

JUST IMAGINE. IMAGINING JUSTICE:

Feminist visions of freedom, dream making
and the radical politics of futures

Nov 8 -11, 2018
Hilton Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia



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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 2,300 attendees and is the only annual meeting in the US exclusively dedicated to showcasing the latest feminist scholarship.

The 2018 conference will open on Thursday, November 8 with three pre-conferences. The Program Administration and Development and Women's Center meetings offer networking and professional development opportunities for women's and gender studies and women's center administrators. The Women of Color Leadership Project is designed to support women of color in their professional goals and leadership development; interested candidates must apply to participate.

The General Conference begins on Thursday afternoon and concludes Sunday afternoon; it will feature concurrent breakout sessions, receptions, and professional development sessions for graduate students and junior faculty.

ABOUT THE THEME: JUST IMAGINE. IMAGINING JUSTICE: Feminist visions of freedom, dream making and the radical politics of futures

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." – Angela Davis

"Socialist feminism of the second wave: it wasn't just a scene of solidarity based on critique of the political economy of the family or patriarchy, but was a genuine effort at imagining other living forms of relation and value transecting economy and intimacy." – Lauren Berlant

"Another world is not only possible. She is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing." – Arundhati Roy

"Theory and praxis, story and practice are interdependent, cogenerators of knowledge. Practices are politics. Processes are governance. Doing produces more knowledge." – Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

"Queerness is that thing that lets us feel that this world is not enough." – José Esteban Muñoz

The scholarship, theoretical work, and scholar-activism that has animated and advanced NWSA as an intellectual community over the past 40+ years has been forward-

looking, provocative and transcendent: embracing insurgent intellectual praxes that violate conventions, disrupt dominant narratives, abandon existing canons and imagine new ways of knowing and being. In contrast, the recent rise of right wing populism, neo-fascist movements, white



Co-Chairs:

- Barbara Ransby, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Premilla Nadasen, Barnard College

2018 Review Chairs:

- Kiran Asher, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Elora Chowdhury, University of Massachusetts, Boston
- Dara Cooper, National Black Food and Justice Alliance
- Maria Cotera, University of Michigan
- Eve Ewing, University of Chicago
- Gayatri Gopinath, NYU
- Kai M. Green, Williams College
- Nancy Mirabal, University of Maryland, College park
- Shana Redmond, UCLA
- Marie Cruz Soto, NYU
- Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor, Princeton University



nationalism, science denial, and religious bigotry (including both Islamophobia and anti-Semitism), homophobia and transphobia, all represent desperate and retrograde responses to current social, political, economic and environmental challenges.

In 2018 NWSA will meet in Atlanta, on the same weekend, and two blocks from the annual meeting of one of our sister organizations, the American Studies Association (ASA). Our colleague, feminist queer of color theorist, Roderick Ferguson is the incoming President of ASA. In the spirit of collaboration, we decided to frame our 2018 NWSA theme in conversation with the ASA's theme, "States of Emergence."

Our theme, "JUST IMAGINE. IMAGINING JUSTICE: Feminist visions of freedom, dream making and the radical politics of futures" invites scholars to engage the work of a variety of thinkers and visionaries, past and present, who insist that we cannot build movements or intellectual projects based simply on what we are against, but rather we have to deploy our imaginations to create projects, paradigms and movements based on what we are for. ASA, borrowing from the works of Walter Benjamin and Homi Bhabha, has embraced the notion that every emergency creates the basis for new possibilities to emerge and to take hold. We want to look at realized and imagined futures that offer alternative frames, logics, aesthetics, sexualities, social relations and social systems. This is the foundation upon which new radical praxes of freedom will be built. We also encourage scholars to resist epistemic frames that artificially divide dreaming from doing.

This theme is inspired by the work of Latin American and Caribbean surrealists, Afro-futurists (including the creative Black Feminist Futures Project), and the popular cultural call for all of us to "get woke," meaning to attain a greater awareness of existing realities, but also to develop an oppositional stance vis-à-vis dominant "truths." What do those in the margins, on the borderlands, in the interstices, and below the radar tell us about imagining a different kind of future?

