



NEHA

New England Historical Association

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Hosted by Westfield State University

Ely Campus Center
1st Floor
577 Western Avenue
Westfield, MA 01085

Spring Conference Program

Conference hashtag #NEHASP2025

Schedule at a Glance

Registration & Complimentary Breakfast	8:30 – 9:00am	The Owl’s Nest
First Morning Sessions	9:00 – 10:30am	Various
Break	10:30 – 10:45am	The Owl’s Nest
Second Morning Sessions	10:45am – 12:15pm	Various
Lunch and Business Meeting	12:30 – 1:30pm	The Owl’s Nest
Afternoon Sessions	1:45 – 3:15pm	Various
Quiet Work/Rest/Relaxation	8:30am – 3:15pm	Ely 003
NEHA Executive Board Meeting	3:30 – 4:00pm	Ely 003

First Morning Sessions, 9:00 – 10:30am

Panel 1 – Ely 341

When the Personal is Political: Friendship, Affiliation, and Rivalry in 19th- and 20th-Century America

Chair/Comment: Allison Lange, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Adam Garcia, Stonehill College *

“‘The Better Judge’: Defining Women’s Education: Mary Lyon’s, Zilpah Grant, and the Women’s Seminary Movement in 19th-century New England”

Zachary Filmore, Stonehill College *

“‘Delay Is Ruining Us’: The Friendship and Disunion of Abraham Lincoln and George B. McClellan”

Olivia Perriera, Stonehill College *

“The New Bedford Woman’s Club: A Hub of Friendship & Affiliation”

Panel 2 – Ely 338

Secret Societies, Kinship, and Objects in Early America

Chair/Comment: Maura Jane Farrelly, Brandeis University

Jonathon Derek Awtrey, Fairfield University

“Moses Michael Hays & Freemasonry in British North America”

Robert Justice, New York University

“Making Montaukett: An Exploration of Kinship, Race, and Recognition in the Long Twentieth Century”

Kate E. Benoit, Purdue University

“‘Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice and Hear the Word of God’: Mormonism and Mass Media Missionary Work, 1922-1929”

Heather Hole, Simmons University

“Now You See It: A Native American Basket in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum”

Panel 3 – Ely 339

Georgian Legacies: The USSR and President Jimmy Carter

Chair/Comment: Michael Neagle, Nichols College

Diego Benning Wang, Princeton University

“The Bolshevization of a Poetic Proto-Renaissance: The Sovietization of a Medieval Georgian Epic Poem and Its Mysterious Author”

Emma McCormack, Eastern Connecticut State University *

“Cold War Hostages: Soviet Interference in the Iranian Revolution and Carter’s Presidential Legacy”

David Evans, University of Connecticut

“Moral Values, Human Suffering, World Hunger: Jimmy Carter and the Human Right to Adequate Food”

Connor Huey, Harvard University *

“The Progressive Paradox: How the Democratic Party Won Rural Western Washington, 1976-2024”

Second Morning Sessions, 10:45am – 12:15pm

Panel 4 – Ely 341

Antislavery and Progressivism in American History

Chair/Comment: Nicholas Aieta, Westfield State University

Michael Dorn, Independent Scholar

“Contested Claims to Equal Rights in Literatures of Politics, Ethnology, and Popular Science After 1835”

Robert S. Wolff, Central Connecticut State University

“The Seeming Paradox of Elihu Burritt’s Antislavery Thought”

Christopher Clark, University of Connecticut

“The American Civil War and Revolutions on the Land”

Donald W. Rogers, Central Connecticut State University

“A Diffuse and Uneven Struggle: A New Look at Connecticut’s Progressive-Era Labor Movement”

Panel 5 – Ely 338

U.S. Women, Activism, and Action

Chair/Comment: Melanie Gustafson, University of Vermont

Nicollette Heath, Boston University *

“Love or Lies?: Arabella Hunt’s Annulled Marriage”

Kelly Marino, Sacred Heart University

“Among the Best of Her Age: Augusta Lewis Troup, Catholicism, and Reform in Turn of the Twentieth-Century America”

