



Science History Institute

Museum & Library

2024 Gordon Cain Conference

Storytelling as Pedagogy: Historical Biographies in STEM and Social Studies

This Cain Conference will bring together scholars and practitioners of science education and public communication to explore how sharing stories of diverse scientists can help young girls and people of color see themselves as valuable contributors to science, historically and in the future. Organized by Cain Conference Fellow Sibrina Collins, the conference will take place at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia, PA on July 15 – July 16, 2024.

Connecting with people is at the heart of storytelling. Studies have shown that sharing a compelling story about someone who has made a new contribution, tool, or discovery may inspire a student to pursue their own career in a STEM field.ⁱ We invite proposals for presentations or panels that focus on writing, adapting, and teaching with historical scientific biographies and narratives in the context of different formats including:

- Course-based undergraduate research experiences (CURE)
- Discussion and/or laboratory courses in K-12 and higher education
- Large Lecture Courses (incl. flipped classroom formats)
- Asynchronous online courses and multimedia production
- Public Learning Environments (incl. churches, museums, and libraries)

We welcome proposals from educators, scholars, historians and biographers, editors and publishers, collections professionals, and others with a professional interest in the use of historical biographies in education.

Interested applicants should submit an abstract of no more than 300 words and brief autobiographical sketch (50-100 words). **Extended deadline: March 11, 2024.** Questions and submissions should be sent to biographies@sciencehistory.org.

For updates, please see our conference web page at <https://www.sciencehistory.org/visit/events/gordon-cain-conference-2024/>

ⁱ Collins, S.N. The importance of storytelling in chemical education. *Nat. Chem.* 13, 1–2 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41557-020-00617-7>