

African American History Seminar



Call for Proposals

Deadline Extended: 1 May 2026

Hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society

The African American History Seminar invites proposals for sessions in its 2026-2027 series. The Seminar involves discussion of pre-circulated works in progress, especially article or chapter-length papers (20-30 pages), focusing on any aspect of African American history and culture from the era of first contact through the present day. Papers comparing the American experience with developments elsewhere in the world are welcome, as are cross-disciplinary studies.

Each session focuses on the discussion of a paper distributed to seminar registrants approximately three weeks before the program. Authors must have their papers ready for circulation at this time. The essayist and an assigned commentator will each have an opportunity for remarks before the discussion is opened to the floor. Sessions may take place virtually or in a hybrid format as conditions allow.

We invite proposals (500 words) and CVs (3 pages maximum) from interested researchers. In your proposal, please indicate when your paper can be available for distribution, as well as your preference (fall or spring) based on when the seminar's feedback would be helpful to you. Advise us of any special scheduling conditions, such as a planned trip to Boston, an extended period when you cannot make a presentation, or if you would prefer to present remotely. The steering committee will consider all proposals for the available session slots, and proposers will be notified by early summer.

Please submit your proposals by **1 May 2026** to seminars@masshist.org.

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We look forward to receiving your proposal!