



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**PAST DEBATES, PRESENT POSSIBILITIES, FUTURE FEMINISMS:
A WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES CONFERENCE
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF NWSA**

June 28-July 1, 2007

St. Charles, IL

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Conference Overview

The **National Women's Studies Association** 28th annual conference will open 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 on Thursday, June 28.

As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, NWSA is also pleased to announce plans for a student pre-conference that aims to expand student services, membership, and involvement in the organization.

The General Conference begins on Thursday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon; it will feature concurrent breakout sessions, new member events, and professional development sessions for graduate students and junior faculty. Special events will include a Creative Writers Series, an art exhibition, a film series, a book exhibition, Critical Issues sessions, and area excursions.

New This Year

NWSA is pleased to announce two new session formats this year: we will inaugurate **Engaging Scholarship**, four simultaneous sessions on Friday intended to address the conference theme and sub-themes and provide opportunities for networking. Invited scholars will explain how their work articulates, engages with, and theorizes key issues in the field of women's and gender studies and in today's world. Session participants will then break out in discussion sections to explore the various themes and issues in more detail.

NWSA is also delighted to introduce the **Tribute Panel**, a session format intended to honor past scholarship that has set new directions for the field. 2007 will feature a tribute to *This Bridge Called My Back* titled **Bridge Inscriptions: Radical Women of Color Envision—Pasts, Presents, Futures**.

Meeting Location

The National Women's Studies Association 2007 annual meeting and book exhibition will be held at Pheasant Run, a unionized resort hotel in St. Charles, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, from June 28-July 1, 2007.

Past Debates, Present Possibilities, Future Feminisms: About the Theme

The 2007 conference marks the National Women's Studies Association 30th anniversary celebration. Established in 1977 at a conference funded by the Ford Foundation, NWSA has survived and thrived in the context of fundamental shifts in higher education, increasingly complex understandings of gender, and the transformative challenges of globalizing women's movements.

Feminist inquiry within women's and gender studies has broken new ground in the past three decades, while facing key social, political, and scholarly challenges.

NWSA 2007 will provide opportunities both to revisit past debates in light of today's priorities and to chart possible futures for feminisms in the academy and beyond.

In particular, the conference will examine three sub-themes, each related to the past, present, and future of women's and gender studies:

- The **Girls' Studies and Activism Embedded Conference** will consider historical and ongoing conversations about education, science, technology, activism, and culture by, for, and about girls of various identities, experiences and locations. It will offer girls, their parents, their teachers, and other conference-goers opportunities to encounter girl-centered spaces and projects in the Chicago area. Continuing education credits will be available for junior high and high school teachers.
- **Performing Feminisms** will consider and demonstrate all kinds of feminist performance and gender presentation, with a special emphasis on theater and performance as education and social justice activism as well as conference entertainment.
- **Im/Migration and Mobility** will include discussions of globalization, personal mobility and ability, technologies of movement and surveillance, immigration and diasporas, and women in community leadership.

NWSA invites submissions that examine the conference theme and its related streams from women's and gender studies practitioners in college and universities, women's center administrators, independent scholars, K-12 educators, artists, and community activists. The Association also welcomes proposals that do not directly address the theme, but are relevant to women's and gender studies today.

Possible proposal topics could include but are not limited to:

- Girls' sexualities
- Girls' ways of knowing and teaching
- From Katrina to Lebanon: the politics of displacements, migrations, and movements
- Global perspectives on girlhood
- The role of feminist/womanist theories in women's and gender studies
- The relationship between women's and gender studies and disability studies
- Women's movements in/side and outside the lines of imperialisms, fundamentalisms, and terrorisms

- Women's and gender studies and the visual and performing arts
- Theater and performance as education and/or activism
- Empire building and the politics of feminist alliances
- Gender theory and gender studies: pasts and futures
- Technologies of movement and surveillance
- Locating intersections of identity in women's and gender studies and in GLBT studies, including formations of race/class/gender/nation/sexuality
- Women's and gender studies education in women's centers
- Women's and gender studies on the academic job market
- Women in community leadership

Featured Conference Speaker

Sandra Cisneros, celebrated author of *The House on Mango Street* and the novel *Caramelo* will be a featured speaker. She will read from *Caramelo*, which devotes much of its text to immigration issues, and comment on the politics of migration and mobility today.

Before she was able to earn her living by her pen, Cisneros worked as an educator and counselor to high-school dropouts, an artist-in-the schools where she taught creative writing at every level except first grade and pre-school, a college recruiter, an arts administrator, and a visiting writer at a number of universities including the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She currently lives in San Antonio, Texas.

About St. Charles

The Chicago exurb of St. Charles provides an excellent setting for our conference. Nestled in the scenic Fox River Valley and just an hour west of Chicago, St. Charles offers small town ambiance and affordability with big city conveniences. Summers in St. Charles are characterized by arts festivals and free concerts, while the historic downtown features charming shops and specialty boutiques.

