Contingent Faculty at the OAH 2022 Conference on American History, Boston

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At the 2022 OAH Conference on American History, scheduled for March 31-April 3 in Boston, CPACE will host three events. We encourage you to attend all three if you are in Boston. If you can attend only the virtual conference, the roundtables on teaching and on scholarship will be recorded and be available online for 90 days following the conference. We also urge you to register as soon as possible, making use of the discounted contingent faculty registration rate for either the in-person or virtual conference.

We invite you to the CPACE Caucus (Friday, April 1, 6:00-7:30pm), a gathering at the conference set aside specifically for contingent faculty. At this caucus meeting, CPACE will introduce updated Best Practices and a Bill of Rights for contingent faculty. This will be an opportunity for OAH contingent faculty to help shape the final version of these documents and plan how best to introduce these for use by departments, colleges/universities, and, most importantly, contingent faculty. This caucus also offers contingent faculty a chance to meet one another and help set priorities for the OAH.

Research and scholarship will be the focus of a second roundtable, built around the theme “Scholarly Work and the Work of Scholarship in an Age of Contingency” (Saturday, April 2, 12:00-1:30pm). Now that most historians work as contingent faculty, the viability of the teacher/scholar has been undermined. Contingent faculty receive little support for their scholarly work from the institutions where they teach, from professional associations, or from funders. How can contingent faculty be better supported as scholars? The roundtable will also ask: What does this transformation in the workforce mean for the state historical scholarship?

Finally, the roundtable on “Teaching in Precarity: Non-Tenure Track Faculty as Pedagogues” (Saturday, April 2, 3:30pm-5:00pm) will examine the gulf between adjunct professors’ employment conditions and their capacity for teaching excellence, with an eye towards how colleges, universities, and history departments can be more accountable to their faculty and their students. We know that adjunct professors often excel at teaching. But they often do so with minimal institutional support, at great personal expense, and with little of the security or pay. Panelists and attendees will discuss the support and conditions that contingent faculty need to thrive as teachers, providing students the education they deserve.

We look forward to seeing you at #OAH2022!