The organizers of NASSR 2019 in Chicago (August 8–11, 2019) invite your proposals for papers and sessions on the conference theme of “Romantic Elements.” The operative definition of “element” in the Romantic age (as given in Johnson’s Dictionary) points at once to contradictory meanings: to constitute a foundational part or first principle and to compound from these same parts in such a way as to unleash their combinatory potential. We summon “Romantic elements” both as an indication of our renewed attention to matters of style and form (and a question about what to do with it) and as a token of the long history of defining the essential characteristics of a period that is also a historical, generic, and affective disposition. We ask once again, what are the elements of Romanticism? What are its core principles, properties, and characteristics? Its forms and substances and material bases? Its maths and geometries, its natures and its laboratories? How might we recover and summon Romanticism’s elements of thoughts and feeling, and how should we address or preserve its discordant elements? How can we conceive of or practice a more elemental Romanticism, or one more out in the elements? Join us in the Windy City, the City by the Lake, the terra-cotta birthplace of the skyscraper, the site of the Great Chicago Fire, as we element Romanticism anew.

Please submit all proposals to the conference email: nassrchicago2019@gmail.com. Proposals for standard papers should be 300 words in length and include your name, affiliation, and preferred email address. Proposals for complete sessions should include the same information for all participants along with the name of the chair/organizer and a brief rationale for the session. The deadline for submissions is January 11, 2019.

Lead organizers:
Timothy Campbell (University of Chicago) and Mark Canuel (University of Illinois at Chicago)

For further details and ongoing updates, see the conference website: <nassrchicago2019.wordpress.com>. 