

Association for the Study of Women and Mythology

Conference Call for Proposals

April 8-10, 2027, Wyndham Hotel Philadelphia PA Historic District

"Wisdom in the Thin Places: Thinking and talking about the liminal"

Our conference will provide the opportunity to explore how mythologies and cosmologies encode liminal knowledge as a means for navigating transition and transformation. Liminal knowledge arises from experiencing the "in-between" states, those dynamic, relational spaces where realities connect. Across cultures past and present, liminality provides an entry point to understanding sacred stories about women and cultivating meanings for living on Earth. Oracles, labyrinths, dreamwork, sacred ceremonies and rituals, astronomy, weaving, divination, dance, and related practices become sources of cultural knowledge. Stories of the "in-between" emerge as a way of knowing and situating oneself within a mythological ecosystem of human and more-than-human relationships. We will include such questions as:

How is liminal knowledge created, absorbed, and passed on?

What roles do women, goddesses, and sacred feminine figures play as agents, guides, and mediators of the liminal?

How is liminality embodied and enacted?

How does liminal experience produce, transform, or destabilize identity?

How have different cultures engaged liminal practices as methodological tools for creating and sustaining knowledge?

How do humans use liminal practices, rituals, ceremonies, and protocols to navigate change and strengthen community and ancestral relations?

Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Temporal: twilights, cycles, eclipses, and seasons**
- **Spatial: thresholds, portals, gates, and borderlands**
- **Status: gender, marginalized, and shapeshifting**

- **Ecosystems: shorelines, riverbanks, marshes, lava spouts, mycelium networks, springs, and cave entrances**
- **Celestial myths, Underworld/Netherworld/Otherworld myths, and myths concerning the "betwixt and between" worlds**
- **Archeology, archeoastronomy, and archaeomythology**
- **Women's traditional sacred roles and practices like midwifery and birth doulas, oracles and priestesses, death / grief doulas and lamenters, weavers, and witches and healers**
- **Liminal practices as resistance, resilience, and/or remembrance**
- **Liminal methodologies as tools to reinforce, transgress, and renegotiate**
- **Liminal as lived, embodied, and enacted in rites of passage, arts, and rituals**
- **Transformation encoded in liminal experiences**
- **Indigenous knowledge and creators**
- **Negative impact of patriarchal thinking on accessing liminal knowledge and experiences**
- **Interaction between contemplative practices and liminality**
- **Liminal realms, including labyrinths and dream work**
- **Kinship, community, and ancestral relations**
- **More-than-human animal kin**
- **Liminal, paradoxical, and ambiguous goddesses**

We especially encourage proposals from First Nations women of the Americas; Indigenous women, internationally; and women of color.

We are seeking proposals for papers, panels,workshops, and posters. Proposal abstracts (no longer than 250 words) and a short (70 words or fewer) bio for each. Papers and posters to be submitted on this form; or use forms for Workshops and Panels. All submissions must be received by *December 15th* at 11:59 pm EST.