Feminist scholarship at its best is about changing the world, and questioning what we have come to accept as 'normal' in the world: a world replete with injustice, repression, violence and exploitation. If we can challenge ourselves to rethink essentialist notions of gender, race, sexuality, disability, and the many other human categories that have defined the hierarchical taxonomy of human suffering, then we can rethink anything. Indigenous scholars and movements, often with women at the center, have pushed us to confront settler colonial mindsets and to recalibrate how we think of time, place, "property," and the relationship of humans to the environment. Disability studies scholars have unmasked pervasive ableism and innovated work on new ways of knowing and being in the world. All of this stretches us to think alternatively about what the future might look like.

Racial capitalism, rooted in white supremacy, patriarchy, and empire, not only compromises the ability of many people on the planet to have the material resources to survive, but also stifles and constricts our collective imagination to envision something different and better. Former NWSA President Vivian May, in defense of intersectionality, insists that it, above all, "contests dominant imaginaries." What a radical gesture that is. Poets, fiction writers, visual and performance artists, filmmakers and science fiction writers have also provided us with some of the tools to transcend the urgency and ugliness of 'now' in order to craft alternative communities, systems and practices. These are the building blocks of social transformation in a period of moral and existential crisis. We invite submissions that engage this theme in provocative and nuanced ways.



We invite paper, panel, performance and workshop proposals that build creatively and critically on our theme, and sub-themes. We strongly encourage independent scholars, non-academic writers, artists, researchers and organizers to propose panels and presentations, and to be included in sessions alongside university-based scholars.

Please note that **submitted proposals *must* address one of the themes below to be eligible for inclusion in the program.** Sub-themes for the conference include:

SUBTHEME ONE: Afro-futurism, feminist futures, surrealist thought and radical imaginaries

In the words of scholar Alondra Nelson, Afro-futurism “...is about speculation and utopia. Part of the resilience of black culture and black life is about imagining the impossible, imagining a different place, a better world.” In a text for the Studio Museum of Harlem, Nelson critically points out that Afrofuturism is more often associated with men like “Sun Ra, George Clinton, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Ralph Ellison, and ‘The Brother from Another Planet’ than by women like [Patti] LaBelle, Ellen Gallagher, Laila Ali, Jewelle Gomez, and Nyota Uhura.” And of course the work of women writers like Octavia Butler and contemporary Afrofuturists like Janelle Monae and Adrienne Maree Brown, add to this Black creative tradition, as do surrealist writers from the African diaspora: Jayne Cortez and Suzanne Césaire are but two examples.

Creative production plays a vital role in helping us imagine possibilities. Notions of feminist futures, surrealism, speculative fiction, and magical realism offer spaces where our dreams can lead us into a realm of radical remaking. How can the arts, creative practices, and cultural organizing stemming from these aesthetic movements propel us toward justice? What is the role of history, particularly slavery, colonialism and genocide in the radical imagination? What are the various and sometimes conflicting meanings and uses of freedom as they relate to blackness, race, nationalism, religion, language, indigeneity, gender, sexuality, class and ability? We invite submissions from scholars, artists, and writers, who produce, engage, and/or analyze creative work in any number of genres and media that propel us toward a more just future. We also welcome proposals that embrace creative formats.

SUBTHEME TWO: Rethinking gender, sexuality, family, disability and the bio-politics of what is or is not human?

This sub-theme builds on the work of visionary activists, writers, poets, artists, and scholars, who encourage us to rethink, dream, and reimagine another way of being and knowing. Employing futurism, justice, love, and aesthetics as central tenets, we welcome submissions that examine and interrogate a radical re-envisioning and rethinking of gender, sexuality, family, disability, and the bio-politics of what is or is not human. We are particularly interested in intersectional work that draws on disability, trans, queer, anti-racist, and Indigenous Studies scholarship and activism to trouble dominant notions of the human and its relation to the non-human.

