



Call for Proposals

31st Annual Jewish American & Holocaust Literature (JAHLit) Symposium

March 7-9, 2027 / New Orleans, LA

The Jewish American & Holocaust Literature (JAHLit) Symposium is an annual convening of scholars from a variety of disciplines and methodological backgrounds—from literary studies to film and new media. With a focus on professional community-building and sustained scholarly dialogue, JAHLit brings together a select group of participants, including graduate students, full-time faculty, emeriti academics, independent scholars, creative writers, and artists.

The 31st JAHLit Symposium begins on Sunday with a welcome lunch, afternoon sessions, and a keynote lecture by **Dr. Victoria Aarons**, followed by a dinner reception. Monday and Tuesday include morning and afternoon sessions with catered breakfasts and lunches provided.

In recognition of Dr. Victoria Aarons's foundational contributions to the field and to this symposium, this year we honor Dr. Aarons by prioritizing proposals related to the specific areas her publications and mentorship have most significantly shaped:

Jewish Graphic Novels and Comics

Post-Holocaust Intergenerational Memory

Gender and Embodiment in Jewish Literature

American Jewish Literature After 1945

Transnational Literary Approaches

To maximize the symposium's collaborative atmosphere, **participants are expected to attend the full program in person.**

Your proposal should include a heading and an abstract, following the instructions detailed below.

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026

Proposal Guidelines

HEADING

Begin with a heading that includes the following information:

- Proposed **title** for the paper/session
- **Type of proposal** (roundtable session, creative/alternative session, paper presentations session, individual paper presentation, or individual pre-circulated paper)
- 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 (or “independent scholar,” “artist,” etc.)

ABSTRACT (300–400 words)

Abstracts should clearly indicate:

- a) Primary **research questions**
- b) **Research focus** and **sources**
- c) Scholarly **rationale** and **significance**
- d) **Methods** or theoretical approaches
- e) Why the work will **interest scholars of Jewish American and Holocaust Literature**
- f) **Audio/visual needs** (a computer with projector and speakers will be available)

****For a Paper Presentations Session, include a title and abstract for the session as a whole, as well as a title and abstract for each individual paper.**

*****Full-session proposals should either include a chair/moderator in the proposal or request that the JAHLit program committee assign one to your session.**

******Accepted participants will be featured in a maximum of one session each, aside from potential chairing or moderating roles within other sessions.**

Session Formats

1) Roundtable Session

A moderated scholarly conversation between **3-4 participants**, centered on a shared theme or problem. Each participant should offer brief opening remarks (~5 minutes) followed by discussion of pre-circulated questions and 15-25 minutes of audience discussion. Your proposal must clarify the content and intellectual approach that each participant would specifically bring to the conversation in relation to the proposed session topic and in relation to this year's stated focus.

2) Creative / Alternative Session

We welcome proposals for innovative formats that maintain scholarly rigor while engaging literature, film, and other media. Examples might include conversations with writers or artists about their work, moderated discussions of creative works-in-progress, or other formats suited to the symposium's intellectual goals.

3) Paper Presentations Session

A pre-organized set of papers united by a shared theme or research question. Panels should include **3 presenters**, optionally with a designated chair and/or respondent, and should allow time for 15-25 minutes of audience discussion.

4) Individual Paper Presentation

A stand-alone, **15-minute** scholarly presentation based on original, relevant, and rigorous research, as well as a clear intellectual argument or intervention. Accepted papers will be organized into thematic panels by the program committee.

5) Individual Pre-Circulated Paper

This session type is for those seeking feedback and conversation around an in-progress essay, article, or book chapter. Those who choose this option must submit an **abstract of 300-400 words** (do not submit a full paper draft as your proposal). Your abstract should clearly indicate your sources, intended intervention, and methodology, as well as how a collective discussion of this paper will contribute to the intellectual atmosphere of the JAHLit symposium.

Those accepted for this option will be asked to submit **15–20 pages** of their paper to JAHLit's director at least **one month before the symposium**. The paper will then be circulated for accepted participants to read in advance.

During the session, the presenter will offer brief remarks (**5-10 minutes**) before engaging in moderated discussion with the audience.

Depending on timing and submissions, the program committee may group two papers together within one session; however, we will only be considering submissions on an individual basis.

Proposal Submission

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026

Submit proposals to: jahlitcontact@gmail.com

Registration

Registration details will be provided upon acceptance. Presenters must register for the symposium by the indicated date to appear on the program. The registration fee includes:

- Access to all symposium sessions/programs
- A catered lunch on Sunday
- A Sunday dinner-and-drinks reception
- Catered breakfasts and lunches on Monday and Tuesday

All provided meals will be “kosher-style.”

Financial Aid

A limited amount of financial assistance may be available for some graduate students, contingent faculty, and independent scholars/artists to help offset travel and registration costs. Should you require assistance to attend, be sure to explain your financial need within your proposal.

Expected Conduct

Participants are expected to abide by JAHLit’s Code of Conduct, which emphasizes respectful scholarly exchange and prohibits harassment or personal attacks. While participants may hold a wide range of perspectives, discussions should remain focused on the presented research and conducted with professionalism and intellectual openness. We will not tolerate intimidation, heckling, shouting down, blocking, or disrupting speakers or events. JAHLit’s Code of Conduct can be found here: <https://americanjewishexperience.org/jewish-american-holocaust-literature-symposium/policies/>

Lodging

Participants are responsible for booking their own travel and lodging. Hotel recommendations and block information will be shared with accepted participants.

Sponsorship

To ensure a vibrant, secure, 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. *Please note that sponsorship does not impact how participant proposals are evaluated.*

To discuss sponsorship opportunities or to offer a donation, please write to JAHLit’s director, Golan Moskowitz, at jahlitcontact@gmail.com, or send a paper check (**payable to: “Tulane Jewish Studies Department”; Memo line: “JAHLit Donation”**) to the following mailing address: **Golan Moskowitz / Department of Jewish Studies / Tulane University, 7031 Freret Street / New Orleans, LA 70118**