



2020 Call for Participation

The Gunnery invites you to share your place-based and primary-source research at our annual Rooted Research Conference: An Exploration of Heritage and History.

In 1850, Frederick Gunn established a school based on the belief that strength of character was the goal of education and that the “ideal school is set in the country, or, if in the city, the generous city fathers have afforded it liberal space with trees and flowers.” Grounding his educational philosophies in the natural landscapes of Washington, Conn., those same landscapes continue to inform our student learning and student research today.

Our own Gunn Scholars work diligently within The Gunnery’s archives, exploring the mission and vision of our founder through primary-source research and place-based learning. As humans, we are informed and educated by our surroundings, yet in an increasingly technological world, we find ourselves confronting the complexities and tensions between global engagement and rooted traditions.

This is a call for papers and presentations which utilize primary-source research focused expressly in and around the institutions we attend, connecting the threads of local experience.

For more on our school founder and both his mission and vision for a school, please see [“Reading, Writing, and the Great Outdoors: Frederick Gunn’s School Transforms Victorian-Era Education”](#) by Paula Gibson Krinsky.

We invite your proposals for panels, papers, posters, roundtables, performances and workshops related to our shared interests in primary-source and place-based research. **The deadline for proposals is January 20, 2020.** Proposals may be submitted at gunnscholar@gunnery.org.

The academic conference will take place at The Gunnery on **April 26, 2020** between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Previous Conference Highlights:

Mark Choi, History of Student Leadership at The Gunnery

Following up on an independent study in the spring of his junior year, Mark Choi researched student government from the school's inception when the founder called it "family meetings" to today's leadership initiatives on the part of the senior prefects. For comparison, he looked at a public school, a smaller Catholic high school, and another independent school. He was particularly interested in the impact of the adult/student relationships on the development and success of student leadership and the development of citizenship in the student body.

April O. Kelley, "We Dig History":

April O. Kelley, a science teacher and Academic Technology Coordinator at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall in Milford, presented "We Dig History" about a student-led archaeological program that led to the discovery of artifacts on the campus, which is a national historic landmark.

The Witness Stones Project:

In a roundtable discussion and presentation, students from the E.C. Adams Middle School in Guilford, Conn. shared their work as part of the Witness Stones Project. Inspired by the Stolpersteine Project in Berlin, these students used primary source documents to understand slavery in New England and honor enslaved individuals by creating engraved biographies.

Conference Site:

The academic conference will be hosted at The Gunnery in Washington, Conn., in the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center. For directions, you may [click on this link](#) for the Google Map of our campus, or use the following address: 99 Green Hill Road, Washington, CT 06793.

Parking will be available on campus. Lunch will be provided to all conference attendees and presenters.

Guidelines for Participation and Submission:

All proposals should be submitted via email to gunnscholar@gunnery.org. For more information about proposal formats, see the section below entitled "Proposal Requirements."

Participation Types:

- **Papers** are formal presentations of original and unpublished scholarly research that is analytical more than descriptive. Paper proposals are judged on their potential contributions to primary-source and place-based research and should be submitted by the presenter/lead-presenter. Co-authors sharing a presenter's fifteen-minute presentation time must be identified in the paper proposal.
- **Experiential presentations** are largely based in experiential knowledge and may discuss innovative community work that is being done in the region or connections and collaborations with organizations, groups, or movements that share a focus on place-based learning. Proposals should be submitted by the presenter/lead-presenter.
- **Panels** consist of individual and/or co-authored scholarly and/or experiential based presentations introduced by a convener. A panel is created, introduced, facilitated, and submitted by a convener OR organized by The Gunnery from individual proposals. Panels include up to three fifteen-minute papers or presentations on related topics plus a response.
- A **Poster** is a visual presentation of scholarly, community, or creative work. Proposals are submitted by the presenter/lead presenter. Poster stands will be provided; the maximum poster size permitted is 4'x4'. Presenters commit to attending the group poster session to engage attendees in a discussion of their poster topic. All participants in group poster presentations must be identified in poster proposals.
- A **Performance** session consists of individual and/or group performances of original creative work and is introduced by a convener. These sessions include film/documentary, literary, visual, and performing arts. Spatial, technical, and time requirements will be considered during the selection process. Copyright restrictions will be observed. Proposals are submitted by the presenter/lead presenter. All participants in group performances must be identified in performance proposals.
- A **Roundtable** consists of directed audience discussion on a topic of interest to the Gunn Scholar Academic Conference. Roundtables are organized, introduced, and facilitated by conveners. Roundtable proposals are submitted by their conveners. Participants contributing to the roundtable presentation are asked in advance to give brief remarks and must be identified in roundtable proposals.
- A **Workshop** consists of demonstrations and/or skill-building activities of interest to the Gunn Scholar Academic Conference. Workshops are organized, introduced, and facilitated by conveners. Spatial, technical, and time requirements will be considered during the selection process. Workshop proposals are submitted by the presenter/lead presenter. Participants asked in advance to contribute to workshops must be identified in workshop proposals.

Proposal Requirements:

Proposal submissions will require 1) an abstract or summary, submitted by either the presenter/lead presenter or the convener, 2) the contact information and biographical summary (50-75 words) for each participant, and 3) a notice of any special requirements (in terms of physical space or technology). If your proposal is accepted, the information you submit will be included in the conference program, so please use correct spelling and grammar, and avoid using all capital letters.

Please submit a 250-word abstract or summary presenting your research. This submission must:

- Introduce the work's purpose. What questions are you answering? Why are they significant?
- Describe the primary sources in your study and any specific methods used to analyze them.
- Share the results of your research. How does this work illustrate a connection to place that remains relevant beyond the borders of our institutions?
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of primary-source research and the role of place-based learning in a global society.