What are alternative models for conceptualizing this relation, and what political, aesthetic, activist and spiritual spaces can we look to for evidence of these alternatives existing in the present? How can non-normative sexual practices and identities offer new ways of thinking about sex, identity, and desire? How can and has the notion of family been reimaged, inside and outside of social policy, to consider alternative relationships among humans? What kinds of insights can disability studies scholars generate about remaking the built environment and our expectations for human fulfillment?



What can we learn from the generative research by indigenous scholars and the forward-looking practices of indigenous cultures and activists?

SUBTHEME THREE: The future of the universities, schools, and knowledge production: maroon spaces, insurgent practices, and the future of the disciplines and the interdisciplines?

The university has become a key site of critique, contestation, and possibility. Critical university studies scholarship has documented the shift away from the ideal of the university as a public good to a neoliberal, privatized entity that is fed by the profitable business of militarism, incarceration and war, and intimately linked to the management of racialized, disabled, queer, poor and non-citizen populations within and beyond the academy. This scholarship has exposed the university as an intellectual battleground where debates about national identity and national culture are staged, and public discourse and dissent over definitions and practices of nationalism, patriotism, citizenship and democracy are played out. In this highly contested space, once dissident forms of knowledge like Ethnic Studies, Black Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies have increasingly felt the disciplinary force of institutionalization, their challenges to the disciplinary, methodological, and political limits of traditional knowledge formations reduced to a bid for inclusion within liberal models of diversity. Critiques of the neoliberal university have led to utopian calls for imagining education otherwise and knowledge projects that take us beyond the ways the university has failed us, and towards insurgent possibilities and knowledge praxes that move within and outside the academy.

In this subtheme, we seek to engage a critical conversation that expands our understanding of the current crisis in education at all levels—from the public schools to the public (and private) university—to rethink the politics of knowledge production and to reimagine the sites and spaces where it might take place. We welcome roundtables, panels and papers that critically examine the contemporary university, proposals for imagining new models of "education," new ways of knowing, and explorations of a wide variety of utopian and revolutionary efforts to reclaim the production of knowledge, including fugitive scholarship and maroon practices of knowledge that shape the undercommons. Moreover, we invite papers that explore schools and universities as workplaces and sites of struggle beyond who and what they seek to produce. How do universities and schools recreate social and economic hierarchies and place differential value on forms of labor and laboring bodies? What forms of resistance have challenged these practices? What is the role of students in critiquing, confronting and rethinking schools and universities? And how has the fight over the quality of, and access to, education, one often led by women, impacted our notions of education justice and what is possible? And finally, what of prison education and the role of feminists (and feminisms) in it? We have witnessed political, cultural and scholarly interventions that have not only envisioned alternatives, but are beginning to put those alternatives into practice from, Chandra Mohanty's decolonizing knowledge project to the think tanks organized by the Movement for Black Lives' Majority coalition.

SUBTHEME FOUR: Post-capitalism: imagining new economic futures

While there are ample and elaborate critiques of capitalism by feminist scholars viable alternatives to capitalism are not always as clearly articulated. At the end of the 1990s, the anti-globalization movement rooted in the global South gave us the slogan "Another World is Possible" as an expression of hope for a different world. We return to this question and ask, Is another world possible? If so, what are the parameters of that possibility? Can social movements end capitalism? What are



alternatives to the capitalist organization of society? What possibilities do socialism, anarchism, and communism offer? What would cooperative societies look like?

Can we imagine a world without racism, sexism, ableism, and gender oppression? Can working-class people rule society? What is the future of unions? How do feminist, anti-racist and anti-heteronormative politics create a new world? How do we reconcile with genocide, land theft, and pillage in the past in imagining a post-capitalism future? How can we end war and imperialism? What role will students, academics and scholars play in thinking beyond capitalism? Are prefigurative organizing and politics possible in a capitalist society? We invite workshops and presentations that explore the possibilities of post-capitalist societies. Alternatively, what is the case “for” capitalist logics and how have feminists and women responded, adapted or assimilated into capitalist hierarchies around the world.

