



CALL FOR PROPOSALS
DIFFICULT DIALOGUES II
November 11-14, 2010 • Denver, CO

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Conference Overview

The **National Women's Studies Association** leads the field of women's studies in educational and social transformation. Established in 1977, NWSA has more than 2,000 members worldwide. Our annual conference regularly draws more than 1,500 attendees and is the only annual meeting in the US exclusively dedicated to showcasing the latest feminist scholarship.

The 2010 conference will open on Thursday, November 11th with two pre-conferences hosted by the Program Administration and Development and the Women's Centers Standing Committees. These daylong events offer networking and professional development opportunities for women's and gender studies and women's center administrators.

The General Conference begins on Thursday afternoon and concludes Sunday morning; it will feature concurrent breakout sessions, new member events, and professional development sessions for graduate students and junior faculty. Special events will include a book exhibition and signings, Presidential sessions, and a faculty development workshop.

About the Theme

In response to wide demand, NWSA 2010 builds on conversations that began in Atlanta at the 2009 conference. *Difficult Dialogues II* will explore a range of concepts and issues that remain under theorized and under examined in the field of women's studies.

Although the problem of omissions, silences, and distortions in women's studies has been analyzed for decades, too often feminist scholarship continues to theorize on the basis of hegemonic frameworks, false universals, and a narrow range of lived experiences. The legitimate terrain of feminist theory, inquiry, and politics remains contested.

The *Difficult Dialogues* theme builds on Johnella Butler's essays (beginning with her 1989 article in the *Women's Review of Books*) about the contested relationship among and between black studies, ethnic studies, and women's studies in the US academy. Butler pinpointed a reluctance to engage questions of gender and sexuality in black studies and ethnic studies, and a reluctance to engage with questions of race and class in women's studies.

NWSA 2010 identifies several thematic areas in which ongoing and new difficult dialogues are urgently needed:

- ***Indigenous Feminisms: Theories, Methods, Politics***
- ***Complicating the Queer***
- ***The Politics of Nations***
- ***"Outsider" Feminisms***
- ***The Critical and the Creative***

Theme 1: *Indigenous Feminisms: Theories, Methods, Politics*

Language shapes and reflects power relations and terms like “indigenous,” “Indian,” Native American,” “aboriginal” and “First Nation” have different historical, social, and political uses. We invite examination of how serious engagement with indigenous feminisms would shift the questions asked, the methods used, and the power analyses possible in women’s studies.

- *How does applying indigenous feminisms shift what counts as theory and what counts as a feminist issue?*
- *What are some difficult dialogues among indigenous feminists?*
- *How are indigenous feminisms defined differently in different geo-political contexts?*
- *What is the nature of sexuality discourse in indigenous contexts?*
- *What are some barriers to strategic alliances between non-Native and Native feminists in a US context? For example, have non-Native feminists adequately engaged questions of sovereignty and land rights?*

Theme 2: *Complicating the Queer*

The move to queer theory in women’s studies has both expanded the field and simultaneously reinforced silences about nation, race, ethnicity, class, and religion. We invite women’s studies practitioners to apply feminist intersectional and transnational frameworks within queer studies.

- *In what ways are queer theories, methods, and/or politics still resisted in women’s studies?*
- *How do feminist queer of color studies take shape politically, intellectually, and personally?*
- *What would it mean to globalize LGBTQ studies?*
- *How can we apply trans and gender-queer theories and politics to feminist critiques of the state and social institutions including the law, prisons, schools, education, religion, medicine, sports, etc.?*

Theme 3: *The Politics of Nation*

Taking traditional women’s studies topics (i.e., “violence against women”) and reformulating them to more adequately account for the role of the state (i.e., incarceration, militarization, land rights, war, immigration/asylum) has the potential to yield new feminist theories, methods, and politics and to shift our understanding of existing frameworks.

