



CALL FOR PAPERS
For the 51st Annual Conference of
The Communal Studies Association
October 4-6, 2024
Ephrata Cloister, Ephrata, PA



“Sexuality and Community”

The deadline for submission of proposals is May 17, 2024

As long as there have been intentional communities there have been groups who challenge the status quo regarding sexuality, marriage and child rearing. Intentional communities have offered with varying success an alternative to monogamy and the nuclear family whether celibate for a time like the Zoar Separatists, or for life as the Ephrata Cloister, the Shakers or the Harmonists, adopting some form of polygamy or free love like the early Latter Day Saints, Oneida, and Kerista, or some other practice in opposition to societal norms. Papers at this year’s conference could explore any of the historical or current challenges in the realm of sexuality or child rearing, offer insights into the impact these experiments had on broader societal norms, or analyze why some of these attempts failed and were abandoned.

As always, we are also interested in proposals that concern any other topic about intentional communities. **Please feel free to submit proposals on any aspect of communalism or intentional communities.**

Please submit your proposals for individual papers or whole sessions via the website submission portal (www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference). Please include an abstract of 150 words maximum describing your presentation and/or session. Also, please include your biographical statement of 100 words maximum. For information please contact Program Chair Cheryl Coulthard, cheryllcoulthard@gmail.com. ***All presenters will be notified of their acceptance by email by July 1, 2024.*** A limited amount of financial support is available for graduate student assistance. If applicable, please indicate your interest with your on-line proposal submission. Successful scholarship applicants will be notified of financial support by email by August 2024.

The Communal Studies Association is an interdisciplinary organization for people living in intentional communities, historic site personnel and academics representing topics including history, anthropology, religious studies, sociology, political science, and others. The CSA’s annual conference is often held at the site of an historic intentional community or other relevant venues. For more information about the organization, see our website www.communalstudies.org.