

Association of Genealogy Educators and Schools
2024 Conference & Annual Meeting Schedule
16 March 2024, Online, 09.00-13.00 MDT / 15.00-19.00 GMT

9.00 - 9.05 MDT (15.00 - 15.05 GMT) - Welcome and housekeeping

9.05 - 9.45 MDT (15.05 - 15.45 GMT) - AGES Annual Meeting

9.45 - 9.50 MDT (15.45 - 15.50 GMT) - Break and move into breakout rooms

9.50 - 10.50 MDT (15.50 - 16.50 GMT) - Session 1

Breakout Room 1

Julia Anderson - "Collaboration and Discussion: Critical Aspects of Remote Learning" (5 min Q&A directly after this presentation)

Just as role play helps children internalize cognitive learning, class discussions and projects help adult learners practice and solidify lessons taught in online course material. This presentation will:

- Explain the importance of including collaborative projects and class discussions in online teaching.
- Demonstrate how to create meaningful projects and choose relevant discussion topics.
- Guide participants in designing a meaningful online learning experience for adult students.
- Enable participants to include collaborative projects and class discussions in their course material.

Biography: Julia Anderson has presented to many societies and at many conferences including RootsTech, the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and the Utah Genealogical Association. She teaches genealogy at the Salt Lake Community College and is an Accredited Genealogist (AG)[™] and an Accredited Genealogist Lecturer (AGL)[™].

Kristilee Manuel - "Introducing MyEducator Electronic Textbook for University-level Genealogy Methodology"

Family History enhances traditional writing and research, but historically, there have been barriers to teaching genealogy as an academic research discipline in higher education. For many history departments, the difficulty of learning genealogical education methods, creating content, and designing courses is prohibitive to adding family history classes to their department's existing structure.

This presentation will explain how using technology, specifically electronic textbooks, can alleviate those barriers to entry. A beginning family history textbook based on sound genealogical methodology would encourage universities and researchers to add family history to their repertoire. Electronic textbooks can be updated as websites change, customized to

comply with department standards, and adjusted for international institutions. Using this source of technology can facilitate opportunities for university students around the globe to be introduced to genealogy and educated in proper methods while having personal experiences discovering the history of their own families.

Biography: Kristilee J. Manuel has presented at Brigham Young University's Women's Conference and served as a Family History Center Director. She has created genealogical tools and content for BYU's Family History Workshops. She recently collaborated with the Chinese National Parks Service to create a family history certification program.

Dr. Calista Williams- "Charting a New Course: Exploring the Application of Generative AI in Educational Content Creation"

For many educators, artificial intelligence (AI) was, until recently, an abstract concept, bordering on the realms of science fiction. However, over the last year generative AI has made regular headline news and seems to be emerging as both a threat and a benefit to educational practice.

With the rapid advancement of AI technologies opening up new opportunities for course content creation as well as automating processes, how do we, as educators, take advantage of these innovations while attempting to mitigate some of the risks?

This talk doesn't attempt to definitively answer this question but, instead, will explore some of my own experiences of using Gen AI tools and techniques as well as sharing those of the team at the University of Strathclyde who teach on the MSc in Genealogical Studies. How can we harness generative models to create more diverse, interactive and engaging educational materials while ensuring accuracy and appropriateness of content?

Biography: Calista is the Course Director for Strathclyde's Postgraduate Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Programme. She completed her Masters in History and Heritage at Aberystwyth University in 2013 and then went on to complete her AHRC-funded PhD in History with the Open University in 2017. Up until 2023, she worked as a freelance historical and genealogical researcher.

10-minute combined Q&A at end of session for presentations by Manuel and Williams.

Breakout Room 2

Daniel Horowitz - "Sharing and Preserving Memories in a Digital Era" (Q&A at end of his talk)

It's an exciting time to be a family historian. While a few decades ago, we may have had to invest considerable funds and sacrifice precious space in our homes to preserve all our family history information and paraphernalia, today it can all be collected, stored, preserved, published, and shared online at relatively little cost.

In this session, Daniel will elaborate about the different options available today and where the technology may go in the near future, using the best practices to store everything you've gathered, digitally collecting, storing, preserving, publishing, and sharing your research, in an inexpensive way. Not only the images, but audio, videos, documents, records, names, and facts; all the material that can be gathered by relatives over the years about the family and ancestors, to let young generations enjoy, contribute and even continue the work in the future.

Biography: Dedicated to Genealogy since 1986, Daniel was the teacher and the study guide editor of the family history project "[Searching for My Roots](#)" in Venezuela for 15 years. He was a board member of [The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies \(IAJGS\)](#) for 10 years, now is involved in several [crowdsource digitization and transcription projects](#), and holds a board-level position at [The Israel Genealogy Research Association \(IGRA\)](#). Since 2006 Daniel has been working at [MyHeritage](#) liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers, and media, as well as lecturing, and attending [conferences around the world](#).

Ruth Graham - "Research Impact & Social Media: Family History Blogs as Recognized Research Outputs" (Q&A at end of her talk)

In recent years, family historians have increasingly utilised blogs as a platform for disseminating research findings and narratives. This presentation examines the evolving role of family history blogs and their potential as recognised research outputs within the digital landscape reshaping genealogical research documentation and dissemination. Delving into questions regarding the academic validity of blogs, including rigor, methodology, and peer review, this session explores challenges and opportunities.

