

Portland, Oregon

September 29 – October 3, 2004

## **“Telling Stories: Narratives of Our Own Times”**

The Oral History Association of the U.S. will hold its 2004 annual meeting September 29 – October 3, 2004, at the Hilton & Executive Tower, Portland, Oregon. “Telling Stories,” the conference theme, invokes both the practice of oral history and the unique ability of oral history to capture stories that are especially revealing and meaningful. The present historical moment lends an especial urgency to this call. While recent events suggest histories of conflict, change and rupture, the practice of oral history offers the possibility of bridging differences, finding commonalities, and tracing continuity. Turning lives into stories can help individuals and communities negotiate wrenching social and economic changes and undermine hierarchies of power and dominance.

*Among the topics are:*

- globalization, new forms of labor, the nature of work, education, and knowledge
- the building of, and conflicts surrounding, imperial states, past and present
- transformations of local economies, cultures, and environments
- migrations: local, regional, national, and international
- new forms of social and political protest, including antiwar movements
- farm labor, culture and agriculture
- the relationship of the arts to social, political, and cultural changes
- corporate behavior and misbehavior, and the responsibilities of business
- new diseases and crises of health and safety.

- how narratives of democracy and dissent shape political practice
- how telling stories across generations creates a usable past
- how oral history reveals the connections between populations and processes
- the role of emotion in oral history, including humor and irony, pain and trauma
- the theoretical and methodological issues involved in recording an oral history of events
- the histories, cultures, and struggles of the region's native peoples
- local and regional industries, from logging to high tech to wine-making
- land, water, and the environment
- regional developments in art, music, and culture
- the connections between the United States and Asia.

The Annual Meeting will bring together scholars, teachers, students, museum professionals, public historians, activists, filmmakers, radio documentarians, photographers, and journalists. It will include customary panel format as well as workshops, poster sessions, media and performance-oriented sessions, and off-site sessions.

For information:

[www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/org\\_cfp.html](http://www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/org_cfp.html)