



OHIO ACADEMY OF HISTORY

**ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
Kent State University**

April 11-12, 2025

Friday, April 11

12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

**Executive Council Meeting
218 Bowman Hall**

1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

**Registration
Outside of 133 Bowman Hall**

2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m.

Session 1

A. Biography as History

Room: 204 Bowman

Chair: Michael Goodnough, Tiffin University

“‘When the defendant is sober....he has many decent and some very fine qualities’ or ‘This is the prostitute that I married’: Fisher v. Fisher, the turbulent, second marriage of ‘Bud’ Fisher”
Donald C. Eberle, Napoleon Area Schools

“A Republican from Maine and a Women’s College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Margaret Chase Smith and Wilson College”
Maxine Wagenhoffer, Wilson College

“Mary E. Hart: The First Lady of Alaska”
Jennifer L. Williams, American Public University System

B. Economic Crisis/Patriarchal Backlash: The Great Depression and Women’s Rights

Room: 206 Bowman

Chair: David Strittmatter, Ohio Northern University

“Fear & the Modern Woman: The Debate Over the Equal Rights Amendment during the Depression Era”
Kenneth Bindas, Kent State University

“Rhetorical Violence against Working Women”
April Platt, Kent State University

4:00 p.m.—5:15 p.m.

Session 2

A. Symbolic Power: Self and Society in Statuary, Images, and Text

Room: 204 Bowman

Chair: E. Sue Wamsley, Kent State University Salem

“‘Speak and we shall hear’: Listening to the Philosophy of Heloise d’Argenteuil”
Elizabeth Paige Snyder, Kent State University

“Embodying Abigail Adams: Statues Around Quincy, MA”
Andrea Obertin Freimuth, Bowling Green State University

“Contested Claims to Equal Rights in Literatures of Politics, Education, and Popular Science after 1835”
Michael Leverett Dorn, Independent Researcher

B. Histories of the Second World War: Japanese Counterintelligence Officers and the Downfall of General Benny Myers

Room: 206 Bowman

Chair/Commentator: Kyriakos Nalmpantis, Baldwin Wallace University

“In Plain Sight: The Corruption of Major General Benny Meyers in Army Air Forces Procurement in the Second World War”

Michael H Taint, Independent Historian

“Before the Father: Ralph Van Deman’s Early Career in the Philippines and China, 1900-1908”

Matthew Vajda, Kent State University

7:00 p.m.

**Distinguished Historian Lecture
Murphy Auditorium, Rockwell Hall**

**Kim E. Nielsen, University of Toledo
“Unfit for voting? State Constitution and
the Building of Structural Ableism”**

**Reception to Follow
Rockwell Hall Lobby**

Saturday, April 12

8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

**Registration, Coffee & Pastries
Outside of 133 Bowman Hall**

9:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

SESSION 1

A. Narratives of Death and Illness

Room: 201 Bowman

Chair: Scott Martin, Bowling Green University

“Howard Daniels, Urban Planner of the Cities of Dead”

Jeffrey Smith, Green Lawn Cemetery

“Beyond Book Burning: Crisis in the Stacks”
Chandler Taylor, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library

B. The Politics of Speaking: Struggles for Political Participation and Memory in post-Civil War Ohio

Room: 204 Bowman

Chair/Commentator: Leone Hudson, Kent State University

““Pressing On: Black Ohioans, Suffrage, and their Place in the Republican Party”
Jacob Mach, Purdue University

““There is rumors of war...’ (1859) Emily Nash and the Civil War: A Homefront Perspective”
Molly Sergi, Kent State University Geauga

C. Cities in the Heartland: Ohio’s Urban History

Room: 206 Bowman

Chair: Kevin Kern, University of Akron

Commentator: Martha Pallante, Youngstown State University

“When Steel Cracks: How Worker Uprising and Public Humiliation Altered Steelmaker Ideology in East Youngstown”
Joseph Gaffney, Kent State University

“Demolishing Monkey’s Nest: Spatial reorganization leading into the Deindustrialization of Youngstown”
Jacob Harver, Kent State University

“Building the Modern City: The Melding of Physical and Political Modernity in the Mall Plan”
Michael Megery, University of Akron

10:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m.

