

Association of Genealogy Educators and Schools 2023 Conference & AGM Schedule
01 March 2023, Salt Lake City Public Library and online, 10.00-4.45 MST

10.00 - 10.15 - registration and hot drinks

10.15 - 11.00 - opening session and annual general meeting

11.00 - 12.00 - Tahitia McCabe: ***Genealogy as an academic discipline.***

What is an academic discipline and how does genealogy/family history fit the definition? Interdisciplinarity and ways of working with university colleagues will be discussed and examples of different research foci from dissertations will be presented.

Tahitia is the Head of the Strathclyde Institute of Genealogical Studies and the course director of the Master's Programme in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic studies at the University of Strathclyde. Her research interests include immigration, social networks and American and British genealogy. She is currently a PhD candidate working on a study of Americans in Scotland, 1850-1900.

Dr Paula Royster: ***Ancestorology and the African Diaspora***

Ancestorology is a valuative science that considers moral judgments and institutionalized emotions as instructional elements of various analytical contexts within which condition, processes and their structural implications are examined for the development of universal and transgenerational theories of diaspora.¹ Valid interdisciplinary orientations include history, public policy, visual culture and cultural anthropology.

This talk will present three short case studies to demonstrate how Ancestorology applies to the study of African diasporic families and identify the intersecting disciplines required to develop new information in existing disciplines.

Paula is a two-time Fulbright Scholar grantee and has been awarded two Diversity Speaker grants through the U.S. Department of State's Diversity Speaker's Program. She currently teaches full-time undergraduate courses and serves as a coach and mentor to doctoral students. She earned her interdisciplinary PhD in Humanities and Culture from Union Institute and University and holds a secondary major in Public Policy & Social Justice. She is the founder, president and CEO of The Center for African American Genealogical Research, Inc. (CAAGRI), and a published author.

¹ Paula D. Royster, *Decolonizing Arts-Based Methodologies: Researching the African Diaspora* (Leiden: Brill Sense, 2021), 26.

12.00-12.15 - break

12.15 - 1.15 - Fabien Almanzy and Stéphane Cosson: ***Creating genealogy degrees: the experience of the University of Nîmes.***

The University of Nîmes is one of only two universities in France to offer genealogy degrees. Since 2010, several different genealogy degrees have been offered, these are continually improved based on the requests that our students make. The degrees try to be both theoretical and very concrete and our students range from beginners, professionals retraining or those studying simply to obtain a better understanding of research methodology. Courses are offered both virtually and face-to-face.

Fabien and Stéphane teach on the University of Nîmes (France) genealogy degrees. They are also professional genealogists, looking for both the ancestors of individuals and heirs of dormant estates.

Drew Smith: ***Applying the ACRL Information Literacy Framework in the teaching of genealogical research***

In 2016, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), adopted its “Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education” as a tool to assist academic librarians and college/university faculty in identifying and teaching the key information literacy concepts needed by their students. Since its general adoption, a number of groups of academic librarians and relevant faculty have come together to create discipline-specific companion documents for the Framework, such as journalism, political science, science/engineering, social work, sociology, writing/literature, and women’s and gender studies.

This talk will focus on how each of the Framework’s six frames relates to genealogical research, and how this consideration might result in a companion document for the Framework especially useful for all genealogy educators in both higher education and the more public sphere.

Drew is an associate librarian at the University of South Florida who speaks and publishes on information literacy, undergraduate research, podcasting, and genealogical research. He’s particularly interested in genealogical research, especially as it applies to academic research, instruction by public librarians, and service to the community. He is a very active member of a number of library and genealogy organizations.

1.15 - 2.00 - lunch

2.00 - 3.00 - Marie Cappart: ***The best of both worlds: how and why academics and family historians should get along.***

History has always dealt with the history of families, from ancient dynasties to the genealogy of the Kings of France. Family dynamics and their histories are at the heart of the great events of major civilisations.

However, the links between academic faculties and genealogists are sometimes complicated. The latter sometimes encounter, especially in Western Europe, a minimal skepticism up to a pure and simple refusal, A rather striking contrast with the North American experience of genealogy which has education ranging from private courses to the biggest university faculties in the country. This presentation aims to consider why and at what crossroads history and genealogy meet and above all, how to make them meet and to overcome the reticence that academics may have.

This presentation is also intended to be a toolbox that will allow participants to better understand the challenges facing genealogists in the context of multi-disciplinary rapprochement between the two sciences. And to give suggestions that will give participants concepts, ideas and advice in order to work towards the reconciliation of family history and history in its more classical definition.

Marie is an Anglo-Belgian family historian based in Brussels Belgium and holds an Ma (Sc) History (ULB). She is an APG member and is author of the *Guide to genealogical research in Belgium*. Marie works as MyHeritage's Country Manager for France and Belgium.

Brian Donovan: ***The history department/faculty: a help or hindrance?***

Genealogy is traditionally seen as a niche activity in the broader realm of historical scholarship, but is that perception accurate? And is the association helpful to the initiation and development of university courses in genealogy? What are the options available to getting university accreditation, and which routes are likely to allow the discipline to flourish?

Brian is the Strategic Initiatives Manager at Findmypast. He previously lectured in history at Trinity College Dublin in the 1990s and since then has lectured worldwide on history, genealogy and digitisation. Brian's experience in digital technology, as well as his background in history, helped motivate the founding of the well-known Irish heritage company Eneclann in 1998. He formed the joint venture with DC Thomson that created Findmypast Ireland in 2010, and continues to help develop their Irish collections. Currently Brian is responsible for a range of global initiatives at Findmypast, involving new data, new markets and new opportunities.

3.15 - 3.30 - break

- 3.30 - 4.15 - Panel of representatives from different programmes which offer degrees or credit bearing certificates. TBA. 10-15 minutes for joint Q&A at end.
- 4.15 - 4.45 - Closing session with a round up of speaker ideas/themes. We will consider ideas for future plans for AGES.