



CALL FOR PAPERS
for the 54th Annual Conference of
The Communal Studies Association



October 7-9, 2027

Lost Valley Education Center, Dexter, OR

“Communities as Incubators and Catalysts of Social Change”

The deadline for submission of proposals is May 21, 2027

While some intentional communities consider themselves islands, many others aspire to help change the wider world, whether through simple example or through active intervention. Many are sites of experimentation, exploration, innovation, and educational outreach—often focusing on new or cutting-edge ways of relating, living, sharing, or contributing to others. Intentional communities have originated and elevated alternative philosophies, technologies, social arrangements, family and relationship models, self-expression modalities, spiritualities, self-governance structures, as well as innovative approaches to economics, education, food cultivation, land reinhabitation, personal growth, communication, social justice work, political action, service, and more. All of these contribute, in ways obvious and subtle, to wider social change.

We are seeking papers, presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions concerning **intentional communities as incubators and catalysts of social change**. What examples, historical and/or contemporary, have you encountered? If you're a communitarian, what examples have you participated in or witnessed?

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

Lost Valley Education Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located on 87 acres of forest, meadows, gardens, orchards, and creek in Dexter, Oregon, 18 miles southeast of Eugene. Lost Valley takes a holistic approach to sustainability education, engaging students in ecological, social, and personal growth. It is also a community land trust and home to an intentional community, **Meadowsong Ecovillage**, that provides affordable housing and access to land for ecological living and rural community development. The community uses a system of governance that is inspired by Sociocracy, and seeks to build a culture of inclusion, equity, nonviolent communication, and authentic expression, while achieving the mission of the nonprofit. The community is comprised of resident staff, other renters, and volunteers, with a full-time population of approximately 60. Since 1989, Lost Valley has been a place for experiential learning through participation in community development, formalized educational programs, and volunteer opportunities. (See lostvalley.org.)

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 Chairs Chris Roth and Kara Huntermoon, editor@gen-us.net and karahuntermoon@gmail.com. **All presenters will be notified of their acceptance by email by July 1, 2027.** A limited number of scholarships is available to support attendance. If applicable, please indicate your interest with your online proposal submission. Successful scholarship applicants will be notified of financial support by email by August 2027.

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; this year's is the first in many decades to be held at the site of a present-day intentional community. For more information about the organization, see our website www.communalstudies.org.