- *How should women’s studies and feminist alliances address heightened nationalism, militarization, religious fundamentalism, and questions of citizenship?*
- *How can feminists effectively challenge nationalistic rescue narratives within and outside the US (i.e., “saving” Muslim women under the Taliban as a justification for a US invasion)?*
- *How are the intersectional and transnational dimensions of the history of citizenship, of definitions of personhood, and of disciplinary state structures essential to women’s studies?*

Theme 4: *“Outsider” Feminisms*

We seek to consider what it means to be positioned as epistemologically or phenomenologically “outside” of traditional feminist practices, theories, and politics. Meaningful and transformative political and intellectual practice often takes place when so-called “outsiders” both challenge hegemonic epistemologies and simultaneously articulate the barriers to working across difference in contexts of marginalization. We invite analyses of “outsider” feminisms in many forms, including but not limited to masculinity studies, girls studies, and disability studies. We would like to complicate these areas of study by addressing feminist theorizing about progressive masculinities, the experiences of girls transnationally, and issues of race, class and nation in disability discourse.

- *What are some practices and commitments that can better facilitate collaborative work and meaningful conversations among differently positioned “outsiders”?*
- *Who and what fall “outside” of traditional feminist practices, theories, and politics, and why?*
- *How can the field take up critiques and insights offered by “outsider” feminisms without engaging in reductive forms of tokenism or other hegemonic intellectual practices?*
- *How are relationships fostered or hindered in working across academic margins—what are women’s studies’ institutional, curricular, and pedagogical relationships with*

black/Africana/African Diaspora Studies, ethnic studies, Latino/a/Latin-American Studies, Asian/Asian American/Pacific Rim Studies, disability studies, girls' studies, and gay and lesbian/queer studies? How are some of these areas differently institutionalized than others and how do we best account for power differentials and asymmetries between these areas of inquiry in the academy?

Theme 5: The Critical and the Creative

Groundbreaking collections like Toni Cade Bambara's *The Black Woman*, Gloria E. Anzaldúa's *Making Face, Making Soul/Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color* and Anzaldúa and Cherríe Moraga's *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* refused the false divide between creative expression and theoretical analysis. However, alternative approaches to what "counts" as knowledge have not been fully realized within women's studies. We invite examinations of the epistemological and political dimensions of creativity in many forms, including but not limited to filmmaking, new media technologies, narrative, and the fine and performing arts.

- *How can women's studies more fully engage the creative as a way of knowing?*
- *How are various dimensions of the creative relevant to women's studies teaching, research, and activism?*
- *What do creative media allow for that conventional forms of feminist analysis do not?*
- *How might the creative allow us to intervene in dominant/hegemonic stories and histories?*
- *How do more traditional art forms (i.e., painting, music, literature, dance) and newer genres (i.e., digital technologies) offer an important archive of memory and site of resistance? How do marginalized groups plumb history's silences in the creative realm?*

NWSA invites all of those interested to submit proposals for panels, papers, workshops, and performances that represent the wide range of intersectional and transnational scholarship in the US and beyond. Please note that **all submitted proposals must address one of the five themes above.**

About the Meeting Location

The National Women's Studies Association 2010 annual meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Denver, Colorado, from November 11-14, 2010. Denver's rich ethnic history and diverse cultural heritage of the city are celebrated with a number of events throughout the year, from the nation's largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in the spring to the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Festival in the fall. Summer brings the National Gay Rodeo Finals and PrideFest. The historically rich African-American Five Points neighborhood is home to the Black American West Museum, while the Museo de las Americas hosts some of the world's top contemporary artists from Latin America.

The biggest surprise for visitors to Denver is the climate. The arid conditions bring only 8-15 inches of annual precipitation and residents wake up to more than 300 days of sunshine a year, more annual hours of sun than Miami and San Diego. Winters are mild with an average daily high temperature of forty-five degrees Fahrenheit and days reaching sixty degrees are not uncommon. Snow doesn't stay on the ground long in Denver so outdoor cafes are open all year.

