



Rooted in Memory and Resistance: Cultivating Radical Futures

Friday, May 31, 2024 - Monday, June 3, 2024
University of California, Riverside

“We have learned that mother trees recognize and talk with their kin, shaping future generations. In addition, injured trees pass their legacies on to their neighbors, affecting gene regulation, defense chemistry, and resilience in the forest community.”
-Peter Wohlleben, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate-- Discoveries from A Secret World* (2016)

Oral histories are **intergenerational**.

Oral histories are **power**.

Oral histories are **seeds**.

The Southwest Oral History Association promotes an ever-shifting place and people-making storytelling capacity throughout time and across intergenerational consciousness. Through history and memory, we unearth and combat repressive settler ideologies. Just as both roots and branches strengthen a tree, stories, memories and reflection center us in history while seeking new ideas between contemporary and future generations.

This conference seeks to expand on these sentiments to activate both the individual and collective histories we share and those we become a part of when we engage with oral history work. Remembering that all histories are shared and distinct in some way is key. Acknowledging the particular ancestral and cultural forms of knowledge passed down through storytelling cultivates such distinctions. At the same time, we can share in understanding the richness of these practices while working to honor them and learn from each other. We help tend to the sprouts cultivated from oral histories, guiding their growth across generations, political realms, and social circles to generate cultural wealth and guide us towards liberations rooted in racial justice and solidarities.

This Call for Papers asks you to consider how oral history practices:

- Expand our capacities to connect and learn from each other
- Help us learn from stories and memories constantly suppressed in a society built upon racial, ethnic, geographical and sexual colonization
- Activate and strengthen tools for contemporary organizing across age, politics, cultures, and places to create equitable educational, political, and economic structures
- Motivate social engagement toward equity for all in the present time
- Encourage us to imagine alternative pasts and envision radical futures



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We invite independent oral historians, university-affiliated scholars, undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, community members, and others to submit a proposal. Proposals from interdisciplinary fields (such as American studies, ethnic studies, gender and sexuality studies, musicology and critical dance theory, media and cultural studies, and education) along with traditional fields (such as history, anthropology, and sociology) are welcomed and should include clear evidence of oral history research and/or offer innovative insights on methodologies and practices. Please consider submitting an abstract that includes, but is not limited to:

Community-based methodologies
Oral histories as repair work/reparative archives
Intersectional justice frameworks
Cross-collaborative memory work
Storywork/storytelling
Digital humanities
Decolonization and collective healing

Our conference will meet on the unceded Southwest territory of Riverside, California to encourage us to reflect on the connections between memories, growth, and future directions. We strive to bring a culturally-diverse gathering and as such are seeking a wide range of proposals:

Individual paper proposal (1-2 individuals)
Poster presentation (1-4 individuals)
Panel proposal (3-4 individuals)
Roundtable/working group session (3-6 individuals)
Book talk/Q&A (reserved for published works)
Documentary screening/Q&A (reserved for finished films)

Proposals are due no later than Friday, February 2, 2024. Acceptance emails will be sent around February 16, 2024. Participation in the conference requires attendees to register and become members of SOHA. Direct all additional inquiries to soha@unlv.edu. Thank you and we look forward to your submissions!

To review submissions requirements and submit a proposal visit:
<https://forms.gle/rW6WZQjVxPbKGCHe9>