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 \$142 at Pheasant Run, which is where most conference events will occur, and \$119 for the Hilton Garden Inn. The hotels are across the street from one another.

Travel Information

Easily accessible from both O'Hare and Midway airports, St. Charles is also served by train from downtown Chicago. Detailed information about traveling to and from St. Charles is available at www.nwsaconference.org

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 **May 15, 2007**.

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 **May 15, 2007**.

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 Jewish, Lesbian, and Women of Color Caucus awards, please visit <http://www.nwsa.org/scholarship/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 **February 15, 2007**. Apply online at <http://www.nwsaconference.org/travelform.html>.

Continuing Professional Development Units

Illinois secondary educators will have the opportunity to earn Continuing Professional Development Units by attending the NWSA conference and a Thursday tour.

Special Events

“Bridge Inscriptions: Radical Women of Color Envision—Pasts, Presents, Futures”

Friday, June 29 will feature an all-conference tribute to *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. Designed to offer a powerful and evocative way to celebrate and honor the contributions of radical women of color to “feminist theory” and to women's studies, the event will consist of readings by women of color that are examples of “theory in the flesh” (a term coined by Cherrie Moraga)—theory that is poetic, lyrical, based in experience and consciousness arising from struggle and love.

Plan ahead to take a **guided tour** on Thursday, June 28 featuring Chicago-area resources that highlight the Girls Studies and Activism embedded conference theme. Participants will learn about the Street Level Youth Media Group, which educates girls and boys in media arts and emerging technologies for use in self-expression, communication, and social change. Participants will also visit Babes with Blades, a nonprofit group that teaches women stage combat skills and mounts productions like *When Fairy Tales . . . Attack*. Finally, tour members will hear from The Viola Project staff. The Viola Project is dedicated to empowering young women through the understanding and performance of Shakespeare's plays. There will be an additional fee for this tour, and Illinois secondary educators may earn Continuing Professional Development Units.

Select tour options on the conference registration form, available in late fall at www.nwsaconference.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 (301) 403-0525 or nwsaoffice@nwsa.org.

2007 IMPORTANT DEADLINES AT A GLANCE

November 1, 2006

Deadline for General Conference, Creative Writers Series, Film Series, and Pre-Conference proposals to be received at www.nwsaoffice@nwsa.org or at nwsaoffice@nwsa.org.

February 1, 2007

Accept and decline notifications will be sent via email for the General Conference, the Creative Writers Series, and the Pre-Conferences. Note that only session organizers will be contacted.

February 15, 2007

Scholarship and travel grant applications due.

April 1, 2007

Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) applications due. For full details please visit www.nwsa.org/projects/woclp.php

April 16, 2007

All presenters must be 2007 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.**

May 15, 2007

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.

June 1, 2007

Conference program book available at www.nwsaconference.org.

Guidelines for Submitting All Proposals

Step 1: Note that all proposals must be submitted electronically via www.nwsaconference.org by **midnight EST on November 1, 2006**. Late submissions will not be considered.

Step 2: Note the option to submit poster session proposals; selecting this option increases the likelihood of acceptance due to limited breakout session space. Also note that full sessions/panel proposals must include 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.

Step 3: Indicate whether you are applying for the Program Administration and Development or Women's Centers Pre-Conferences, the General Conference Session, or the Creative Writers Series. You may also indicate that your proposal is organized to address one of the conference sub-themes: Girls Studies and Activism, Performing Feminisms, or Im/Migration and Mobility. See below for more information and descriptions of these events.

Step 4: The National Women's Studies Association especially encourages complete panel/session submissions. Full panels typically include at least three presenters plus a moderator. The Proposal Review Committee encourages members to use NWSA and other listserves to network and find colleagues with whom to develop full sessions. NWSA bulletin boards and/or its web site will also serve as resources for those soliciting potential panelists on topics of mutual interest.

Step 5: Identify the appropriate session format for your proposal. Full details on session types are listed in the Call for Proposals.

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.nwsaconference.org.

General Guidelines

All participants on the 2007 NWSA program must be current (2007) members of NWSA, including the Creative Writer's Series, pre-conferences, and general conference. Membership in NWSA runs from January 1-December 31, 2007. **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 **April 16, 2007** or risk being removed from the printed program book.

To inquire about your membership status, email nwsaoffice@nwsa.org or call (301) 403-0525. Conference registration fees are separate from membership.

