

Society of Early Americanists Policy on Affiliate Organizations

The SEA seeks to establish and maintain affiliations with other scholarly organizations as a means of cultivating inter-disciplinary exchange and cooperation. Affiliate organizations shall be listed on the SEA website and in SEA biennial conference programs. In the programs, panels sponsored by affiliates will be so identified.

Affiliations shall be of three types: 1) affiliations from the SEA; 2) reciprocal affiliations; and 3) affiliations to the SEA.

In the first category, the SEA itself is an affiliate of the American Literature Association, as enshrined in the SEA constitution of 1992. The SEA sponsors at least one panel at the annual ALA conference, and may also hold business meetings at the ALA (as well as at its own yearly conferences). Likewise, the SEA is an affiliate of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) and sponsors (two or three) panels at annual ASECS meetings. The SEA is also indirectly an affiliate of the Modern Language Association, inasmuch as the journal *Early American Literature* is linked to the MLA Divisional Executive Committee on American Literature to 1800 [soon to be renamed the “Forum on American Literature to 1800”], and the Divisional Executive Committee consults on appointments to the *EAL* editorial board.

In the second category, the SEA is affiliated with other scholarly organizations of roughly the same size and scope, and exchanges panels at one another’s annual or biennial conferences. Currently, we have an affiliation with the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE).

In the third category, the SEA welcomes the affiliation of smaller or more specialized scholarly societies in the Early American field. These affiliate societies will sponsor dedicated panels at the SEA biennial conferences.

Affiliate Liaisons:

For an affiliation to function smoothly, it is essential to have a liaison, who is a member in good standing of both organizations and can communicate with program committees and officers in each.

In the first category, the SEA shall designate a member in good standing to serve as liaison to the larger organization. The member shall attend the meeting of that organization and coordinate or solicit proposals for the SEA-sponsored panel(s) at that meeting.

In the second category, a member in good standing of both organizations shall be jointly selected by the SEA and the affiliate as a liaison.

In the third category, the affiliate organization to the SEA shall designate a member who shall organize and/or chair panels sponsored by the organization at the SEA biennial meeting.

Designated Conference Panels:

In creating an affiliation to the SEA, or a reciprocal affiliation, the SEA commits to host a panel sponsored by the affiliate at the SEA biennial conference. This commitment does not extend to the “even-year” or thematic conferences nor to the smaller workshop events. Moreover, in the event that the SEA jointly sponsors its biennial conference, as in 2015 with the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, the joint program committee shall be free to promulgate different policies for panel submissions.

The affiliate liaisons in categories 2) and 3) shall be responsible for circulating a CFP for an affiliate-sponsored panel, with title and format, selecting the presenters, and submitting materials to the SEA conference program committee by the proposal deadline. These panels should be complete with three or more participants, and all participants will have to be SEA members and pay conference registration fees. For reciprocal affiliations, the SEA expects the affiliate organization to extend the same courtesy of a dedicated panel, to the SEA, and to recognize the SEA liaison’s role in organizing and submitting this panel.

Apart from ongoing affiliate relationships, conference panel proposals may be submitted by a journal editor or officer of a scholarly or historical society, for a panel sponsored by that entity, at a particular conference.

To request Affiliate status: To commence a new affiliation, the President of the requesting organization should submit the following materials, ideally electronically, to the SEA leadership:

- a brief rationale for why the organization is seeking affiliate status, including the mutual areas of interests of SEA and the requesting organization;
- a brief overview of the organization, including the number of current members, date founded, website address, sponsored publications (such as a newsletter or journal), and any other affiliated organizations;
- the name, contact information, and proposed term length (minimum two years) of the affiliate liaison. This liaison will correspond with the SEA on all matters regarding the affiliation, including announcing CFPs, confirming conference participation, (as outlined above) and requesting affiliate renewal.

Review of Affiliate status: For organizations wishing to initiate affiliate status with SEA: your request will be evaluated by the Executive Coordinator, Vice-President, and President, and notification of affiliate status will be returned within a month.

For organizations already affiliated with the SEA, the affiliation will be reviewed every six years. Organizations that are due to be reviewed will be notified at least six months in advance and may be asked to submit the following materials electronically:

- a brief description and analysis of the organization's activities since the last review,
- name, contact information, and proposed term length (minimum two years) of the

affiliate liaison,

- figures documenting the stability or growth of its membership, and
- a summary of the organization's presence and activities at SEA conferences, including title(s) of panels, number of presenters, and any other relevant materials.

Affiliate renewals will be evaluated by the Executive Coordinator, Vice-President, and President, and notification of affiliate status will be returned within a month.