

2027 Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, Arlington, VA, June 24–26, 2027

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) invites proposals for its 2027 annual conference. The deadline for proposals is **November 1, 2026**. We look forward to reflecting your passion and originality, and the range of approaches and topics to this complex historical field, including how we teach it, how we represent it in public, and its enduring relevance, in the program.

SHAFR is dedicated to the study of the history of the United States in the world, broadly conceived. This includes not only foreign relations, diplomacy, statecraft, and strategy, but also heterogenous approaches to Americans' relations with the wider world, including but not limited to global governance, transnational movements, religion, human rights, race, gender, political economy and business, immigration, borderlands, indigenous histories, the environment, empire, and the projection of U.S. power.

In 2027, SHAFR will mark its 60th anniversary, the perfect opportunity to consider these perennial themes from fresh perspectives and to consider how we as historians engage the public in sharing and developing these histories. The Program Committee welcomes proposals that transcend conventional periodization, challenge received categories, upend established histories, or otherwise offer innovative approaches and fresh thinking on these broad themes. For example, we welcome proposals that contemplate the geographic or spatial components of national security, statecraft, or the United States in the world, including hemispheric determinism, peripheries, and new attempts to incorporate them, and the foreign relations of border-making ; racial-geographic imaginaries; intertwined Continental and offshore imperial formations; the interior and domestic production of U.S. power—and the global production of the local and domestic.

We also encourage proposals that consider public history in all of its dimensions, from the role of public history in diplomacy; “citizen historians” and the role of the public in creating, conserving, and conveying foreign relations history; the emergence of new diplomatic publics at home and overseas; challenges of storytelling; and the public histories of internationalisms and international institutions.

SHAFR welcomes those who study any period, from the colonial era to the present, and we are especially interested in proposals from historians of the early United States. This might include: thematic or historiographical roundtables composed of specialists from across the period; panels that continue our reflections on the semiquincentennial of American Independence; or panels that encourage us to reflect on how studying the early imperial republic help us to reflect on present questions in US foreign relations; and any other creative approaches.

Given that the production, exercise, and understanding of U.S. foreign relations takes many forms and touches myriad subjects, the Program Committee seeks proposals reflecting a broad range of approaches and topics. SHAFR 2027 is particularly open to **sponsorship** of

panels with professional associations. Please provide a letter of support from the sponsoring organization with your proposal.

Please visit the conference website (<https://www.shafr.org/shafr2027>) to access the application portal, Panelists-Seeking-Panelists Forum, and criteria for travel awards.

Proposals

All proposals should be submitted via Google Forms, with the proposal submitted as a single PDF document.

Traditional Panels allow scholars to share their research via a paper presentation. Panels consist of a chair, commentator, and three participants (no more than 15 minutes per presentation). Occasionally, a panel may have a fourth presenter, requiring presentations to be shortened to 12-15 minutes. One person may serve as both chair and commentator. Following the individual presentations, the commentator offers remarks.

- Title of panel and a short, one-paragraph description
- CV for each participant (1-2 pages)
- Email address of the designated contact person
- Description of papers (50-100 words each)
- Brief statement detailing how the submission advances SHAFR's commitment to equity, access, and representation (encouraged, but not mandatory)

Roundtables consist of a chair and 3-4 participants. This format can be used to discuss research, edited volumes, historiographical trends, or professional concerns. After the chair's introduction, each participant provides opening remarks of at least 5 minutes. Roundtables do not include individual presentations; instead, they focus on fostering a conversation among panelists.

- Title of panel and a one-paragraph description of the roundtable's topic AND the expected contribution of each participant
- CV for each participant (1-2 pages)
- Email address of the designated contact person
- Brief statement detailing how the submission advances SHAFR's commitment to equity, access, and representation (encouraged, but not mandatory)

Lightning Rounds are a fast-paced take on a traditional panel discussion. Participants on a lightning round panel are expected to pitch their research in 5 minutes and with a maximum of 5 slides, rather than deliver a full paper. Lightning rounds consist of a chair who introduces participants, keeps everyone on time, and moderates Q&A, alongside 5-6 participants. Lightning rounds are great opportunities for graduate students or those in the early stages of a project to share their work and receive feedback.

- Title of panel and a short, one-paragraph description
- CV for each participant (1-2 pages)

- Email address of the designated contact person
- Description of papers (50-100 words each)
- Brief statement detailing how the submission advances SHAFR's commitment to equity, access, and representation (encouraged, but not mandatory)

Fishbowls consist of a chair and 5-6 participants. This format is similar to a roundtable, but with greater fluidity of conversation between panelists and audience. After the chair's introduction, each participant provides opening remarks of no more than 5 minutes, perhaps raising questions for the larger group to discuss. After this, the audience members become the speakers, and chairs facilitate their participation and discussion with each other and the panel members. Fishbowls are particularly effective for memorial sessions and anniversaries of landmark works.

- Title of panel and a one-paragraph description of the roundtable's topic AND the expected contribution of each participant
- CV for each participant (1-2 pages)
- Email address of the designated contact person
- Brief statement detailing how the submission advances SHAFR's commitment to equity, access, and representation (encouraged, but not mandatory)

Posters consist of visual representations of research that will be on display in or near the book exhibit. Researchers will be expected to be on hand to explain the research associated with the poster during the refreshment breaks. This format is intended for 1) faculty and graduate students presenting a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project AND 2) undergraduate students (sponsored by a SHAFR member) wishing to present an undergraduate research project.

