

17th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 17th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference will be held September 13, 2025, at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The conference committee is now accepting presentation proposals for the upcoming conference. Presentation proposals on any aspect of the **2025 conference theme “Louisiana Dramas,”** as well as creative texts by, about, and/or for Louisiana and Louisianans, are sought for this year’s conference.

Although we are especially interested in proposals that deal with the theme of Louisiana Dramas, **all papers, creative writing, and short performances (dance, music, or theater) that address ANY aspect of Louisiana studies are welcome.** Proposals are being solicited for fifteen-minute presentations from scholars at all career stages as well as **graduate students.** Creative work (film, creative non-fiction, lyric or instrumental music compositions, short fiction, and poetry) is welcome. **Undergraduates** are invited to submit, provided they are working with the guidance of a trained scholar. (All presenters under 18 years of age **must** have written permission from a parent or legal guardian.) Registration for **students** is FREE. **Registration for all other Conference participants will be \$50.**

Abstracts (300 words max.) for scholarly proposals and creative writing **should be sent as e-mail attachments to Dr. Shane Rasmussen, rasmussens@nsula.edu.** Presentations should run no longer than 15 minutes.

Please include a separate cover page with your name, affiliation, mailing and e-mail address, and the title of your presentation. E-mails should be entitled: 2025 Louisiana Studies Conference Submission. We will send an e-mail acknowledgement of having received each abstract within one week of having received it. If you do not receive an acknowledgment, please resend your submission as we may not have received it. **The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2025.** Accepted presenters will be notified via e-mail by July 1, 2025, if not before.

This interdisciplinary conference will be accepting proposals from the following disciplines: American studies, anthropology, architecture, archival studies, communications, craft, creative writing, criminal justice, cultural studies, cultural tourism, dance, design, education, English and literary studies, environmental studies, ethnic studies, fashion design, film studies, fine arts, folklore, gender studies, geography, heritage resources, history, interior design, journalism, linguistics, media studies, museum studies, musicology, music performance, philosophy, photography, political science, preservation studies, psychology, queer studies, religious studies, Romance languages, social work, sociology, theatre, and vernacular architecture.

Read broadly, consider the following possibilities for presentation topics relating to the theme of Louisiana Dramas. The following list of suggestions is not meant to be comprehensive.

NOTE: Louisiana, its cultures, history, literature, peoples, places, etc. should be an **intrinsic** aspect of the proposed presentation. For example, “thematic motifs in Southern literature” in itself would not be an appropriate presentation topic proposal for the Louisiana Studies Conference, while “thematic motifs in 21st century Louisiana short fiction” or “thematic motifs in the contemporary legends of Evangeline Parish” would both be highly appropriate.

Archetypes & Stereotypes

Depictions of Louisiana in Theater and Film

Documentaries

Drama and the Environment

Ethnographies

Festivals and Celebrations

Folk Theater & Drama

Forgotten and Neglected Louisiana Dramas

The Free Southern Theater

Lillian Hellman

Louisiana Actors & Actresses

Louisiana Dramatists

Louisiana History

Louisiana Literature(s)

Louisiana on Film & TV

Louisiana Melodrama

Louisiana Reality Shows

Louisiana Theater

Mardi Gras

Musical Theater

Parades and Parading

Radio Dramas

Religious and Spiritual Drama and Theater

Representations of Louisiana

Tennessee Williams

Theater Festivals

Tony Kushner

Spectacles

Vernacular Dramas

A selection of scholarly and creative work presented at the conference will be solicited for publication in the *Louisiana Folklife Journal*, a peer reviewed academic journal produced by the Louisiana Folklife Center, Northwestern State University, General Editor, Shane Rasmussen. Additional information is available on the website for the Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University: <https://www.nsula.edu/folklife/louisianastudies/>.

Conference Co-chairs:

Donna Baker, University Archivist and Records Officer, Northwestern State University

Jason Church, Chief, Technical Services, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

Dr. Daniel Gordy, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and English, Northwestern State University

Dr. Charles Pellegrin, Professor of History and Director of the Southern Studies Institute, Northwestern State University

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and Professor of English, Northwestern State University

The Conference is co-sponsored by the Louisiana Folklife Center, the Department of English, Languages, and Cultural Studies, and the Northwestern State University College of Arts and Sciences.