Special Event: Faculty Development Workshop

*Civic Engagement in the Women's and Gender Studies Classroom:
Power and Privilege at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Nation*

About the Workshop

Hosted by the National Women's Studies Association with generous support from the Teagle Foundation, this workshop is designed to generate critical reflection and discussion among scholars and teachers in Women's and Gender Studies in order to better understand the actual practices and effects of civic engagement and to improve student learning.

Held during the NWSA conference in Denver, this workshop is designed to explore civic engagement in light of issues of power and privilege and to apply intersectional analyses of race, class, nation, sexuality, gender, and globalization to teaching about this important topic. Participants will develop, apply, and assess model civic engagement pedagogies in partnership with the grant's existing working group members **and must be committed to applying quantitative evaluation tools in their Spring 2011 courses and reporting those results to NWSA.**

Who Should Apply

Full-time faculty in women's studies, ethnic studies, or related fields may apply. NWSA especially invites applications from women of color faculty and junior faculty interested in developing civic engagement pedagogies based on intersectional analyses.

Applicants **must currently apply civic engagement pedagogies in their courses.** Examples could include service learning activities, asking students to develop policy papers or write letters to the editor, activism projects, etc. Applicants must be NWSA members and complete an online application available at <http://www.nwsa.org/projects/teagle.php> by **March 1, 2010**. Successful applicants will receive travel and lodging grants and complimentary conference registration.

Step-by-Step Guidelines for Submitting All Proposals

Step 1: Note that all proposals must be submitted electronically via <http://www.nwsa.org/proposals/proposals.php> by **midnight EST on March 1, 2010**. Late submissions will not be considered.

Step 2: Indicate whether you are submitting your proposal for the General Conference Session and identify the appropriate theme (see About the Theme above) or the Program Administration and Development or Women's Centers Pre-Conferences.

Step 3: The National Women's Studies Association especially encourages complete panel/session submissions. Note that full panels **must include at least three presenters** with complete contact information and affiliation for ALL panel participants as well as a **non-presenting moderator** who will be charged with introducing speakers, keeping time, and coordinating discussion. Moderators will be listed in the conference program and must register for the conference. NWSA will assist with assigning moderators for individual proposals.

The Proposal Review Committee encourages members to use NWSA electronic resources and other listserves to network and find colleagues with whom to develop a complete panel. NWSA bulletin boards and/or its web site will also serve as resources for those soliciting potential panelists on topics of mutual interest.

Step 4: Note the option to submit poster session proposals; selecting this option increases the likelihood of acceptance due to limited breakout session space.

Step 5: Please note that NWSA will provide limited audiovisual equipment for General Conference Sessions and encourages presenters to consider using alternative formats such as handouts to convey visual information. Presenters will know if they have received audiovisual-equipped rooms when the online schedule becomes available in mid-June.

Step 6: Identify the appropriate session format for your proposal. Full details on session types are listed below.

For more information on how to submit quality proposals, to find examples of accepted proposals, and for answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the conference, visit <http://www.nwsa.org/conference/>

Conference Participation Guidelines and Requirements

All participants on the 2010 NWSA program must be current (2010) members of NWSA, including the pre-conferences and general conference. Membership in NWSA runs from January 1-December 31, 2010. **Panel organizers are responsible for conveying information about this requirement to prospective participants.** Participants must be current members and pre-registered for the conference by **August 31, 2010** or risk being removed from the printed program book.

To inquire about your membership status, email nwsaoffice@nwsa.org or call (301) 403-0407. Conference registration fees are separate from membership.

Participation Limits

To promote broad participation in the Annual Conference, an individual may not appear in the General Conference program more than **two times** (e.g., presenting a paper, moderating a session, leading a workshop). This total does not include participation in pre-conference sessions, any session connected with an NWSA office, committee, award or invited sessions (e.g., NWSA business meetings, addresses, or awards ceremonies).

