

Call for Panel Proposals

Due March 31, 2020

Please note NonfictionNOW is different from other conferences in that it seeks collective panel proposals rather than individual papers. The process for finding panel members is set out below, as is the second call for roundtables, so please read through the entire CFP – this adds a layer of complexity but results in a very rewarding outcome. See also the final note on travel to New Zealand.

We invite you to join us in New Zealand in 2020 to celebrate the return of NonfictionNOW to the Asia Pacific region. We are now seeking panel proposals for the conference, proudly hosted by Massey University and held at the Te Papa Tongarewa, the stunning harbour-side [Museum of New Zealand](#). We warmly welcome participants and audiences from all over the globe to engage with and bring new ideas to our conversations. We are excited to have [Ngahuia Te Awekotuku](#) and [Mary Cappello](#) confirmed as keynote speakers, with more announcements to come.

This celebrated bi-annual international event is unique: this isn't a conventional academic conference nor a writers' festival, but a lively conversation among peers. NonfictionNOW brings together well-established writers and those just starting out. **We are especially interested in proposals for sessions that defy the expectations and/or subvert the format of the traditional conference or festival panel, as well as those that include a diverse group of participants, reflecting the inclusive and international nature of this gathering.**

Many NonfictionNOW panels are lively, discursive, playful, and interactive events, as opposed to the reading of a succession of individual papers. We are enthusiastic about the great energy and range present in all of nonfiction's many forms, including literary and political essays; memoir and journalism; digital media, graphic memoirs, and hybrid essays; performance-based work; ecological writing; podcasts; and other areas of the field. We hope to receive great proposals exploring the many different shapes of nonfiction, with variety and diversity serving to enlarge both the conversation and the nonfiction community.

PANEL PROPOSALS

[Submissions](#) are due March 31, 2020. All submissions must include a panel description (150 words or less, written as it should appear in the program, if accepted), a statement of merit (150 words or less), and the complete contact information for a minimum of three, and up to five, contacted and pre-selected panel participants, including a program-ready bio of 50 words or less for each participant. The statement of merit might cover the significance of the panel, the credentials of the panelists, relevance to the forum, etc. We also ask that people provide information about any technical needs (not all of which we can promise to meet). After panel acceptances are announced, we then encourage further meetups on [our Facebook page](#) so that panels with vacancies can fill their open spots.

The [NonfictioNOW Board](#) is a rotating group of writers and academics from around the world. Panel submissions will be assessed in a timely fashion by the Board, with every effort made to have final panels confirmed by 15th May, 2020.

SECOND CALL FOR ROUNDTABLE PROPOSALS: After panel acceptances go out, we will immediately open up a second call for proposals to formally participate in the conference outside of panels (due 15 June). In Reykjavik in 2017 and Phoenix in 2018, this took the form of roundtable presentations (in Icelandic, húslestur, or "house readings"). For this region it might be appropriate to call these open discussions 'hui' or 'talanoa'. The conference will host multiple sessions of these hui or talanoa, creating another avenue for participation and conversation among participants and potential presenters. More information will be forthcoming on topics and formats. Preference will be given to panel applicants who aren't confirmed for panels.

Indicative Topics/Formats:

The following list is a starting place for brainstorming and conversation, not an exclusive expression of the conference's interests. We hope and expect that many proposals will go far beyond the topics and formats listed here, offering to bring new areas of inquiry and exploration to this year's NonfictioNOW:

- nonfiction genres and their boundaries and tensions, including but not limited to: essay (personal, narrative, lyric, collage, interdisciplinary, etc.); memoir; immersion writing; history; biography; long-form journalism; curatorial writing, travel writing; food writing; nonfiction poetry; environmental and science writing; sports writing; hybrids of fiction and nonfiction; and poetry.
- Māori, Pasifika, and Indigenous approaches to writing form, genre & content
- intersections of self and other, genders, race, and sexualities in nonfiction
- for 2020, we are especially interested in receiving panel proposals that address writing about pressing contemporary issues and concerns, including the climate crisis and ecological impact, writing the Anthropocene, and the legacies of colonialism, war, and mass human displacements.
- presentation of/discussions about non-traditional and/or supra-literary forms of nonfiction, including but not limited to: performance, documentary, radio, video, hypertext, programmable media, exhibitions, and graphic forms
- regional, national, and/or international characteristics and issues that are expressed through nonfiction genres
- threads of influence, style, and discourse, with a focus on important authors or on historical/cultural/theoretical trends

Additional Notes:

- Individuals may submit for up to three panel proposals and may ultimately present on two panels. If all three proposals are accepted, they will have to drop off one of them.
- Proposed panel should not have been presented at AWP or at a previous NonfictioNOW.
- We encourage meetups and calls for expressions of interest on Facebook's [NonfictioNOW](#) page so that people without a panel can find one and potential like-minded fellow panelists with whom to develop a proposal.
- To help facilitate international diversity, we will give preference to panels with three to four participants that indicate their willingness to include additional panelists. After panel acceptances are announced, we then encourage further meetups on our Facebook page so that panels with vacancies can fill their open spots.
- As indicated, the idea of a 'panel' is broadly conceived. However, final panels will usually work within the following parameters: be assigned a 75 minute timeslot, have between 3 and 5 participants, be presented/staged within a regular conference room (though we're always happy to consider an exception for an exciting panel).
- It is the role of each panel chair to finalize, confirm, and coordinate their panel, as well as provide any necessary additional information for the conference program.
- The conference cannot fund presenters, but we will provide travel tips to make the trip more affordable. Please refer to the [website](#), which has information about location, itineraries etc.

We look forward to reading your panel proposals and beginning another great NonfictioNOW conversation

Proposal Submission: Panels should be submitted using the form online [here](#).

TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND:

Please note you should plan to arrive in New Zealand at least one full day before the conference begins, in order to allow for travel fatigue and the possibility of delayed connections. We also intend to organise regional activities for the day before the conference starts. Booking travel and accommodation early can mean better rates. Please ensure you plan to attend all three days of the conference. A FAQ and logistics for traveling will be added to the [website here](#).