Jillian Plummer, Sacred Heart University

“Fighting for Justice: Agnes Mary Mansour’s Conflict with the Vatican Over Medicaid Abortions in the 1980s”

Christine Charie, Providence College *

“The New Right-Wing Populist: The Blonde Mother of the Nation”

Panel 6 – Ely 348

Wars, Served Cold and Hot: Massachusetts, Iceland, Afghanistan, and Cuba

Chair/Comment: Erica Kelliher, Westfield State University

Josh Shanley, Independent Scholar

“Cold War Massachusetts: Infrastructure and Administration in a Transformative Era”

Caitlin Carenen, Eastern Connecticut State University

“David versus Goliath versus the United States: The British-Icelandic ‘Fish Fights’ and Intra-NATO Troubles”

Edward Hunt, Regis College

“The U.S. War in Afghanistan: A Geopolitical War for Empire, 2001-2021”

Anju Reejhsinghani, University of California, Santa Cruz

“Ten Years On: Whatever Happened to U.S.-Cuba Normalization?”

Lunch and Business Meeting, 12:30 – 1:30pm

The Owl’s Nest

Keynote: Dean Emily Todd, School of Arts & Sciences, Eastern Connecticut State University

Afternoon Sessions, 1:45 – 3:15pm

Panel 7 – Ely 341

Planning for the Future in New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut

Chair/Comment: Philip Mosley, Penn State University

Robin Miller Radner, Boston College

“The Poughkeepsie Plan: How a Public-Parochial School Partnership Helped Transform the Disestablishment Movement in Nineteenth-Century America”

Samuel C. Gilvarg, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

“The 1887 Wildfires on Cape Cod”

Diego Benites, Saint Anselm College *

“The New Lowell Plan: Historical and Cultural Interpretations of a Deindustrialized City”

Panel 8 – Ely 338

Slavery and Freedom in the Public History Narrative: Community Partnerships Perspectives

Chair/Comment: Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Roger Williams University

Cynthia Elder, Barrington Land Conservation Trust

“Beyond Family History: Uncovering New 19th-Century Histories”

Rachel Fortuna Cabral, Roger Williams University *

“Telling Thomas’ Story: New Perspectives on a 19th-Century Freedom Seeker”

Richard McGee, University of Rhode Island

“Quakers and the Question of Enslavement in Rhode Island, 1700-1865”

Makhai Pells, University of Massachusetts Amherst

“Contested Histories: Reclaiming Black and Indigenous Histories in Massachusetts”

Panel 9 – Ely 339

Awakenings Across Time and Place

Chair/Comment: Paul Lambert, Nichols College

Richard Maximus Strahan, University of Massachusetts Lowell

“Barbarian Emperors Diocletian’s and Constantine’s Seizure of the Roman Empire and Their Subsequent Innovation and Establishment of the Christian State”

Colin Anderson, University of Tampa

“‘Jim Crow’ Meets ‘Billy Barlow’: Race and the Urban Geographies of Early Blackface Minstrel Sheet Music”

Mary Potorti, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

“Hunger, Food Insecurity, and the Racial Awakening of Malcolm X”

Brian Peterson, Shasta College

“*Holiday Pops* (1998): Rebranding Boston’s Landmark December Tradition, 1995-1998”

Panel 10 – Ely 348

Global Texts and Contexts: Hawaii and Brazil

Chair/Comment: Thomas Balcerski, Eastern Connecticut State University

Katherine A. Hermes, Connecticut Explored

“‘Give Me A Ship to the Pacific:’ American Voyages of Exploration in the Wake of Captain Cook, 1780-1830”

Teresa Fava Thomas, Fitchburg State University

“Under Fire and Underway: Memories of Crew and Command of the USS Reid at Pearl Harbor”

Cristina Mehrtens, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

“Gendered Metaphors: Towards a Transnational History of Female Urban Professionals in Twentieth-Century Brazil and USA”

* *Denotes student presenter*