Additionally, it investigates the democratisation of research through blogging, its impact on community engagement, and its potential to bridge the gap between academia and the broader public. Through case studies from the Society of Australian Genealogists, participants will gain insights into the future trajectory of family history blogs as valuable contributions to the field. This session aims to initiate a dialogue on the legitimacy of blogs as research outputs, inspiring collaborative efforts in shaping the future of genealogical research publication and distribution.

Biography: Ruth Graham, CEO of the Society of Australian Genealogists, is a family historian with a career in education and research management. Ruth has been included on Australia's higher education regulator's register of experts and volunteers as a mentor for the University of Melbourne and the Association for Tertiary Education Management.

10.50 - 11.00 MDT (16.50 - 17.00 GMT) - Break and move into breakout rooms

11.00 - 11.35 MDT (17.00 - 17.35 GMT) - Session 2

Breakout Room 1

Dr. Jacques Du Plessis - "Ethics and Purpose in Family History"

This presentation explores two key aspects of consideration in doing family history. Firstly, what ethical guidelines should one follow? Secondly, what deeper considerations should we consider in how we share the information to best achieve the intended objectives?

The ethics guiding the research and the compiling of a family history has to address conflicting thoughts and objectives. If information has been made known publicly, such as being reported in the press, does it mean it is fine to include that? If research uncovers hidden information, such as children out of wedlock, grievous crimes, acts of betrayal, etc., how do we deal with such information? This paper will explore many dilemmas and difficult issues and guide the family historian.

The second focus of this presentation is the consideration of how to share information. This research asserts that often family historians often presume it is obvious that a written document will be the final result, either as a book, or a digital version (online or offline). This portion of the presentation will explore the diverse ways to disseminate the family history and why. This paper will explore how to perpetuate further research and sharing by future generations and how to best impact the intended audience, present and future generations.

Biography: Jacques du Plessis grew up in South Africa. He got his start with genealogy as a 16-year old, researching his ancestry in the archives. This became a life-long pursuit. He attended two universities in South Africa before coming to the United States in his 20s. He finished his PhD at Utah State University. After graduation, he joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where he still teaches. Amongst others, he teaches the genealogy course in the Master's program in Information Studies. Jacques is a founding board member of AGES and is currently serving on the board as the immediate past president.

Breakout Room 2

Dr. Nick Barratt- "The Future of Family History in the Digital Age"

We are living through one of the most dramatic periods of change in human history, with digital technology transforming the way we interact with each other, create and share content, and build virtual experiences that make it almost impossible to separate fact from fiction. Technology is also impacting the past as well as the present, with many companies that provide access to digitised historic records now creating the tools to manipulate them – animated photos and AI-driven biographies that imagine historic scenarios to name but two. This talk looks at the challenges facing the historical research community as data, DNA and digital collide to pose ethical questions about what 'real' is, and how we harness the power of these tools to reimagine how we create legacies for the future.

Biography: Dr Nick Barratt is a broadcaster, author and historian best known for his work on the TV show *Who Do You Think You Are*. He is currently the Executive Director, Student Journey at Royal Holloway University of London, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a visiting lecturer at the University of Dundee and a visiting academic at the Open University in the Knowledge Media Institute. He regularly lectures on aspects of public history and digital

technology, whilst his most recent book *The Restless Kings* tells the dramatic story of Henry II and his family through the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries.

11.35 - 11.50 MDT (17.35 - 17.50 - GMT) - Break

11.50 - 12.25 MDT (17.50 - 18.25 GMT) - Session 3

Dr. Amy Harris, Hyrum Veach, Kris Hale - "The Early British and Irish Census Project: Describing the Place of Mid-Sized Databases in the Genealogical-Technological Ecosystem"

Small datasets, or medium-sized datasets by small organizations fill important gaps in genealogical research. For large genealogy corporations, these datasets do not typically justify the time and expense to digitize or index because they cover a limited population or are in numerous, scattered archives. We will present about one such dataset: pre-1841 British and Irish census records.

While most 1801-1831 census records have only statistical information, some 1400 returns have named individuals. Some of these returns are digitally available from Findmypast or FamilySearch and additional returns have been transcribed or indexed by local family history societies and county archives. However, most remain undigitized and unindexed and all remain scattered across dozens of archives and websites.

Because these returns were not the official enumeration books, the documents vary in style, comprehensiveness, and condition. Technology allows for digitization and creation of an online searchable database. Extracting the data is a place where human labor is the most efficient.

Biography: Amy Harris, PhD, AG[®], is the current Family History Program Coordinator and a professor in the History Department at Brigham Young University. Her most recent publication, *A Single View: Family Life and the Unmarried in Georgian England* was published by Oxford in fall 2023.

12.25 - 12.55 MDT (18.25 - 18.55 GMT) - Feedback from Sessions and Conference Wrap up

12.55 - 13.05 MDT (18.55 - 19.05 GMT) - Thanks, Upcoming Events and Next Year's Conference