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Panel vs. Individual Paper and Other Session Formats

Panels provide an opportunity for examining specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives given that they include **3-4 participants**. Panels may present alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specified subject or in relation to a common theme. Panel members are expected to prepare papers addressing central questions described in the proposal. *The National Women's Studies Association and the Proposal Review Committee especially encourage complete panel submissions.*

Individual Paper proposals are submitted individually and arranged into sessions by the Proposal Review Committee. In paper sessions, authors present 10-12 minute papers followed by audience discussion. A typical structure for a session with four papers allows approximately 5 minutes for the moderator to introduce the session, 10 minutes for each presenter, and 30 minutes for discussion.

IMPORTANT: Due to meeting room space constraints, individual paper submissions are frequently converted into poster sessions. NWSA strongly encourages presenters who wish to deliver traditional papers to organize complete panels with colleagues.

Sponsored Sessions may be submitted by NWSA Caucuses on topics of particular interest to caucus members and NWSA members as a whole. One sponsored session per caucus will be offered space in the Conference Program if submissions are received by the proposal deadline and proposals meet review criteria. Task forces and interest groups may also submit proposals for sponsored sessions, but please note that these slots are not guaranteed.

Roundtables typically include a moderator and 4-6 presenters who make brief, informal remarks about a specific idea or project. They allow for extensive discussion and audience participation.

Poster Sessions present research or analysis on a topic by combining graphics and text on a 4'x8' board. The poster session presenter is available during an assigned session time in order to interact on a one-on-one basis with the attendees viewing the poster. A well-planned poster communicates its message in a visually and textually powerful way, allowing the attendee to grasp the information quickly. Detailed instructions on the preparation of posters are available at <http://www.nwsa.org/conference/>

Workshops provide an opportunity to exchange information or work on a common problem, project, or shared interest. Workshops are typically experientially oriented, grounded in some sort of women's and gender studies research agenda, and include brief presentations that allow adequate time for reflective discussion and interaction.

IMPORTANT:

- All panel proposals must include complete contact information for AT LEAST THREE participants PLUS a non-presenting moderator. Incomplete panels with fewer than three participants will not be considered for review.
- Workshops and roundtable proposals that feature multiple participants must include all participants' names and contact information at the time of proposal submission.
- In rare cases a one-person workshop may be considered, but the proposal should indicate why the presenter is uniquely suited to address the topic independently.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Different session formats carry different submission requirements. We recommend reviewing the requirements below and assembling your proposal in a Word document from which you cut and paste **before** logging in to the submission system.

Panels

- Panel title
- Panel rationale (75-150 words) that describes the logic by which the papers are grouped
- Individual paper titles and individual paper abstracts (50-100 words) for each of the 3-4 papers that comprise the panel

Individual Papers and Poster Sessions

- Paper or poster title
- Paper or poster abstract (50-100 words)
- Paper or poster rationale (100-250 words)

Roundtables and Workshops

- Roundtable or workshop title
- Roundtable or workshop abstract (50-100 words)
- Roundtable or workshop rationale (100-250 words)

Sponsored Sessions are typically panel proposals and must comply with the guidelines above, whatever form they take.

Abstracts explain to conference attendees the proposal's topic, foci, and/or goals in a clear and succinct manner in the program. Abstracts may be revised or edited for the printed program.

Proposal rationales and abstracts serve as the basis for evaluation by the Proposal Review Committee and should include some or all of the following, as appropriate:

- Objective or purpose of the paper, panel, workshop, etc.
- Perspective and/or theoretical framework and/or references to relevant texts, research, or on-going debates in women's and gender studies or related fields
- Results and/or conclusions and point of view
- Relevance to the conference theme or subtheme
- Discussion of how the session will be structured

IMPORTANT:

