

Open Call for Paper and Project Proposals:

Environmental Humanities Congress-In-Place:

The Dunes, the Lakes, and the Calumet

Chesterton, Indiana

June 19-22, 2025

We are pleased to announce the general call for project proposals to the *Environmental Humanities Congress-in-Place*. This is an opportunity to share and discuss your work at this unique four-day event, June 19-22 on the southern shores of Lake Michigan. The Graduate Student Paper Competition application process, which has just closed, was very successful, so we are genuinely excited about the diverse projects and energy graduate student researchers will bring to the Congress. We now ask all interested researchers—faculty, independent scholars, environmental professionals, community leaders—to submit project proposals to present at this event. The theme of the Congress is “Wonder and Contradiction.”

The deadline for your proposals (a 300-500 word abstract) is **February 1, 2025**. Given the diversity of approaches to the environmental humanities, we are accepting presentation proposals in as many styles, formats and modalities as can reasonably be accommodated. We encourage region-focused themes given the place-based nature of this event, but we welcome your ongoing research projects as well. Panel, roundtable, exhibition, performance, and discussion formats will be set up to encourage sharing, discussion, and collaboration.

[Please see this link](#) for details and updates. Questions may be directed to John Arthos (jarthos@iu.edu), or you may simply submit your proposal abstract to him.

You will know folks who might be interested in participating, so please share this call widely.



Beverly Shores, summer 2024, John Arthos, photographer

We are extremely excited about the event schedule for the Congress as it is falling into place. Event highlights include:

- The Congress will ‘walk’ up the lake over the course of the weekend, meeting for keynotes and special sessions in the historic pavilions, centers, and parks of the Dunes region.
- Todd Thompson, who wrote the Indiana Geological and Water Survey, and Erin Argyilan, a well-known specialist in the ecology of the Dunes and Lake, will lead us on a bus tour through the region, back into its immense geological history, its famously diverse ecologies, and its storied cultural and political struggles.
- Community leaders from First Nation peoples for whom this place-on-earth is home will regale us with stories of the lakes, marshes, foliage and wildlife, and take us on a walk-and-talk through the Miller Woods.
- Other planned events include a fire circle summit, a guided tour of Mount Baldy, and a visit to the Century of Progress homes on Lake Michigan.
- A [tremendous lineup of keynote speakers](#) with expertise on this region and its ecology

All the very best, and we are looking forward to your participation,

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Indiana University

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