

The World History Association 32nd Annual Meeting
Co-Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh World History Center
Pittsburgh, PA
22-24 June 2023 Energies

CALL FOR PAPERS Submission Deadline #1: November 18, 2022 (registration at www.thewha.org beginning 11/15/22). The program committee will begin reviewing proposals starting December 1 and send acceptance notifications on a rolling basis. Final submission deadline: January 10

Participants who need acceptance letters to apply for travel funding or visas should plan to meet the November 18 deadline.

The production and expenditure of energy lies at the heart of world history, whether one takes a *longue durée* approach to the human past that links the forests of the Carboniferous Period to the coalfields of today; or a micro-historical approach focused on the nutritional requirements of humans and other laboring animals. Energy—its creation, distribution, and use—has fueled, fed, and birthed the world we live in today, often at immense cost to societies and ecosystems alike. Energy history is tied locally and globally to histories of food, labor, technology, and environmental exploitation, as well as myriad and diverse histories of racism and inequality. Pluralized, the term *energies* refers to more than the physics of work and the quantitative transfer of heat and light between physical systems. Used metaphorically, it also refers to human and social qualities like charisma, influence, creativity, and convergence.

Pittsburgh, PA, the site of the 2023 WHA meeting, has a defining relationship with energy history. The three rivers at whose confluence the city is built have shaped diplomatic, commercial and migration histories of indigenous peoples from the region and those beyond. Eighteenth century European settlers harnessed the currents of these rivers and their tributaries to power grist mills and glass factories. The global petroleum industry began on expropriated Seneca land north of Pittsburgh in the nineteenth century. The city's population rose and fell with consumption and production that drove the steel industry in the twentieth century. Today, fracking wells dot the twenty-first century farmlands of Western Pennsylvania. The city's human and natural landscapes have been utterly and repeatedly transformed in the pursuit of energy, always in the context of struggles between labor and capital and divisive debates over land use and human well-being. The passions - the energy - that those debates engender today situate Western Pennsylvania as an epicenter of American political contention. And Pittsburgh is not alone. Around the world, communities, cities, states,

nations, and empires – be they small or large, rural or urban, poor or wealthy – have been at once bound together by requirements to create, produce, and control *energies*, and also driven apart by contradictions involved with these processes.

The World History Association encourages proposals for sessions and papers presenting original research and pedagogical techniques within the overarching theme of *Energies* as well as other topics of interest to world historians. We welcome topics involving the widest possible range of geographic locales.

These could include: ● Energy technologies: efficiencies, costs, and commodification ● Energy and transportation ● Wars over energy ● Conflict, exile, and diaspora in times of energy crisis ● Transnational resources and the expenditure of energy ● Indigenous cultures of energy creation, cultivation, and expenditure ● Energy, industrialization, and deindustrialization ● Teaching in a time of climate change ● Raced and gendered experiences of gathering and using fuel ● Sex and energy ● Energy and resistance ● Energy and globalization ● Energy as metaphor.

We invite proposals from students, scholars, teachers, and activists around the world that investigate—and extend the boundaries of—the conference’s theme. Proposals may take the form of: ● Organized Panels (three to four panelists, one chair, and optionally, one discussant) - each paper should be a maximum of 20 minutes in length for three panelists; papers should be a maximum of 15 minutes in length for four panelists ● Individual Papers (not part of an Organized Panel) - each paper should be a maximum of 20 minutes in length ● Roundtable sessions (between four to six participants) – five-minute opening statements from each participant followed by conversational dialogue with the audience ● Workshop sessions on specific teaching techniques or practices ● Meet the Author sessions - an excellent opportunity for exchanges between authors and audiences, including explanations of methods and suggestions for use ● Innovative sessions - innovative teaching, research, or other formats not outlined above Proposals from the fields of anthropology, geography, political science, literature, art history and criticism, other humanities and social sciences, as well as natural or physical sciences that address global historical change are also encouraged.

Each organized session should include a 250-word panel proposal and a 250-word proposal for each paper along with a brief curriculum vitae and a short biographical statement for introduction by the session Chair. Individual papers and all other sessions should include a 250-word abstract, a brief curriculum vitae, and a short biographical statement for introduction by the session Chair.

PLEASE NOTE: Prearranged (organized) panels/roundtables/workshops are given priority in the program and receive earlier notification of acceptance. Individual papers will also be considered and, if accepted, are arranged into suitable panels by the Program Committee. Individual papers may receive later notice of acceptance, pending appropriate placement on panels.