

# J A H L I T

JEWISH AMERICAN & HOLOCAUST LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM

## Call for Proposals

### 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish American & Holocaust Literature (JAHLit) Symposium

February 1-3, 2026 / New Orleans, LA

The Jewish American & Holocaust Literature (JAHLit) Symposium is an annual convening of academics from a variety of different scholarly backgrounds and fields of expertise – from literary studies to film and new media. With a focus on professional community-building and in-depth conversational continuity, JAHLit features a select group of participants ranging from senior scholars and emeriti faculty to graduate students, all positioned around the same shared table for two full days of panels and roundtables.

The 30<sup>th</sup> JAHLit Symposium will take place in New Orleans, LA, a port city that has long been a hub of Jewish life and a point of connection with the Caribbean and Europe, as well as the home of a distinctively vibrant and racially complex culture in which Jewish communities continue to thrive today.

Sessions on Monday and Tuesday (February 2-3) will be held at the **New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute (NOCHI)** in the city's Central Business District, preceded by a Sunday evening welcome reception and keynote lecture at **The Building**, an arts venue whose structure was built in the center of New Orleans' Jewish and Italian communities in 1866. Josh Lambert will deliver the opening keynote address on the state of Jewish American Literature as a field and emerging trends within it. This will be accompanied by a welcome reception with food and drink. On Monday at lunchtime, a special keynote roundtable will be offered on the topic of Jewish gender/sexuality in contemporary media culture by Jonathan Branfman and Samantha Pickette. Marilyn Miller will also deliver a lunchtime keynote lecture on Tuesday about the writings of Eduardo Halfon and Holocaust Consciousness in Global Latin America.

To maximize the symposium's impact, participants will be expected to attend the entirety of the JAHLit program in person.

### Proposal Instructions

We welcome proposals for individual papers, panels, and roundtables from emerging and established scholars from across the globe. Proposed content should critically and constructively address Jewish American and/or Holocaust-related topics within the field of literary studies or within adjacent fields, such as comics/graphic novels, film, performance, or media studies. We are especially interested in work that sheds new light on:

- The digital humanities, new media, and visual studies
- Transnational perspectives
- Diasporas and artists in exile
- Interdisciplinary dialogue
- Jews of “the Americas” in a broader sense, including Caribbean, Canadian, South American, Central American, and Sephardic perspectives
- Antisemitism
- Emerging trends in post-Holocaust memory/narration
- Minority voices, including Jews of color, LGBTQ+ Jews, and disabled Jews

The deadline for submission of proposals is **September 28, 2025**. Proposals should be emailed to: [jahlitcontact@gmail.com](mailto:jahlitcontact@gmail.com)

### **Accepted Proposal Options:**

#### Paper - 15-20 minutes (*up to 20 minutes to accommodate clips and other media analysis*)

A stand-alone original scholarly analysis written in advance, beginning with some brief context and motivating questions; ideally accompanied by visuals or other concrete examples to aid those unfamiliar with the material; accepted papers will be organized by the Program Committee into panels by apparent shared themes/topics.

#### Panel - 75 minutes

A pre-organized grouping of papers united by an intentional theme, question, or topic; a panel should ideally consist of 3 papers; each panel ideally ends with 20-30 minutes of audience discussion, optionally preceded by a respondent’s remarks.

#### Roundtable - 75 minutes

A scholarly conversation including: brief framing remarks by the roundtable’s chair, several minutes of opening comments by each roundtable participant, moderated discussion

among the roundtable participants, and 20-30 minutes of audience discussion (optionally opened with the remarks of a designated respondent, as specified in the proposal).

#### Pre-Circulated Papers Panel - 75 minutes

A scholarly conversation for which each of the two-to-three participants has sent an original paper of 15-20 pages to the panel's chair at least one month before the start of the symposium (the chair will have e-mailed those papers to JAHLit's director, who will have subsequently shared them with all registered JAHLit participants to read in advance). The panel should include: brief framing remarks by the chair and several minutes of opening comments by each panelist, each followed by discussion with the audience about that panelist's paper, as moderated by the chair (optionally opened with remarks by the chair or a designated respondent, as specified in the proposal).