SUBTHEME FIVE: Revolutions and utopian projects: sustained, incomplete and derailed

The heightened visibility in the present moment of the violence that molds our world offers the opportunity to foreground the work of feminists who have for so long been imagining a different world. “Un mundo más justo y más amoroso,” as some would call it. To imagine, in this radical tradition, encompasses epistemic, spiritual, and material practices that affect the oppressive normative parameters of the real. To imagine, in this sense, is to envision something different (the utopia) and to will it to exist (the revolt). The aim for this sub-theme is to explore feminist revolutions and utopian projects, however broadly defined, that can help us imagine the impossible. The hope is to cast light on feminist troublemakers who have refused to accept given reality and who have dared to propose alternatives.

The following are some questions to consider. What can revolutions and utopian projects look like from feminist perspectives? What utopias and revolutionary paths have feminists evoked, imagined, inherited and dismantled? How have feminist revolutionary and utopian projects been challenged and/or derailed? How have these projects opened up the past and the future as contested terrains? What contexts nurture or hinder the flourishing of feminist troublemakers? What consequences have feminist troublemakers paid for transgressing the possible? And how have feminist revolutions and utopian projects subverted the divide between dreaming and doing and between (academic) knowledge and (activist) praxis? How have some revolutionary politics engaged in practices of exclusion, marginalizing or silencing queers, women of color, disabled, and/or indigenous members of the project? Also, we invite presentations that interrogate conventional notions of what constitutes a “revolution.” Do we mean a revolution within an existing society that transforms key aspects of it (cultural revolutions, sexual revolutions, technological revolutions); or do we mean entire transformations of the framework of a society, i.e. national, socialist or theocratic revolutions? And how do we assess 20th century revolutions as forecasters and cautionary tales for 21st century feminist visions from Cuba to South Africa to Iran, to the Zapatista experiment in Mexico?

SUBTHEME SIX: Political, cultural and artistic movements that “demand the impossible:” “abolition” and beyond

"The role of the artist," wrote Toni Cade Bambara, "is to make the revolution irresistible." The work of political imagination, in the widest sense, is a rehearsal of futures that presently appear impossible. It is the courage to demand abolition in a world that broadcasts itself as adequate, natural, and



unshakable. The poet and activist June Jordan argued that, as a Black woman, she “had to invent the power [her] freedom requires.” Building upon that declaration, we are interested in discussions and debates about the cultural inventions that shape our histories as well as the present moment. Taking the labors of movement thinkers, artists, and collectives as our evidence, inspiration, and/or model, we seek complex considerations of the ways in which these practices develop and toward what ends.

How does a demand for abolition (of the prison-industrial complex for example) free us from the policies and practices of a political system designed to contain, control and categorize? What is the role of art in justice and freedom making? From Frida Kahlo, to Sweet Honey in the Rock, to Pussy Riot, to feminist fiction writers who imagine alternative futures through their art – how do they unsettle and provoke us to think about a more just future? Proposals that interrogate or build skills through movement method and strategy are especially welcome. What would it mean and what would it look like to create and organize toward the end of the world as we know it, and what might come next? What do we make of individual artists or cultural workers around the world who have sought to decolonize art or conversely to use art as a tool of liberation from the feminist futurist writings of Marge Piercy to the theatre and literature-based activism of Richa Nagar? We welcome literary critics, theatre studies’ scholars, art historians and cultural theorists and cultural workers to share reflections, research and productions that address this sub-theme.

SUBTHEME SEVEN: The earth’s future and legacies of its past: environmental justice, climate change, indigeneity, land rights, wars and occupations

