

CALL FOR PAPERS

Harvard-Yale Conference in Book History
The Stakes of Book History
Yale University
New Haven, CT | April 30, 2020

Sponsored by the Yale Program in the History of the Book and the Seminar in the History of the Book at the Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard

The Yale Program in the History of the Book is pleased to announce the eleventh annual Harvard-Yale Conference in Book History, which will take place on **Thursday, April 30, 2020**. The programs for the previous conferences are available [here](#).

Proposals are invited from graduate students at any stage, recent PhDs, and postdocs on a topic related to the history of the book. Our 2020 conference theme, *The Stakes of Book History*, invites participants to reflect on historical, methodological, and pedagogical questions about the field of book history in its past and current forms. Which individuals and institutions have a stake in book history, both in the sense of those who participated in the original production and circulation of the book (writers, publishers, editors) and those who have a stake in its contemporary study (academics, librarians, collectors)? If book history has political stakes, are they necessarily antiquarian, positivist, or conservative? What do progressive, or radical, forms of book history look like? What are the stakes of employing and teaching the methodological tools of book history as opposed to those of other historicist, cultural studies, or new formalist approaches?

Papers relating to all time periods and geographical locations are welcome, and speakers are encouraged to engage with these questions as they fit. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions about a proposed paper topic. Proposals from students and recent graduates of all New England institutions are welcome to apply, though those from current Harvard and Yale graduate students will be given priority.

Proposals are due **Friday, February 21, 2020**. These should include a title and a brief abstract (approximately 200 words), as well as your university and departmental affiliation. Speakers will have 15 minutes to present their work, followed by 15 minutes of discussion.

Please submit proposals and questions to Colton Valentine (colton.valentine@yale.edu), Ben Card (ben.card@yale.edu), and Eve Houghton (eve.houghton@yale.edu). Many thanks for your interest.