

Intersections of Identities: Difference and Coalition in a Transnational Context

The Ray Browne Conference on Cultural and Critical Studies

March 17-19, 2017

To be held at Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, OH

Featured keynote speakers include Staceyann Chin and Laurenn McCubbin

“All oppression is connected.” – Staceyann Chin

The socially constructed concepts of difference and coalition shape global approaches to violence, healing, discrimination, and community building. These two seemingly different concepts appear in global news media when reports cover stories such as the Black Lives Matter protests, wherein activists form alliances to confront racial differences. Difference shapes transnational relationships and determines demographic trends. By contrast, coalition and community building activism such as the Dakota Access Pipeline protests have the potential to dismantle foundations and effect positive change. Critically investigating how difference and coalitions function enable global citizens and transnational scholars to understand how identity is constructed, maintained, and categorized hierarchically.

Stories heard and unheard about (political acts of) violence against people with multiple intersecting identities are a depressingly everyday occurrence only exacerbated by the rise of hate groups like the alt-right. Incidents like the Pulse Nightclub shootings remind us that oppression and hate are capable of rending divisions in American culture. Additionally, the struggles in Aleppo, Syria and Mosul, Iraq illustrate how difference impacts transnational relationships and prevents coalition. Privilege penetrates national boundaries, influencing socioeconomic and political identities, creating an *us vs. them* binary.

This year’s conference theme draws on multiple perspectives of difference and coalition, as well as how we write about, discuss, and even experience them. We invite scholarship that addresses how discourses of difference and strategies of coalition shape our worldview and effect change in the broadest sense transnational popular cultures, news media, economies, politics, histories, families, and homes. Submissions are welcome in, but not limited to, the below listed subject areas.

Abstracts of no more than **300 words** should be submitted to bgsu.edu/raybrowne. Panels, roundtables, performances, posters, artistic displays, and other non-traditional session proposals are welcome and should include a 300-word abstract and name, email, phone number, and institutional affiliation for all participants.

Abstracts should be submitted no later than December 23, 2016.

The fourth annual *Ray Browne Conference on Cultural and Critical Studies* is co-sponsored by Culture Club: Cultural Studies Scholars' Association and Popular Culture Scholars Association within the School of Cultural and Critical Studies at Bowling Green State University.

Subject Areas: Subject area listings are suggestions only. All papers will be considered for conference acceptance regardless of subject area or topic. If you have a paper you wish to submit, but do not feel it fits within any of the subject areas listed below, please choose [Other] on the submission site.

Media – Film, television, video games, music and music videos, news, comic books, literature, social media, fan fiction, humor.

Identity – Gender, race, ethnicity, disability, Deaf culture, sexuality, immigration status, religion, nationality, language, politics, transnationality, postcolonial, socioeconomic status, diaspora, loss of identity.

Coalition and Community Building: Activism, Black Lives Matter, Say Her Name, social movements, arts and social change, feminisms and womanisms.

Memory – Post 9/11 rhetoric, identity formation, historical.

Space and Place – Urban vs. rural rhetoric, private vs. public, borderlands, nation, physical and temporal spaces, liminality, places of belonging.

Imagination and Representation: Fashion (trends, vintage, historical styles); Alternative Time (dystopian futures, alternative presents, apocalypse narratives); Science Fiction (technology, humanity); Time Travel; Narratives (film, video games, literature, television)

Materiality: Memorabilia (collections, preservation, propaganda); Antiques and Antiquing; Built Environment; Material and Visual Culture

Questions and concerns may be directed to raybrowneconf@bgsu.edu

Registration information, including timeline and fees, are available on the submission form page.