SESSION 2

A. Ideologies of Terror: White Supremacy, the State, and neo-Fascist Theory

Room: 201 Bowman

Chair/Commentator: Michael E. Brooks, Bowling Green State University

“A Dangerous Country: The Ku Klux Klan and Police in North Carolina”
Hannah Kornblut, Kent State University

“Racial Apotheosis: Scientific Racism, Divinity, and William Luther Pierce”
Lynn Vandasik, Kent State University

“The Case of Civilization v. Hitler: Arthur Garfield Hays, the 1934 Show Trial, and the Performative Legal Challenge to Fascism at Home and Abroad”
Andrew Kersten, Cleveland State University

B. Contesting Legal Definitions

Room: 204 Bowman

Chair/Commentator: Elizabeth Smith-Pryor, Kent State University

“Cannabis Prohibition by Noxious Weed Law in the United States”
Sarah Brady Siff, Central State University

“Free Speech at the Schoolhouse Gate: Cleveland’s Quick Deliberation in the Case of *Guzick v. Drebus*”
Skylar Wrisley, Hale Farm & Village

“Policing Abolitionists: Abolitionists’ Evolving Concept of Law and Order”
Anthony Zacchino, Kent State University

C. ROUNDTABLE: Teaching College Credit Plus in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Room: 206 Bowman

Moderator: Donald C. Eberle, Napoleon Area Schools

Panelists: Jason Carter, Fairbanks High School
Melinda Mohler, Clark State College
E. Sue Wamsley, Kent State University Salem
Sarah Beal, Otterbein University
Linda Piccirillo-Smith, Kent State University
Bradley S. Keefer, Kent State University Ashtabula

D. Presidential Panel on LGBT History

Room: 203 Bowman

Chair/Commentator: Daniel Rivers, The Ohio State University

“All true divas protect their parts: Black Trans Feminist Redefining the AIDS crisis”
Joy Ellison, University of Rhode Island

“Desert Rainbows: Gay Activism in Tucson from Stonewall to AIDS”
Marc Arenberg, The Ohio State University

“Encuentros Fronterizos: AIDS, Resistance, and the Queer Underground”
Justin Salgado, The Ohio State University

12:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m.

**Annual Luncheon, Business Meeting, and
Awards Ceremony
Ballroom Balcony, Kent Student Center**

**Presidential Address
David Strittmatter, Ohio Northern
University
"The Guardsmen Speak: Oral History &
Contested Memory"**

2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m.

SESSION 3

A. Popular Cultures: The Politics of Ghost Tours and the Liberty Bell

Room: 201 Bowman

Chair/Commentator: Kenneth Bindas, Kent State University

“The Liberty Bell’s Travels Through Ohio”
Ronald Marvin, Jr., Wyandot County Historical Society

“Legacies of Vampires and Voodoo Queens: The Casket Girls and Marie Laveau and the Impact of Ghost
Tours and Public Spectacle”
Shelby Vasko, Bowling Green State University

B. War, Diplomacy, and Ecology

Room: 204 Bowman

Chair: Gina Martino, The University of Akron

“Intercolonial Politics: The Albany Congress and Plan of Union”

Chris Blubaugh, Independent Researcher

“The Environmental Legacy of Warfare”

Biswayan Bhandari, Jadavpur University

“Drawing Lines and Banning Wars: US Foreign Policy Entanglements under the Calvin Coolidge Administration”

Noah Christopher Fitch, Bowling Green State University

C. Industrial Investments: Technology, Capital, and Nation

Room: 206 Bowman

Chair: Steve Haynes, North Central State College

“A Power in the Land: The First Transcontinental Railroad and the Second American System”

Drew Baird, Western Reserve Historical Society

“The Wrights and the French: How Nationalism, Obstinacy, and Distance Doomed the Compagnie Générale de Navigation Aérienne”

Edward Roach, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

“The Showpiece of Development Aid: The West German Bid to Build the Tabqa Dam”

Nicholas Ostrum, Kent State University