As we sink into the 21st century, concerns about the social and environmental impacts of climate change, rising economic inequities, food insecurity, population migrations and displacements, and continuing racial, gender and sexual violence remain on agendas across the globe. What do feminist analyses of environmental change, indigeneity, land rights, violent conflicts and their effects contribute to these conversations? What resources do feminists offer to reassess the legacies of the earth’s past and imagine different futures in a transnational frame? We invite submissions that engage critically with feminism and environmental justice as political projects of social change. Recognizing that their objects or objectives are not the same we encourage submissions that ask why conversations between these two projects are necessary. We invite papers that explore themes and questions such as: How do we understand the multiple genealogies of environmental justice and their explicit or implicit engagement with “gender”? What are some of the political and analytical convergences and divergences between feminist and environmental justice struggles? How do we assess the positionality and representation of indigenous, black, “third world” and “of color” peoples in discussions of climate change and its effects, and how has the agency of these same groups moved the needle on climate change and water rights? How do we situate urban struggles like Flint and Detroit in the global struggle for water from India to Palestine to Bolivia to South Africa? How does our work factor in the themes of materiality and its effects; indigeneity; subalternity, diaspora, sovereignty, territoriality, imperialism, and migrancy? Finally, what is the state of feminist scholarship on science, technology, sustainability environmental policies and the relationships between cultures and the natural environment, past, present and future.



NWSA invites all of those interested to submit proposals for panels, roundtables, papers, and workshops that represent the wide range of intersectional and transnational scholarship in the US and beyond.

Please note that submitted proposals *must* address one of the seven themes above to be eligible for inclusion in the program.



AUTHORS MEET CRITICS SESSIONS

Authors Meet Critics sessions are designed to bring authors of recent, cutting-edge books, deemed to be important contributions to the field of women's studies, together with discussants chosen to provide a variety of viewpoints.

Three or four such sessions will be included in the program and NWSA members are invited to nominate **books published between 2013 and 2018**. Both single-authored books and edited collections that are the result of collaborative engagement among the contributors will be considered. **Only NWSA members may submit nominations, including self-nominations; nominations by presses will not be accepted.**

Members of the 2018 program committee will review the nominations and make selection decisions. Any individual who proposes a session for consideration in the program will be notified about the committee's decision and, in the event that a proposed session is accepted, serve as its session organizer.

Nomination Deadline for Author Meets Critics Sessions: February 21, 2018



PAD PRE-CONFERENCES

The PA&D Pre-Conference organizers invite the submission of proposals on a broad range of topics related to women's, gender, and sexuality studies program administration and development. The 2018 NWSA conference theme is "Just Imagine. Imagining Justice: Feminist Visions of Freedom, Dream Making and the Radical Politics of Futurism." We encourage submissions that actively and creatively engage with this theme, as well as those aimed at offering innovations in program administration and development. We are especially interested in sessions that encourage anti-racist and anti-imperialist approaches to programming, administration, and curriculum. **(PLEASE NOTE: Proposals that are not specifically related to program administration and development should be submitted to the general conference.)**

We encourage proposals for workshops, roundtables, complete panels, or any variety of other packaged formats. *Proposals for interactive sessions or sessions with a hands-on component are especially welcome, and tend to draw the biggest audiences.* Authors of individual papers and those with ideas for panels should use the PA&D Google group or Facebook group to generate interest and create complete panels before submitting (individual papers will not be accepted for the Pre-Conference). We encourage the creation of diverse panels that attend to inclusivity and equity in representation of individuals, ranks, programs, and institutions. All proposals must be submitted via NWSA's online proposal submission system by the deadline. **Deadline: February 21, 2018.**

We are also seeking submissions for a PA&D Sponsored Session that will be submitted to the General Conference (by the same deadline). Beforehand, however, you must work in collaboration with the Co-Chairs (emails below), who will select the panel from those proposed.

For the PA&D Pre-Conference, the following are topics that we receive many requests for from PA&D members – we are seeking individuals/pairs to step up and organize the following:

- Women of Color Leadership Roundtable
- Directing Programs at Community Colleges
- Advice for New Chairs
- Directing Programs at Small Liberal Arts Colleges

The following are suggested topics that emerged from the PA&D Business Meeting and Google Group discussions:

- Fruitful Collaborations across Campus
- Supporting Faculty of Color at Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs)
- Interrogating Whiteness and White Privilege in our Programs
- Making Invisible Service Visible
- Self-Care for WGSS Directors and Faculty: Creating Networks
- Supporting Junior Faculty
- Growing a Program, Recruiting & Retaining Students
- Navigating the Academy as Associate Professor (Perennial) Chairs
- Program Reviews: Choosing Reviewers, Strategizing Goals, Honoraria
- Activism within Programs, Departments, on Campus, in Community
- Strategies for Navigating Politics with Campus/State/National Pressures
- Boundaries around Emotional Labor for WGSS Directors & Faculty
- Budgeting 101: Strategies in the Age of the Neoliberal University
- WGS Faculty in Administration and on Tenure & Promotion Committees
- Supporting Digital Technologies in WGS
- Anniversary Celebrations! Honoring our Past, Digital Histories ...
- Celebrations of WGS Successes
- Graduate Programs in WGS

If you have any questions, please contact the PA&D Co-Chairs, Christa Craven (ccraven@wooster.edu) and Carol Stabile (stabile@umd.edu). We look forward to joining you for some great PA&D panels in Atlanta in 2018!



WOMEN'S CENTERS PRE-CONFERENCE

The NWSA's Women's Centers (WC) Pre Conference advances the vital role that women's and gender centers play in the field of Women's and Gender Studies. The Women's Centers Pre Conference supports the scholarship and best practices of women's centers, including developing research, documenting resources, building network alliances, and designing projects supporting women's centers.

The WC invites proposals for its Pre-Conference, to be held Thursday, November 8, 2018, the day before the general NWSA conference. Approximately 80-100 professionals attend the daylong Women's Center Pre-Conference each year to strategize, network, brainstorm, and exchange ideas. The Pre-Conference provides an opportunity for professional development as well as a supportive environment in which we explore the successes and challenges of our work.

Pre-Conference Theme: Imagining Justice in Women's Centers: Embracing Difference, Examining the Work, and Expanding the Possible

We invite proposals for the presentation of papers, panels, workshops, posters, facilitated discussions, and knowledge shares that examine the ways in which Women's Centers and Gender Centers successfully

- embrace difference related to age, citizenship, class, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and other markers of difference,
- maintain a critical lens on feminist work in the current state of our field, nourish activist spaces on college campuses, and explore how our own identities and experiences influence our work, and
- challenge both imagined and real limitations of present
- mainstream ideas of "equality," "equity," "diversity," and "inclusion" to imagine a future formed by radical justice-oriented visionaries, creators, and makers.

Paper, Panel, Workshop, Facilitated Discussion, and Knowledge Share Proposal Guidelines:

We welcome proposals that foster group interaction such as roundtables, skill-building workshops, interactive workshops, educational presentations, and moderated discussions that highlight current challenges and propose innovative solutions. We also encourage papers, panels, workshops, and knowledge share proposals that discuss assessment and research related to the pre-conference theme.

Poster Submission Guidelines:

We will also accept poster submissions. Posters may address multiple topics focused on women's center work, particularly programs and events. The poster format should facilitate the exchange of ideas about effective and innovative events and programs. These posters should describe a successful program or event and explain its goals and methods. In order to inspire others to replicate your event or program, posters might also include advertisements, handouts, assessment results, learning outcomes, timeline, required materials, collaborators, resources, recommended readings, outreach techniques, and other relevant logistical details. To be considered for the poster session during the Women's Center pre-conference, submit under the Women's Centers.

We especially encourage proposals that include the contributions, experiences, voices, and perspectives of students, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ people.

We look forward to receiving your proposal submissions! Be sure to identify your proposal with the keyword "Women's Centers." See the NWSA 2018 main conference CFP for more information.

All proposals must be submitted electronically via the NWSA submission site, which can be found on the NWSA website at www.nwsa.org, **by 11:59 pm EST on February 21, 2018**. Late submissions will not be considered. Please remove any identifying language from the text of the proposal. We endeavor to make review



decisions without knowing the identity of the author. In order for your proposal to be considered for the Pre-Conference, select the WC Pre-Conference track in the online submission system.

We highly encourage Pre-Conference attendees to submit other proposals to the general conference if those proposals fit the theme and sub-themes of the general conference. The theme for this year's NWSA conference is "Just Imagine. Imagining Justice: Feminist visions of freedom, dream making and the radical politics of futurism."

