



## Seminars

To provide members with different options for productive conversations about scholarly topics, we are adding an experimental category for 2018: seminars. In 2018, the number of seminars will be limited and seminars will all occur on Sunday. In 2018, seminars are exempt from the policy that people can only propose one role. This means you can do a seminar and one other role at the conference, such as an open call paper, pre-constituted panel, workshop, or roundtable. Once we see how they work in 2018, we will decide whether to include them as a regular part of the schedule and in what number, and whether they will be included in the one-role policy.

Seminars are sessions in which nobody presents. Participants will have submitted short papers in advance and everyone will read each other's papers before the conference. The seminars will therefore function as a colloquium.

Each seminar will be led by one or two people. Seminar leaders will propose a topic by July 14<sup>th</sup> and be notified by August 1<sup>st</sup> if their topic has been accepted. That way, seminar leaders will know of their seminar obligation before proposing an open call paper, panel, workshop or roundtable.

Once members have received notification of their acceptance for papers, panels, workshops, and roundtables (in November), seminars will be advertised to members. This means that when you sign up to join a seminar you know whether you are also doing a paper or other presentation, and you are agreeing to stay at the conference until Sunday.

A maximum of 8 people will sign up as participants, with four slots reserved for graduate students, and ten more slots will be open to auditors.

Those signed up as participants will submit short (5-7 page) position papers (meaning papers approaching the topic thoughtfully, addressing certain aspects of the topic, not case studies, and not polished essays) by January 15<sup>th</sup>, before the program is finalized. If participants do not submit a paper, they will be cut from the seminar or shifted to an auditor position.

Participants and auditors are expected to read papers beforehand. Seminar leaders will read all papers and ideally comment on them. Seminar leaders will decide what they want participants to do pre-conference: they may simply read papers beforehand, or be assigned a particular paper to comment on, or work in pairs to draft discussion questions, or anything else that seems productive. Auditors will simply be expected to read papers.

In the seminar, leaders should ensure that all 8 participants speak, but should not go around the room and have them summarize their essay. Everyone in the room should have read it, so there is no need to do this. This is not a roundtable. Instead, the seminar should jump into the questions that have been developed ahead of time.

Seminar leaders should think creatively about the structure of the seminar. Would it be best to have small groups work during the seminar time on one issue and report back? Or ask small groups to prepare a short report developed ahead of time? Would it be best to ask participants to watch a shared text in advance and be prepared to engage that as a test case? Would it be best to have a group discussion of the issues developed before the conference?

To propose a seminar:

- 1) Send a 300 word description of your seminar topic with a justification for the topic and brief description of how you would like to run the seminar session. Your proposal should state clearly why this is an important seminar topic that will attract SCMS members.
- 2) In 100-200 words, describe your qualifications to lead this seminar.
- 3) List three to five relevant readings about your topic.
- 4) Submit your proposals through the SCMS website (link to be posted June 30) by the deadline, **Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:00PM CST**.