- All proposal rationales **MUST** be explicit about how the proposed poster, panel, paper, roundtable, or workshop is grounded in specific texts, authors, or research relevant to contemporary women's and gender studies, queer studies, ethnic studies, or other related fields.
- Remember to remove any **IDENTIFYING INFORMATION** (individual or institution names, for example) that would compromise NWSA's commitment to anonymous review.
- Proposal rationales assist proposal reviewers with evaluating the session or paper's appropriateness for inclusion in the conference program.
- Abstracts and proposal rationale may not exceed word limits above.
- *Incomplete proposals will not be considered.*

General Conference Review Procedures

All General Conference proposals are reviewed anonymously (without author identification). Guidelines for reviewers are developed by the Proposal Review Committee and include:

- **Topic:** Is the topic/question/issue relevant to the field of women's/gender studies?
- **Relationship to Sub-Theme:** Are the topics/questions/issues discussed in the proposal clearly connected to one of the five conference sub-themes?
- **Frameworks:** Is the proposal grounded in relevant feminist/womanist theoretical/conceptual/applied frameworks?
- **Clarity:** Is the proposal well-organized, coherent, and clear?

Proposal Status

NWSA will send accept/decline notifications by email on **May 14, 2010** for all prospective participants in the general conference and pre-conference sessions.

Registration and Housing

All conference presenters and attendees must be registered for the annual meeting. The National Women's Studies Association has negotiated a group rate of \$169 plus tax for single/double, \$184 plus tax for a triple and \$199 plus tax for a quad at the Sheraton Denver Hotel, where most conference events will occur.

Travel Information

Denver is served by the Denver International airport. Hotel shuttles, taxis, and the public buses are available for traveling between downtown Denver and the airport. Detailed information about traveling to and from Denver is available at <http://www.nwsa.org/conference/>

Registration Refund Policy

The National Women's Studies Association regrets that it cannot refund conference registration payments.

Disability Information

The National Women's Studies Association will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations to presenters and attendees with disabilities. Please indicate your need for accommodations on the registration form. We must receive requests for accommodations by **September 1, 2010**.

Child Care

NWSA is committed to providing high-quality, licensed and insured child care that is partly subsidized by the organization. You must make advance reservations for child care on the conference registration form no later than **September 1, 2010**.

Scholarships and Travel Grants

NWSA encourages student research and involvement at its annual conferences via scholarship awards. For full details on how to apply for the NWSA Graduate Scholarship Award or the Lesbian and Women of Color Caucus awards, please visit www.nwsa.org/students/scholarships/index.php. Award amounts range from \$400-1,000.

NWSA offers a limited number of registration scholarships and travel grants to accepted presenters. Students, scholars and activists with a demonstrated need for financial assistance are encouraged to apply. Particular consideration will be given to assisting student presenters and emerging scholars who have not previously received NWSA travel grants. The registration scholarships and grants are also intended to encourage the participation of individuals from under-represented constituencies in the NWSA.

The travel grant application deadline is **June 1, 2010**. Apply online at www.nwsa.org/students/scholarships/index.php

Questions about Call for Proposals or Annual Meeting

Please direct questions about submitting proposals or questions of a general nature to the national office at (301) 403-0407 or nwsaoffice@nwsa.org.

STANDING COMMITTEE PRE-CONFERENCES

The Program Administration and Development Committee and the Women's Centers Committee host daylong sessions that offer important networking and professional development opportunities for women's and gender studies and women's center administrators on **Thursday, November 11**. Organized by the respective standing committees of NWSA, the pre-conferences include a registration fee in addition to the general conference registration.

Program Administration and Development Pre-Conference

The PAD Pre-conference organizers invite the submission of proposals on a broad range of topics related to women's/gender studies program administration and development (proposals that are not specifically related to program administration and development should be submitted to the general conference).

We especially encourage proposals for *complete* panels, workshops, roundtables, or any variety of other formats. Authors of individual papers and those with ideas for panels are encouraged to use the PAList to generate interest to complete panels. All proposals must be submitted via NWSA's online proposal submission system.

