Call for Papers

*Gulf Cultures, Southern Perspectives: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Symposium*

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
April 16 & 17, 2020

Deadline for Abstracts: Feb 17, 2020

This year, the College of Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary Student Symposium will explore Gulf Cultures and Southern Perspectives, broadly defined, to foreground how we produce and interrogate knowledge on the coast. As diverse, early career researchers working in different disciplines, we approach the issues and conflicts in southern communities through the lens of local cultures.

In this symposium, we hope to privilege the ways intellectual, professional, imagined, or recreational communities in the South and on the Gulf engage with pressing concerns within and around our cultures. What are some of the issues faced by Gulf communities? How do Southern and Gulf perspectives allow us to ask questions and make arguments that feel particular and important?

We are interested in the critical opportunities that emerge when we focus on bodies of knowledge made by and for Gulf communities. Gulf perspectives—and research about them—may take a variety of shapes and may be focused on a variety of sites: aquacultures and environmental protection, health care and access, the literary and social histories of waterways, immigration and borders, or local history and activism. This year’s symposium seeks to explore those critical topics across a range of disciplines.

We invite submissions on any humanistic approach to “Gulf Perspectives” by graduate and undergraduate scholars working in a broad range of fields across the humanities, including but not limited to the fields of literature, history, theater and dance, art history, women, gender & sexuality studies, digital humanities, communication & media studies, sociology, psychology, and ethnic studies. We also welcome proposals (for individual papers or panels) from disciplines and professional programs such as biology, economics, nursing, kinesiology, education, mathematics, or computer science.

Abstracts from undergraduate researchers, creative writers, artists, and performers are also welcome, as are proposals for non-traditional panel formats. Papers that adopt interdisciplinary perspectives and employ diverse theoretical vantage points are encouraged. Bi-lingual papers or papers in Spanish are also welcome. Individual presentations should be limited to 15 minutes. The symposium will be open to the public.
Possible topics include:

**Public Life**
--artistic histories of the Gulf region: texts, music, sculpture, murals/paintings, films, etc
--public spaces in the Gulf
--political histories of activism, community building, or public mobilization in the region

**Health, Medicine and Access**
--histories or analysis of public health initiatives in the region
--health disparities and histories of access
--representations of illness, embodiment, or chronic pain

**Local and Transnational Language**
--bilingual education across the region
--heritage languages and relationships
--regional idioms, dialects, and language traditions

**Southern Borders**
--histories/literature of immigration and colonization
--depictions of fluidity, crossing, and exchange in the Gulf
--regional heroines and heroes

**Aquacultures**
--local fish farming, sustainability, and research methods
--cultures organized around aquaculture and water resources
--economic development in the Gulf: ports, oil fields, ranches, waterways, farms, etc.

**Environmental Conservation**
--protection and conservation of waterways, wetlands, and agriculture
--wildlife management
--cultures of recreation

**Ways of Knowing in/and the Gulf**
--how does living, working, and researching on the Gulf shape problem solving and knowledge making?
--what does the Gulf teach us about how we approach organizing, categorizing, community making?
--what sorts of knowledges, perspectives, or histories are particular to our region, and how do we acknowledge their specific elements?
--what sorts of aesthetic productions develop in the Gulf States, and how do they reflect, amplify, or reimagine local lives?
To apply, please submit:
- A 500-word abstract describing the paper’s argument, critical context, and significance. Please include your name, contact information, and paper title with the abstract.
- An up-to-date CV
- A brief biography (200-300 words)

Where to submit:
Abstracts, CVs, and bios should be submitted via email to:
TAMUCCGraduateSymposium@gmail.com
Any questions may also be directed to this address.

Deadline for Abstracts: Monday, Feb. 17, 2020
Abstract Workshop: Friday, January 31th

Acceptances will be sent out early March.