

# Symposium overview

## Textile Society of America

### 2024 Symposium

Shifts and Strands: Rethinking the Possibilities and Potentials of Textiles

**Date: November 12-17, 2024**

**Modality: Virtual on Zoom**

### Theme & Mission

The theme “Shifts and Strands: Rethinking the Possibilities and Potentials of Textiles” invites us to reflect on the many exciting shifts in textiles as historical and contemporary, cultural, creative, scholarly, political, discursive, and scientific practices. “Shifts” suggests transition, movement, evolution, mutability, instability, uncertainty, experimentation, and being in-progress or in-process. “Shifts” also reaffirms an ongoing process of transformation and change within the Textile Society of America. “Strands” is a textile metaphor that implies intertwining, connectedness, plurality, and multiple parts coming together to form a larger whole. “Strands” is a metaphor for collaboration, joining, and community. The Symposium theme is deliberately open, fluid, and inviting—it invites us to reflect upon the past and to envision and create collective, equitable, sustainable, and emancipatory futures.

Building on TSA's 2022 and 2023 Colloquium series, the Symposium will create spaces to decenter dominant and sometimes-oppressive discourses and frameworks of knowledge; to celebrate the plurality of textiles and textile cultures; and share and uplift

caring, equitable, decolonial, and sustainable practices and models grounded in anti-racism, equity, and accessibility. Concepts and keywords that have informed our thinking include: ruptures, repair, healing, care, sustainability, regeneration, rematriation, abolition, textile processes, being in-process, materialities, interstices, emergence, research, citation, knowledges, honoring, ancestors, teaching, mentorship, nurturing, sharing, futurity, collaboration, innovation, science and community building.

The 2024 Symposium will respond and contribute to developments in textiles while also reflecting TSA's internal work. The Symposium is grounded in TSA's ongoing anti-racism, equity, and accessibility work as its highest organizational priority. It is being shaped in line with TSA's Mission:

Building a foundation of anti-racism and a culture of care, the mission of the Textile Society of America is to foster an international collective community—diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible—for the exchange and dissemination of knowledges and experiences about textiles worldwide.

Importantly, the Symposium will highlight the work of our members, and create opportunities for TSA members to connect with each other and share their research, art, scholarship, projects, and ideas.

## About the 2024 Symposium Logo

The logo was conceived and designed by designer and illustrator Vitheavy Barton, who explains her inspirations and thinking behind the logo design: "Similar to the way a multitude of strands are woven together to create a larger textile, people from around the globe will be converging at the 2024 TSA symposium, *Shifts & Strands: Rethinking the Possibilities and Potentials of Textiles*. This idea of connectedness and diversity, both in people and in textiles, was the main inspiration for the logo design. Themes about textiles—how they carry the past, are ever-changing, and show infinite potential—inspired the flowing curves in the logo. Multicolored, wavy lines come together as one, share with each other their past experience, and branch out into an endless future."

## Sessions & Experience

The Symposium will feature a broad range of sessions including the presentation of research, scholarship, and science, artist presentations, keynote lectures, panel discussions, roundtable conversations, "warp speed" and poster sessions, and mentorship and professional development sessions. It will also see the return of TSA member-focused events like the Awards Ceremony, Members' Meeting, and virtual lunches and social gatherings.

Sessions will be scheduled across international time zones to reflect TSA's reach as an international organization and better support participation by our global community. Global participation is a priority, and we also recognize that many in our community will be closely following the US elections in November 2024. Holding the Symposium after the US elections will also allow TSA to add "up to the minute" sessions in response to the election and other geopolitical events, so that TSA can provide space for community and coming together.

The Symposium will be held over five days, with sessions distributed over an additional day as compared to past Symposia. This will provide open blocks in the schedule and enable participants to watch session recordings, network, and socialize. One of TSA's objectives for the 2024 Symposium is to expand access to all sessions and increase social interactions among participants. The Symposium will be held using the Whova digital event platform and app. Participants will be able to attend any scheduled session and easily move from one concurrently scheduled session to another. It will be easier than ever to navigate the program of events, create a personalized schedule of sessions to attend, and view session descriptions and speaker bios. Participants can join sessions on their mobile devices, tablets, and laptops. Sessions will be recorded, and registered participants will have access to recordings during the Symposium and for 90 days afterward. Whova has excellent social networking and discussion capabilities, with functions that encourage participants to find and connect with one

another based on similar interests, chat one-on-one, and create discussion groups and forums.

In line with TSA's Mission and accessibility work, information about the Symposium published on the TSA website and the Whova platform will be available for download as accessible PDF documents. (Accessible PDFs prioritize user experience with features designed to visually aid individuals with disabilities.) All Symposium sessions and events will have live captioning or auto-generated captions. Individual paper presentations will be available in advance to registered participants as accessible PDFs, and TSA will make every effort to ensure that visual materials presented at the Symposium have image descriptions.

Papers and presentations will be published in 2025 in the open-access *Symposium Proceedings*, with select scholarly papers published in a special issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Textile Design, Research and Practice*. The *Symposium Proceedings* will be published as accessible PDFs.

View the Call for Participation here:

<https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/symposia/symposium-2024-shifts-and-strands/call-for-participation>

## Get involved!

TSA is a volunteer organization and the Symposium relies on the participation of our global textile community. Join us in helping to shape the Symposium!

There are multiple ways to participate and help support the Symposium:

- Read the Call for Participation and plan to submit a proposal:  
<https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/symposia/symposium-2024-shifts-and-strands/call-for-participation>
- Read and review submitted abstracts and proposals:  
<https://forms.gle/bBD4Nrhofar2nBXc6>

- Receive mentorship and feedback on a proposal or idea to submit in response to the Call for Participation: <https://forms.gle/6ZxCZcgd21Ed9pbj8>
- Be a mentor to help emerging or first-time participants craft their proposals in response to the Call for Participation: <https://forms.gle/wRxvJP2AAddfK8R77>

Not sure how to get involved, or want more information?

<https://forms.gle/icccSSCbgj9Ghb6V6>

## Support

TSA is primarily supported by our members. We recently introduced a sliding scale for membership fees to make joining TSA much more affordable and allow for more equitable and robust participation. TSA relies on donations to balance our finances. If you're able to give at any amount, we would appreciate your support in bringing the symposium to our community!

- Donate to support the Symposium (scholarships, fee waivers, programming)  
<https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/contribute>

We look forward to hearing from you!

Isaac Facio, President

Dr. Sharbreon Plummer, co-Vice President / President-Elect

Dr. L Vinebaum, Symposia Academic Chair and co-Vice President

on behalf of the TSA Board, staff, and the Symposium working group

<https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/about-us/board-staff>

## More information

Please email any questions and inquiries to <[info@textilesocietyofamerica.org](mailto:info@textilesocietyofamerica.org)>