Participation Limits

To promote broad participation in the Annual Conference, an individual may not appear in the conference program more than **two times** (e.g., presenting a paper, moderating a session, leading a workshop). This total does not include participation in 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. Paper and Other Session Formats

The general conference has a variety of formats for examining women's studies education, scholarship, and activism: panel sessions, paper sessions, poster sessions, performances, workshops, and roundtables. Poster sessions were a new and well-received format in 2006 due to their informal nature and their networking potential. Therefore we are expanding the program space devoted to poster sessions and encourage prospective participants to consider this option.

Panels provide an opportunity for examining specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives. 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.

The National Women's Studies Association especially encourages complete panel submissions. The Proposal Review Committee encourages members to use NWSA and other listserv resources to network and find colleagues with whom to develop full sessions.

Paper proposals are typically 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.

Performance proposals may be submitted individually or as a group, although the National Women's Studies Association encourages combined performance sessions around particular themes, texts, or theoretical concepts. Please note that performance proposals must demonstrate intellectual rigor and relevance to the field of women's and gender studies.

Poetry and Prose submissions are accepted for possible inclusion in the Creative Writer's Series only. These individual submissions will be arranged into sessions by the Creative Writer's Series Chair. Accepted writers will read for a maximum of 15 minutes.

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. 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. It allows 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 www.nwsaconference.org/.

Workshops provide an opportunity to exchange information or work on a common problem, project, or shared interest. Workshops are typically experientially oriented with brief presentations that allow adequate time for reflective discussion and interaction.

Abstracts vs. Proposal Descriptions or Sample Creative Work

Abstracts for all proposals, including Creative Writing Series and poster sessions, should be 50-100 words. Abstracts explain to potential attendees the topic, foci, and/or goals of the presentation or reading in a clear and succinct manner in the program book. Abstracts may be revised or edited for the printed program.

One- to two-page proposal descriptions (250-500 words) should include some or all of the following, as appropriate:

- Objective or purpose of the paper, panel, workshop, etc.
- Perspective or theoretical framework
- Results and/or conclusions and point of view
- Relevance to the field of women's studies and/or conference theme
- Discussion of how the session will be structured

Proposal descriptions assist proposal reviewers with evaluating the session or paper's appropriateness for inclusion in the conference program. **Creative Writer's Series** applicants should submit no more than 10 double-spaced pages of sample work.

Abstracts and proposal descriptions may not exceed word limits above.

General Conference Review Procedures

All General Conference proposals are reviewed anonymously (without author identification). Guidelines for reviewers are developed by the National Conference Chair and the Proposal Review Committee. Depending upon the format and type of scholarly work being proposed, the appropriate criteria from among the following will be used to evaluate proposals:

- topic (originality, choice of problem, importance of issues, relevance to conference theme)
- contribution to women's and gender studies
- frameworks (theoretical/conceptual/practical frameworks, rationale, literature review, grounding)
- balance of topic areas, levels of expertise, institutional locations
- written proposal (quality of writing, clarity, logic, organization)
- audience appeal (member appeal, journal article quality)
- format (appropriateness of format to content, issues, or themes)
- opportunities for interaction (opportunities for contributions from audience or exchange of multiple perspectives)

Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Proposal Status

NWSA will send accept/decline notifications by email on **February 1, 2007** for all prospective participants in the general conference session.

Those who have submitted proposals for the Standing Committee Pre-Conferences will be notified separately by the session organizers by email on **February 1, 2007**.

SUNDAY FORMAT: CRITICAL ISSUES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Sunday will feature a three-hour session format that will provide opportunities for small groups of conference participants to exchange ideas on theoretical, political, or strategic matters of interest to women's studies practitioners. These sessions are designed as occasions for information and/or intellectual exchange and may entail the exchange of short papers between session participants before the general conference. Most sessions will require pre-registration to participate and **each participant will be listed in the conference program**. A limited number of spaces will be available in these Critical Issues seminars.

Topics may include:

- Theorizing Girls Studies
- Women's Studies and the National Political Climate: A Strategy Session
- Publishing in Women's Studies
- Communications Tools for Feminists
- Developing a Career Path
- Anti-Racism and Anti-White Supremacy Work in Women's Studies
- Women's and Gender Studies in Secondary School Settings

Information about the content of these special sessions and the session leaders will be available online at www.nwsaconference.org as it becomes available. The Critical Issues seminars will be included in the general conference registration fee. You may register for these sessions on the conference registration form, which will be available in the late fall.

STANDING COMMITTEE PRE-CONFERENCES

The Program Administration and Development Committee and the Women's Centers Committee host daylong sessions offer important networking and professional development opportunities for women's studies and women's center administrators on **Thursday, June 28**. 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 Program Administration and Development Committee invites proposals on a broad range of topics related to women's/gender studies program administration and development (proposals on topics unrelated to program administration and development should be submitted to the NWSA General Conference). We encourage group proposals for complete panels, workshops, and roundtables; authors of individual papers should use the PAList to generate and submit a complete panel. We also would like to advise potential presenters that internet connection is not available in the conference rooms used for the Pre-Conference.

