“Examining the American Experience”

An Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Graduate Conference

Thursday, October 3rd and Friday, October 4th, 2019

Bryant Conference Center

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Indigenous peoples. Puritans. Salem Witch Trials. Revolutionary War. Slavery. Suffrage. Civil War. Jim Crow. Civil Rights. Internment Camps. Stonewall Riots. 9/11. Trump’s America. These are but a few of the populations, events, and movements that comprise the American Experience. Like the disciplinary approaches to scholarship on culture, the experiences of what it means to interact with America(ness) as an identity or positionality vary in great number. Thus, the theme of this year’s conference, “Examining the American Experience,” is meant to inspire work on the notion of how one’s various facets of identity affect the experiences one has in American society. There is no right or wrong approach and no hierarchy of prominence within cultural studies scholarship (unlike in American society at-large).

The graduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences at The University of Alabama (particularly the Departments of American Studies, Art & Art History, English, Gender & Race Studies, and Religious Studies) invite proposals from graduate student scholars across all time periods that can be creatively related to the overarching idea of “American Experience,” while keeping in mind that the term “American” can be widely interpreted and is not merely linked to one hegemonic identity to the discounting of all others (quite the contrary). In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of cultural studies, the Program Committee welcomes proposals from fields including, but not limited to, art and media studies (visual, audio, and performance), literature, history, gender & sexuality studies, race & ethnic studies, music, environmental studies, and disability studies.

The intention of this conference is to provide an opportunity for rising scholars to share their work and meet others in a welcoming environment. Begun last year in 2018 as an American Studies graduate conference, this second annual conference hopes to broaden our respective academic networks and create a collegial atmosphere of scholarship and creative energies.

In an effort to allow for such opportunities, the conference will begin on Thursday, October 3rd, with potential panels that day and a guest keynote speakers in the evening. Presentation will continue again on Friday, October 4th, between 8am-7pm (final schedule will be determined after submission deadline has passed). The Program Committee will accept proposals for individual presentations (20 minutes), panels with no more than four presentations (20 minutes each), as well as poster presentations (arranged thematically). Proposals should include a paper title, 300-word abstract, a 100-word bio, and include any audio-visual requirements for your presentation. Proposals for panels include a 150-word abstract explaining the purpose of the panel, including individual proposal statements, bios and any audio-visual requirements.

**Proposals will be accepted through September 3rd.** The final program will be sent out and guest registration will also open in early September. All proposal materials should be emailed to **uaamsconference@gmail.com**. Any questions can be directed to that email address.

Please help us spread the word by sharing this conference with colleagues, classmates, and fellow scholars.

2019 Cultural Studies Graduate Conference Committee: Jeffrey Jones (Chair, Department of American Studies), Kathryn Bornhoft (Department of Art and Art History), Cheryl Garrett (Department of English), Keeley McMurray (Department of Religious Studies), Chynna Swann (Department of Gender & Race Studies), and Nicole Stevens (Department of Gender & Race Studies).