Should you have any questions, or if you would like support in writing your proposal for the pre-conference or the general conference, please contact the Women's Center Committee Pre-Conference Co-Chairs: Lisa Logan llogan83@ewu.edu and Lysa Salsbury lsalsbur@uidaho.edu.

WOMEN OF COLOR LEADERSHIP PROJECT

The Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) is committed to increasing the number of students and faculty members of color working within the field of women's studies, related disciplines, and interdisciplinary fields; working at women's centers; and assuming positions of power and leadership in NWSA, including the Program Administration and Development and Women's Center Committees. The WoCLP is also designed to support women of color in their professional goals and leadership development. 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 www.nwsa.org



SESSION SUBMISSION FORMATS

PANELS

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.*

ROUNDTABLES

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.

WORKSHOPS

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.

SPONSORED SESSIONS

Sponsored Sessions may be submitted by NWSA constituent groups on topics of particular interest to group members and NWSA members as a whole. To submit a sponsored session for consideration, please choose Sponsored Panel, Sponsored Roundtable or Sponsored Workshop in the online submission system. This will ensure the session is correctly identified in the program, if accepted. One sponsored session per constituent group will be offered space in the conference program if submissions are received by the proposal deadline and proposals meet review criteria.



- 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.
- Session organizers who intend to present need to add themselves as presenters via the online submission system.



INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION FORMATS

PAPERS

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.

POSTER

Poster proposals research or analysis on a topic by combining graphics and text on a 4'x8' board. The poster 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.

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.

PANEL		PAPER, POSTER, ROUNDTABLE, OR WORKSHOP		AUTHORS MEET CRITICS	
Panel Title	<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	<input type="checkbox"/>	Book Title	<input type="checkbox"/>
Panel Rationale (100-250 words)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstract (50-100 words)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Book Summary (150 words)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rationale Works Cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale (100-250 words)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale (250-500 words including publication date, publisher, ISBN number, author name and affiliation, and discussion of the book's importance to the field of women's studies and/or conference themes)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Paper Titles and Abstracts (50-100 words each)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale works cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	List of 3-4 critics with affiliations and their rationale for inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Audiovisual Rationale (if an LCD projector is requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Audiovisual Rationale (if an LCD projector is requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Audiovisual Rationale (if an LCD projector is requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>





Sponsored Sessions

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

Abstracts

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 program.

Proposal rationales

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

Works cited

Works cited should list the scholarship to which the rationale refers

Audiovisual rationales

NWSA receives far more requests for AV resources than we can provide at the conference. The Program Committee reviews all requests for accepted proposals including the audiovisual rationale and makes those decisions as a part of developing the conference program. LCD rooms include: LCD projector, laptop and computer speakers. **AV rooms are not Internet equipped.**



- 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.***



STEP-BY-STEP GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ALL PROPOSALS

- **Step 1** Note that all proposals must be submitted electronically via www.nwsa.org by **11:59pm EST on February 21, 2018**. Late submissions will not be considered.
All presenters must have a log-in and password in order to for the proposal to be submitted. Current and expired members will be able to retrieve their log-ins from the home page of www.nwsa.org using the email address associated with their membership. If you are including a potential presenter who has never been a member of NWSA, they must create a Guest login at least 24 hours prior to submission. Please send any questions about log in credentials to nwsaoffice@nwsa.org as early as possible. NWSA office staff will more easily be able to assist those who make early requests.
- **Step 2** Indicate whether you are submitting your proposal for the General Conference Session and identify the appropriate subtheme (see About the Theme above) or the Program Administration and Development or Women's Centers Pre-Conferences.
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 complete the presenter requirements. NWSA will assist with assigning moderators for individual proposals.
- **Step 3** The Proposal Review Committee encourages members to use NWSA electronic resources and social media to network and find colleagues with whom to develop a complete panel.
- **Step 4** Note the option to submit poster session proposals; selecting this option increases the likelihood of acceptance due to limited breakout session space.
Please note that NWSA will provide LCD projectors and screens for a limited number of General Conference sessions and encourages presenters to consider using alternative formats such as handouts to convey visual information. ***Note that meeting rooms will not have Internet access.***
- **Step 5** Submitters who wish to request audiovisual equipment must complete an audiovisual rationale as part of the submission process. Presenters will know if they have received audiovisual-equipped rooms when the online schedule becomes available in June.
- **Step 6** Identify the appropriate session format for your proposal. Full details on session types are listed above.
- **Step 7**



Internet/Wifi is not available in any meeting space.