- Title of poster
- CV (1-2 pages)
- Email address of the designated contact person
- Description of project (50-100 words)

Individual paper proposals are also welcome, though complete panels with coherent themes will be favored over single papers. Those seeking to create or fill out a panel should use #SHAFR2027 on social media or consult the Panelists Seeking Panelists forum on the conference website.

SHAFR is committed to the values of equity, access, and representation. The organization invites proposals from all, especially scholars of color, those who identify as women, individuals residing outside the United States, junior and contingent faculty, scholars working in other fields and disciplines, and those who work in less commonly studied chronological periods or who engage with less traditional methodological approaches. The Program Committee welcomes—but does not require—proposals that include a statement detailing how their submission advances SHAFR's commitment to these values.

The Program Committee will develop a pool of potential commentators/chairs for panels constructed from individual proposals. If you are interested in volunteering for this pool, please contact the program co-chairs, Stephen Tuffnell and Lauren Turek, at program-chair@shafr.org. Senior scholars, in particular, are encouraged to volunteer.

A/V

All conference rooms will have access to A/V equipment, including projection capabilities, speakers, and internet connection.

Policies

Each conference participant may only serve on the program twice, each time in a different capacity. For example: one may serve once as a chair and once as a commentator; or once as panelist (whether it be a traditional panel or roundtable) and once as chair or commentator. **No participant may appear on the program more than twice.** Any special scheduling requests (e.g., that a panel not take place on a particular day) must be made at the time of application and included in your proposal.

All proposals and funding applications should be submitted via the procedures outlined. Applicants requiring alternative means to submit the proposal should contact the program co-chairs via email at program-chair@shafr.org.

Generally, annual membership in SHAFR is required for those participating in the 2027 meeting. The president and Program Committee may (upon request) grant a few exemptions to scholars whose specializations are outside the field. Membership instructions will be included with notification of accepted proposals. Everyone appearing on the program must be registered no later than 30 days prior to the start of the conference.

SHAFR and the media occasionally record conference sessions for use in broadcast and electronic media. Presenters who do not wish for their session to be recorded may opt out when submitting a proposal to the Program Committee. An audience member who wishes to record audio or video of a panel must obtain written permission from panelists. SHAFR is not responsible for unauthorized recording. SHAFR reserves the right to revoke the registration of anyone who records sessions without appropriate permissions.

Funding Opportunities

SHAFR offers a variety of travel awards to help offset the cost of attending its annual conference. These awards, which vary in amount, are intended to support members who might otherwise face financial barriers to participation.

Funding requests will have no bearing on the committee's decisions on panels/papers, but funds will not be awarded unless the applicant's submission is accepted by the Program

Committee in a separate decision. All travel awards are distributed on-site during the conference upon submission of receipts.

Application deadline: **November 1, 2026.**

Divine Graduate Student Travel Grants

SHAFR will award several Robert A. and Barbara Divine Graduate Student Travel Grants to assist graduate students presenting papers at the 2027 conference. No award will exceed \$500. Priority will be given to graduate students who receive no or limited funds from their home institutions.

Applications must include: a copy of the individual paper proposal along with a short cv (2-page maximum), a 1-page letter from the applicant, proposed budget, and an email from the graduate advisor that confirms the lack of departmental travel funds.

SHAFR Global Scholars and Diversity Grants

These grants are aimed at scholars whose participation in the annual meeting helps to diversify the organization. Preference will be given to individuals who have not previously presented at the annual meeting. The awards are intended for scholars who represent groups historically underrepresented at SHAFR, scholars who offer diverse and complementary intellectual approaches, and scholars from outside the United States. "Scholars" includes faculty, graduate students, and independent researchers. To further integrate grant winners into SHAFR, awards include a one-year membership to the organization, with subscriptions to *Diplomatic History* and *Passport*.

Applicants should submit a copy of their individual paper proposal along with a short cv (2-page maximum), proposed budget, and a 2-3 paragraph essay addressing the fellowship criteria (including data on previous SHAFR meetings attended and funding received).

Leffler Scholars Travel Grants

Leffler Scholars grants subsidize SHAFR conference attendance by members who hold a Ph.D. and who aspire to attend the conference but lack professional funding to do so. This includes contingent faculty, K-12 educators, independent scholars, and those working in fixed-term or temporary positions.

Applications must include: a copy of the individual paper proposal along with a short cv (2-page maximum), proposed budget, and a 1-page letter from the applicant addressing the fellowship criteria.

Program Committee

Co-Chairs

Lauren Turek, Trinity University

Stephen Tuffnell, University of Oxford

Committee

Carlotta Wright de la Cal, University of California Berkeley

Elizabeth Charles, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State

Jessica Ann Levy, Purchase College-SUNY

Katherine Fapp, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri

Matthew Shannon, University of South Carolina

Michael Cangemi, Albany State University

Michael Verney, Drury University

Pete Millwood, The University of Melbourne

Rhonda Barlow, Massachusetts Historical Society

Ronald Angelo Johnson, Baylor University

Sarah Steinbock-Pratt, University of Alabama

Terri Keeley, University of Louisville

Tessa Ong Winkleman, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Thomas Jamison, Naval Postgraduate School

Wen-Qing Ngoei, Singapore Management University