preservation, architecture, journalism, ethnic studies, anthropology, and political science.

The UHA supports a variety of activities to enhance the visibility of the study of the history of the city. The UHA has published the Urban History Newsletter each year in March and October since 1989. The newsletter includes articles of interest about the activities of UHA members, reports on conferences attended by UHA members, conference announcements, member milestones and news, reports on

research in progress, teaching, and museum exhibits, as well as news on the activities of the UHA. The UHA launched its first biennial urban history conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 26-28, 2002. Since 1990 the UHA has awarded annual prizes for the best book in North American urban history and the best dissertation and best article in urban history from the previous year. Every two years it awards a prize for the best book in non-North American history. Members receive discounted subscriptions to the *Journal of Urban History*, *Planning Perspectives* (UK), and *Urban History* (UK). The UHA also maintains a presence on the internet. It has a blog and an official website for members, which features back issues of the newsletter, links to H-Urban, links to other urban history web sites, syllabi exchanges, conference announcements, and news.

## Current Officers and Directors

**President:** Heather Ann Thompson / University of Michigan  
**President-Elect:** Joe William Trotter, Jr. / Carnegie Mellon University  
**Executive Director:** Hope J. Shannon / Omnia History  
**Membership Secretary:** Kara Schlichting / Queen's College, CUNY

**Editor of the *Journal of Urban History*:** David Goldfield / University of North Carolina-Charlotte  
**Webmaster and Editor of *The Metropole Blog*:** Avigail Oren / Carnegie Mellon University  
**Social Media Coordinator and Editor of *The Metropole Blog*:** Ryan Reft / Library of Congress

### Directors

*Through December 31, 2020:* Jessica Elfenbein / University of South Carolina; Douglas J. Flowe / Washington University in St. Louis; Rocio Gomez / Virginia Commonwealth University; Walter Greason / Monmouth University; Rachel Jean-Baptiste / University of California, Davis; Tracy Neumann / Wayne State University; Rachel Sturman / Bowdoin College

*Through December 31, 2021:* Llana Barber / SUNY Old Westbury; Dorothee Brantz / TU Berlin; Emily Callaci / University of Wisconsin, Madison; Janet Y. Chen / Princeton University; Diana J. Montañó / Washington University in St. Louis; Ato Quayson / Stanford University; James Wolfinger / Illinois State University

*Through December 31, 2022:* Harold Bérubé / Université de Sherbrooke; Guadalupe García / Tulane University; Paige Glotzer / University of Wisconsin, Madison; Clayton Howard / Ohio State University; Alejandro Velasco / New York University; Matthew Vitz / University of California, San Diego; Constanze Weise / Henderson State University

A full list including past officers and directors can be found at:

<http://www.urbanhistory.org/Officers-and-directors> and <http://www.urbanhistory.org/Past-Leadership>

**Contact the UHA:** [Urbanhistory.org](http://Urbanhistory.org) / [hshannon@urbanhistory.org](mailto:hshannon@urbanhistory.org) / [uhacommunicationsteam@gmail.com](mailto:uhacommunicationsteam@gmail.com)

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**Mathieu Caron**, UHA bibliographer for Canadian articles and books, is a PhD candidate in the history department at the University of Toronto. His research interests are primarily concerned with Canadian histories related to urban, environmental, and social processes during the second half of the twentieth century. He is currently working on a dissertation entitled "Night in the time of Revolution: Landscapes, Politics, and Sexuality in Montreal, 1950-1985."

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**Ute Chamberlin**, UHA bibliographer for German articles and books, is Assistant Professor of German History at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Her area of specialization is women and gender history. Her research interests are focused on women in the urban context of Imperial and Weimar Germany, in terms of education, charity, social work, and municipal politics, particularly in the Ruhr Valley.



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The next bibliographies for Latin American books and articles and French books and journals will be published in fall 2020.

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