Suggested topics include:

Program Budgets and Sustainability

- Creating and/or sustaining a healthy program during times of financial crisis
- Writing successful grant proposals
- Fundraising: cultivating donors and friends groups

The Women's and Gender Studies Curriculum

- New approaches to core courses
- Expanding your reach on campus: building alliances through cross-listings
- New technologies and the women's studies classroom

Program Administration and Innovation

- Building your program
 - *How can you create an effective major proposal? What does it take to build a sustainable master's program?*
- Sharing innovation success stories

Professional Development

- Balancing scholarship and administration
- Surviving and thriving as women of color faculty
- Mentoring women of color faculty
- Moving from director to dean

Women of Color Leadership Project

The NWSA Women of Color Caucus, Program Administration and Development Committee, and the Women's Centers Committee jointly sponsor the Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) in conjunction with the PAD and WCC Pre-Conferences.

The WoCLP is designed to increase the number of women of color students and faculty within the field of women's studies and women's centers and, consequently, to have an impact on the levels of participation and power by women of color in the field of women's studies and women's centers, in NWSA, and in the Program Administration and Development and Women's Center Committees.

Women of color in women's studies, ethnic studies, or related fields may apply if they aspire to leadership within women's studies or NWSA. Applicants may include advanced graduate students, faculty, and current program administrators who wish to be more involved in program or Association leadership. To learn more please visit <http://www.nwsa.org/projects/woclp.php>

NWSA Women's Centers Pre-Conference

The NWSA Women's Centers Committee invites proposals for its Pre-Conference, to be held the day before the NWSA conference. This daylong event offers Women's Centers professionals, student leaders, and women's studies faculty an opportunity for professional development as well as a supportive environment in which to explore the successes and challenges of our work.

Proposals should address an issue relevant to a wide range of women's centers, including but not limited to, the following questions:

- How can women's centers strategize in higher education?
- How do we advance professionally within or without the institution?
- How can women's centers respond to new trends on their campuses?
- How can women's centers work to promote a better understanding of their mission on campus?

In particular, the committee seeks proposals that connect the content of the proposed session to projects that the Women's Centers Committee is currently pursuing. Those projects are:

- "What Women's Centers Need" document;
- National statement of philosophy for women's centers;
- Women's Centers Handbook;
- Women of Color Leadership Project;
- Addressing white privilege and racism in Women's Centers' work and the WCC;
- Assessment;
- Mentoring.

Proposals for sessions that showcase best practices, programs, changing contexts and/or new directions in the above mentioned areas are encouraged. Proposals on other topics will also be considered.

Submit proposals online at: <http://www.nwsa.org/proposals/proposals.php> Please remove any indentifying language from the text of the proposal. We endeavor to make review decisions without knowing the identity of the author. For more information on the NWSA Women's Centers Committee, visit <http://www.nwsa.org/centers/index.php>.

2010 IMPORTANT DEADLINES AT A GLANCE

March 1, 2010

- Deadline for General Conference and Pre-Conference proposals to be received at <http://www.nwsa.org/proposals/proposals.php> **March 1, 2010**
- Civic Engagement in the Women's and Gender Studies Classroom faculty development workshop applications due. For full details please visit <http://www.nwsa.org/projects/teagle.php>

May 14, 2010

- Accept and decline notifications will be sent via email for the General Conference and the Pre-Conferences.
- Conference registration launches.

June 1, 2010

- Registration scholarship and travel grant applications due.
- Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) applications due. For full details please visit www.nwsa.org/projects/woclp.php

August 16, 2010

- Registration scholarship, travel grant, and Women of Color Leadership Project participants will be notified about their awards and/or participation.

August 31, 2010

- All presenters must be 2009 NWSA members and pre-registered by this date in order to appear on the conference program. **Names of participants who have not joined or registered will be removed from the program book.**

September 1, 2010

- Conference attendees and/or presenters with disabilities should request accommodations by this date; requests may be made on the conference registration form. Make advance reservations for child care on the conference registration form by this date to guarantee on-site care.

September 15, 2010

- Conference program book available at <http://www.nwsa.org/conference/>