



HNSNA

Historical Novel Society North America

#HNS2021 | JUNE 24-26, SAN ANTONIO, TX CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Submissions Open

December 1, 2020

Submissions Close

January 7, 2021

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal for the HNS2021 conference! In light of the changing COVID-19 situation, **we are currently soliciting proposals for both in-person and virtual presentations to support a hybrid live-virtual experience.** If the situation on the ground changes, we may have to pivot to a fully virtual conference. We will keep you all apprised.

Please review our new guidelines as things are a little different this time around.

All proposals must be submitted via the Submittable platform. Solo presenters and lead panelists will need to log into <https://discover.submittable.com/> to create a free user account (if they haven't already done so). You may use your account for multiple submissions.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Consider the conference theme (optional).
2. Determine what track best fits your topic.
3. Decide on presentation format, given our in-person and virtual options.
4. Submit on Submittable!

Conference Theme: "Shake it up!"

In line with what you've told us in surveys and what is going on in the writing world and with current events in general, we want to explore the many ways we as stakeholders in the business of novels can use the past to reshape the world today.

Be bold, be daring! Generate polite but dynamic and possible heated conversation around shaking up the genre of historical fiction.

As you're developing a proposal, **consider incorporating the theme, "Shake it up!"** Thematic content will be woven into the four tracks as appropriate. Not all proposals need to align with the theme.

Conference Tracks

Track 1: GENRE

Shaping the Everchanging Landscape of Historical Fiction (HF)

Like other genres, what is written in HF and what is sold is subject to such outside forces as current events, new thoughts on specific eras, geographies, cultures, and methods of publication. Unlike other genres, what is included in HF changes as time passes.

Proposals under this track should address what is changing and what isn't (for good or bad) and how we, as stakeholders in this genre, can influence our field.

Content can include discussions around:

- What topics do you see as evergreen versus subject to time and taste?
- Do you see topics/voices/stories that are lacking in coverage?
- Are there gaps between what publishers want and what readers want?
- How can trad vs. indie-pubbed books address that gap?
- How could we (collectively) as a genre connect more effectively with readers?
- What are the marketing barriers for historical fiction?

Track 2: PROFESSIONAL

The business of publishing HF certainly ties into the larger world of publishing and readership but also has nuances specific to our genre. Let's explore that intersection.

Potential topics include:

- Finding the right agent and working with her/him
- The job of an editor and how to source a good one
- Indie publishing: nuts and bolts
- Marketing essentials
- Websites and social media
- How to leverage past novels to promote your next (and market them all)
- A writing career – even if it's part-time – is a marathon not a sprint

Track 3: ART & HISTORY

Art in all its forms has always been closely tied to the human experience and has inspired many fabulous HF books. Let's continue the exploration of how literary and non-literary art inspires the writer.

Topics ideas include:

- Investigating Painting Through Literature
- How Drama Contributed to Historical Literature
- Illustrated Games Through History
- Prayer, Music, and the Written Word
- Historical Fashion
- Civil War Medicine
- Oral history

Track 4: CRAFT

The craft of writing is the basis for all good HF novels. Let's learn from each other.

Consider topics such as:

- Plotting the HF novel
- Researching HF
- The Dual Timeline
- Sub-genre forms and expectations of HF in combo with another genre's tropes and rules

Presentation Format

Given that the conference is planning for a live-virtual hybrid, we are soliciting sessions that fit different needs. Please review the categories below to determine where your proposal best fits.

In-Person	Virtual
<p>Hybrid Recorded Sessions Hybrid recorded sessions will be presented in person and recorded for virtual attendees. Release forms will be provided if your proposal is accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Panel</u>. Panels are an especially valuable way to discuss a variety of perspectives on a particular topic or theme. Panels should consist of 3-4 persons, excluding the moderator. Given the demands of fielding questions from a remote audience, a Board member or other Board-selected individual will be selected to serve as your moderator. <i>Please note that slots for panels are limited.</i> • <u>Presentation</u>. Presentations can be offered by 1 or 2 persons with subject matter expertise on a particular topic. Workshops with interactive activities also fit in this category. 	<p>Virtual-Only Recorded Sessions Some content which will be made available only to virtual attendees or live attendees who sign up for on-demand access. These sessions must be recorded two weeks before the conference. Release forms will be provided if your proposal is accepted.</p>
<p>Live Unrecorded Sessions Live unrecorded sessions will be presented in person so presenters must plan to attend the conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cozy Chat</u>. Hour-long Cozy Chats are small-group discussions (<i>not one-person lectures</i>) <i>hosted by one or two authors</i> renowned for their novels on a particular theme or historical era or presenters noted for their expertise on a specific subject. These are open, interactive discussions on a specific subject. Cozy Chats can also focus on crossover subgenres like historical mystery, crime, romance, etc. They will take place live at the conference. 	<p>What happens if COVID-19 forces the conference to pivot and go fully virtual?</p> <p>In this case, we will offer a combination of “Zoom” events and pre-recorded sessions. Don’t worry—we will work with you to make it work!</p>

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I bear in mind as I develop my proposal?

- Conference attendees represent international authors at every stage of the journey, readers, bloggers, educators, librarians, and others with an interest in historical fiction.
- The HNS Conference focuses on all aspects of historical fiction from research to publishing. Conference-goers are primarily storytellers and their readers. We are not looking for academic papers, but well-researched presentations are appreciated.
- Proposals and their titles should be short and inviting. Speakers must be engaging and be able to stay on topic for an hour including time for Q&A.

What information will be needed from presenters?

All presenters, *including co-panelists*, will need to submit bios, indicate qualifications, and provide a headshot photo. For panels, the lead panelist must gather *all* panelists' bios, subject matter qualifications, and photos and include them in the proposal in order for it to be complete. Photos should be jpegs or png, 300dpi (at least 2 inches on each side), good quality images that clearly show the speaker's face and don't look blurry or grainy.

Can I include an AV request in my proposal?

- AV will be provided for sessions in the four main conference tracks and include a projector and screen as well as mics.
- AV will not be available for Cozy Chats.

What else should I know about my obligations before I submit a proposal?

- Unless otherwise specified in your proposal acceptance, all presentations are an hour in duration.
- Presenters are conference attendees who volunteer to take an hour (or more) out of their conference time to share their expertise and knowledge on a particular topic with their fellow attendees.
- Each general presenter, regardless of the number of programs on which he/she appears, will receive a \$50 credit toward Conference registration. Because we have dozens of sessions in our Conference, this honorarium is our way of saying thank you for sharing your knowledge with us. Our Registration Chair will give presenters a coupon code to type in when they register for the Conference that will automatically deduct \$50 from the cost.

Do presenters have to make a formal agreement to participate?

Yes, all presenters **must** agree to:

- Register for the conference **during the early registration period**. You will be registering at the early bird rate (lowest price).
- Make and pay for your own accommodations and travel arrangements.
- Inform Program Chair Vanitha Sankaran of any changes in your program prior to or during the conference.
- Present your program at the assigned program time/format.
- Be prepared to go virtual, if necessary.

Submitting Your Proposal

All proposals must be submitted via the Submittable platform. Solo presenters and lead panelists will need to log into <https://discover.submittable.com/> to create a free user account (if they haven't already done so). You may use your account for multiple submissions. The link for submissions will be provided when the Call opens on December 1.

*We look forward to
seeing you*

in San Antonio!

—THE HNS2021
CONFERENCE BOARD



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