Individual presenters who are interested in contributing to the following panels, workshops, and/or roundtables, already under development, should contact the Panel Coordinator indicated:

- **Evaluation and assessment of programs** (*Panel Coordinator:* Phyllis Baker, University of Northern Iowa, phyllis.baker@uni.edu)
- **External Advisory Boards and Friends of Women's Studies** (*Panel Coordinator:* Lois Helmbold, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, helmbold@unlv.nevada.edu)
- **Pedagogy of service learning** (*Panel Coordinator:* Tamara Berg, Winona State University, tberg@winona.edu)
- **Promotion and PR of Gender and Women's Studies** (*Panel Coordinator:* Astrid Henry, Saint Mary's College, ahenry@saintmarys.edu)
- **Recruiting new directors and faculty** (*Panel Coordinator:* Sarah Sternglanz, SUNY Stony Brook, Sarah.Sternglanz@stonybrook.edu)
- **Relationship with GLBT and Queer Studies** (*Panel Coordinator:* Mel Lewis, University of Maryland, mellewis@umd.edu)
- **Tenure, promotion, re-appointment, and joint appointment** (*Panel Coordinator:* Ellen Friedman, The College of New Jersey, friedman@tcnj.edu)

We also are interested in proposals for panels, workshops, and/or roundtables that address topics such as the following:

- Searches and recruiting for directors and faculty
- Advising and supporting student groups
- Developing courses in and ties to the "hard" sciences
- Feminist supervision, staffing issues, addressing exploitation of staff
- Fundraising
- WS as a discipline or interdiscipline
- Internationalizing the curriculum
- Writing successful grant proposals

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. The theme for this year's WCC Pre-Conference is "Women's Centers: Paths for the Future," which builds on the General Conference theme, "Past Debates, Present Possibilities, Future Feminisms." 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 plan for a better future for women in higher education?
- How do we understand ourselves as a national committee?
- 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, although proposals on other topics will also be considered. Panels and facilitated roundtable discussions welcome. Interactive sessions are especially encouraged. Proposals should be submitted online at: www.nwsaconference.org.

For more information on the NWSA Women's Centers Committee, visit www.nwsa.org/centers/index.php.

CREATIVE WRITER'S SERIES

The popular Creative Writer's Series announces a call for submissions to the NWSA's 2007 conference in St. Charles, Illinois. The Creative Writing Series runs concurrently with the panels and papers and is a supportive and lively venue for presenting creative work.

The Creative Writing Series committee is especially interested in receiving manuscripts that respond to the conference themes of Feminism's and Women's Studies Past, Present, and Future; Feminism as Performance/Performing Feminisms; Girls' Studies; and Im/Migration and Mobility. However, works submitted on other themes will also be considered. We welcome poetry, fiction, non-fiction, dramatic monologue, cross-genre work and writing that crosses the creative-critical divide.

This year, NWSA extends a special invitation to young writers. We hope to feature talented writers from every age group, including junior high, high school, and college writers. Use the online proposal form to submit a 50-100 word abstract of your work and in place of the proposal description submit no more than 10 double-spaced pages of sample work, no matter what genre.

FILM SERIES

The popular Film/Video Series announces a call for submissions to the National Women's Studies Association's 2007 conference in St. Charles, IL. The 2 day Film/Video Series runs concurrently with the panels and papers and is a supportive and lively venue for screening films and videos.

This year, we are interested in receiving work that responds to the conference themes of:

- Feminism's and Women's Studies Past, present, and future (including diverse women's histories and the activism of women of color);
- Feminism as Performance/Performing Feminisms;
- Girls' Studies;
- Im/Migration and Mobility;
- We are also interested in films and videos which respond to the embedded conference for K-12 teachers.

We welcome shorts, documentaries, drama, fiction, animation, comedies, and narratives. Format for entries is VHS or DVD. Please include the film/video cover sheet.

Films will be accepted until the **November 1, 2006** deadline and selections will be made by **February 1, 2007**. The films that are selected are then loaned to the NWSA for projection during the meeting and are returned to you by mid-July, 2007. Films are projected as video/DVD and the NWSA Program Book carries:

- 1) 75-100 word description of the film
- 2) Name of the film producers/sponsors
- 3) Ordering information including names, addresses, and websites of distributors.

Last year 10 distributors were included in the series. These included such diverse companies as Bullfrog Films, Cine Qua Non/InCite Pictures, Karmalux Productions, and Outcast Films.

Please feel free to contact Laurie Fuller, Chair of the Film/Video Series Committee with questions at 773-442-4552 or Ls-Fuller@neiu.edu. Videos should be submitted with the cover sheet available at www.nwsaconference.org/films.html and sent to:

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