

18th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 18th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference will be held September 12, 2026, 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 **2026 conference theme “Remembering Louisiana,”** 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 Remembering Louisiana, **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: 2026 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 has been extended to July 31, 2026.** Accepted presenters will be notified via e-mail by August 15, 2026, 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 Remembering Louisiana. 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.

Antiquities

Archaeology

Archives

Artifacts

Autobiographies and Biographies

Colonialism and Postcolonialism

Cultural and Folk History

Depictions of Louisiana

Digitizing History

Documentaries

Environmental History

Ethnographies

Ethnohistory

Flashbulb Memories

Folklore and Folklife

Forgotten and Neglected Histories, Peoples, Persons

Genealogy

Historic Preservation

Historical Reenacting

Historiography

Local History

Louisiana History

Louisiana Legends

Louisiana Literature(s)

Louisiana on Film & TV

Louisiana Reality Shows

Louisiana Theater

Memoirs

Memory Studies

Microhistory

Museums

Mythic Louisiana

Nostalgia

Oral History

Photographers and Photos

Popular and Populist Histories

Religious and Spiritual Drama and Theater

Representations of Louisiana

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.