#### Creative Session - 75 minutes

We are open to considering some alternative session proposals, provided that they involve scholarly rigor and a focus on Jewish American and/or Holocaust literature or other related forms of media. For example, this could look like: presentation(s) by one or more writers/artists on their current work (or work-in-progress) followed by discussion with an academic moderator; ideally ends with 20-30 minutes of audience discussion. Your proposal should make a clear and compelling case for how this session will engage JAHLit's aims and its scholarly participants.

### **Proposal Instructions:**

#### Heading

*Begin with a heading that includes the following information:*

- Proposed title for the paper/panel/roundtable/creative session
- Type of proposal (indicate one: individual paper, panel, roundtable, or creative session)
- Your full name(s) and title(s) – i.e. Dr., Ms., Mr., Mrs., etc. -- as you'd like them displayed on the program
- Your e-mail address(es)
- Your college/university affiliation(s) and professional position(s); for graduate students: doctoral program(s) and year/standing within the program
- For panels/roundtables/creative sessions: indicate whether or not you have a designated chair or respondent

### Abstract(s)

*Following the heading, include an abstract of 300-400 words.*

*If you are proposing a panel of several papers, please include a title and abstract for each paper.*

*All abstracts should clearly indicate:*

- Primary questions of inquiry
- Intended research focus
- Scholarly rationale motivating the paper's questions/focus
- Specific sources that will be studied
- Intended methods/approaches
- Why the proposed research matters and why it will interest JAHLit participants

### For Roundtables

*If you are proposing a roundtable (without papers), include:*

- one overarching abstract focusing on the roundtable's motivation, goals, approaches, and significance
- 2-3 sentences for each participant, indicating their qualifications for shedding light on your roundtable's topic and what specific contributions they will offer to the discussion

*Please be sure each of the participants and their affiliations are included in the proposal's heading, as well.*

### Technology Needs

Please indicate if your proposal requires any specific technology. For audio/visual needs, we will have a computer connected to a projector and speakers. You may be asked to upload any presentation files ahead of the symposium to a shared folder or to email them to one of the symposium organizers. Please also plan to bring a back-up file of your presentation on a thumb-drive.

### Registration

Upon acceptance of your paper/panel, you will be asked to pay the **registration fee of \$185** in order to be included in the program (payment instructions forthcoming upon acceptance). The fee includes admission to the Sunday evening reception, the full symposium program, all keynotes, and catered "Kosher-style" breakfasts and lunches on Monday and Tuesday within the symposium.

### Financial Aid

We hope to be able to offer a limited amount of financial support to help with registration and travel/lodging costs for JAHLit-accepted graduate students, independent scholars/creatives, and contingent faculty. If this applies to you: upon acceptance of your proposal, please contact [jahlitcontact@gmail.com](mailto:jahlitcontact@gmail.com) with a letter of inquiry that demonstrates your financial need.

### Expected Conduct

Participants are expected to abide by JAHLit's Code of Conduct, as detailed in the "Policies" tab of our website, linked below. Given recent increases in political polarization, disagreement, and hostility in discourse surrounding antisemitism and the catastrophic losses/conflicts of the Middle East, JAHLit is especially committed to maintaining an environment that excludes all forms of harassment, bullying, and personal or political attacks. Understanding that participants reflect a diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, and political viewpoints, we expect all attendees to interact with sensitivity, open-mindedness, and professionalism throughout the symposium, as well as to keep presentations and conversations focused on matters most relevant to the presented work itself.

### Lodging

Participants are responsible for booking and securing their own flights/lodging. For more information on JAHLit, visiting New Orleans, and suggested hotel accommodations, please consult the following link. We expect to post hotel-block information here by the early fall: <https://americanjewishexperience.org/jewish-american-holocaust-literature-symposium>

### Sponsorship

JAHLit 2026 is sponsored primarily by Tulane University's Stuart and Suzanne Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience and by Tulane's School of Liberal Arts. To ensure a vibrant and comfortable symposium experience, as well as to support travel costs for graduate students and contingent faculty, JAHLit invites further donations from individuals, departments, and organizations able to contribute. We would be grateful to recognize your generosity in our program. To discuss sponsorship opportunities or to offer a donation, please write to JAHLit's director, Golan Moskowitz, at [jahlitcontact@gmail.com](mailto:jahlitcontact@gmail.com), or send a paper check (**payable to: "Tulane Jewish Studies Department"; Memo line: "JAHLit 2026 Donation"**) to the following mailing address: **Golan Moskowitz / Department of Jewish Studies / Tulane University, 7031 Freret Street / New Orleans, LA 70118**