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 www.nwsa.org



CONFERENCE REVIEW PROCEDURES

All conference proposals are peer-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 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 1, 2018** to all prospective participants.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

All presenters and moderators on the 2018 NWSA program must meet two requirements to present at the annual conference by the presenter deadline of July 25, 2018

1. Become a 2018 individual member of NWSA
2. Register for the conference and/or pre-conference.

Expired individual members can log in to renew their membership for 2018 beginning October 1, 2017. Presenters with Guest Log Ins must log in using their existing username and password then follow the directions to RENEW to a valid member type. The registration period for presenters begins on May 1 and extends through July 25. Accepted presenters who do not meet both requirements by July 25 risk removal from the program schedule.

To inquire about your membership status, [log into your membership account](#), email nwsaoffice@nwsa.org, or call (410) 528-0355. Conference registration fees are separate from membership. Members receive a reduced conference registration rate. **Session organizers are responsible for conveying information about these requirements to prospective participants.**

REGISTRATION REFUND POLICY

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



MEETING LOCATION AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

The National Women's Studies Association 2018 annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Atlanta from November 8-11, 2018.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the busiest airport in North America. It offers nonstop service to 150 domestic and nearly 70 international destinations, serving more than 100 million passengers a year.

The Hilton Atlanta and the airport are accessible via [MARTA](#), Atlanta's public transportation system. Peachtree Center is the stop closest to the Hilton.

HOUSING

The National Women's Studies Association has negotiated a group rate at the Hilton Atlanta (Hilton Atlanta, 255 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta GA 30303).

Single/double guest rooms are available at the negotiated rate of \$169.00++. Triple occupancy guest rooms are available for \$194.00++. Quad guest rooms are available for \$219++. The cut-off date is October 6, 2018 at 5 p.m. EST or until the block is sold out.

ACCESSIBILITY 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 using our [online form](#). We must receive requests for accommodations by **September 7, 2018**. Please note that some services may be available for only some portions of the conference.

CHILDCARE

NWSA is committed to providing high-quality, licensed and insured childcare that is partly subsidized by the organization. You must make advance reservations for childcare on the conference registration form no later than **September 7, 2018**.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAVEL GRANTS

NWSA encourages student research and involvement at its annual conferences via scholarship awards. Award amounts typically range from \$250-\$500.

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 those with need 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 **May 22, 2018**. Apply online at www.nwsa.org

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 (410) 528-0355 or nwsaoffice@nwsa.org



JUST IMAGINE. IMAGINING JUSTICE:

Feminist visions of freedom, dream making
and the radical politics of futures

Nov 8 -11, 2018
Hilton Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia



2018 IMPORTANT DEADLINES AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 21, 2018 AT 11:59 PM EST

All 2018 proposals must be received via the website www.nwsa.org

MARCH 31, 2018

Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) applications due.

May 1, 2018

- Accept and decline notifications will be sent via email for all submissions.
- Conference registration launches.

MAY 3, 2018

Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) applicants will be notified about their acceptance.

MAY 22, 2018

Registration scholarship and travel grant applications due.

JUNE 20, 2018

Preliminary conference schedule posted online for review.

JUNE 25, 2018

Registration scholarship and travel grant will be notified about their awards.

JULY 25, 2018

All presenters must be 2018 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 7, 2018

Conference attendees and/or presenters with accessibility requests should indicate their needs via our [online form](#) by this date. [Make advance reservations](#) for childcare on the conference registration form by this date to guarantee on-site care.