Indiana Association of Historians
CFP: Historical Intelligence

April 5-6, 2024
Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI)
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

The 44th annual meeting for the Indiana Association of Historians (IAH) will be held April 5-6, 2024 on the Indiana University campus in Indianapolis, IN. This year’s conference theme is “Historical Intelligence.” Most discussions about “intelligence” this past year have focused on “Artificial Intelligence.” But what about “Historical Intelligence?” How do we define “Historical Intelligence” and how do we use it?

The word “Intelligence” (n) can be defined as, “The ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills” and “The collection of information of military or political value.” When we think about “Historical Intelligence” we might ask, who are the people and communities that gather historical knowledge and how do they apply them? What are the physical spaces, landscapes, objects, or bodies from which we gather historical knowledge or upon which we apply meaning? What tools, technologies, and techniques do we use to acquire and/or disseminate historical knowledge? From what types of events, situations, relationships, and dynamics do we derive historical knowledge? Also, where do we draw distinctions between “military” and “civilian” activities or between the “political” and “personal” in our research?

Finally, what are the boundaries between “historical intelligence” and “artificial intelligence?” What aspects of historical work are distinctly human or currently need human effort? What aspects can currently be done by AI at this time? What does the future of historical research, interpretation, preservation, and teaching look like with the advent of artificial intelligence?

The IAH invites proposals for papers, panels, roundtables, lightning sessions, and working groups relating to any historical subject. We are particularly interested in papers exploring the theme of “Historical Intelligence.” We welcome submissions from college and university scholars, K-12 history educators, public historians, graduate students, and independent historians. All presenters must be present at the conference. Panels typically consist of three paper presenters, a chair, and an optional discussant. Each presenter should include a single-page paper proposal and an equally short CV. Please submit proposals (Preferably in Word or PDF) by December 15, 2023 to iah2024conference@gmail.com. Questions may be directed to Daniella Kostroun, President, at the above gmail address or at dkostrou@iupui.edu.

In addition to paying the conference fees, all participants must be members of the Indiana Association of Historians in good standing at the time of the conference. Membership dues are waived for students. Otherwise, they should be paid on the society’s website: https://indianahistorians.org/membership/#join