

Battleground States: Scholarship in Times of Crisis.

Friday March, 31-Saturday, April 1, 2006

Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, Ohio

**UPDATE: KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ADDED AND SUBMISSION DEADLINE
EXTENDED.**

As subjects and scholars, we negotiate contested spaces daily. We live in a time of global military and political battles, deterritorialized "wars" against drugs and "terror," and a heightened contestation over discourses that define patriotism, "values" and national identity. These broad battles over political, economic, cultural, and (inter)national borders are localized in struggles over battleground states and responses to crisis and tragedy.

Recently in northwest Ohio, we have been at the center of the battle for the White House, academic freedom, definitions of marriage, and have struggled to understand the devastation brought by a cataclysmic tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. Therefore, the graduate students of the American Culture Studies Program at Bowling Green State University are convening an interdisciplinary conference of active scholars engaged in developing critical approaches and interrogations of discriminatory discourses, (re)imagining and (re)constructing an inclusive culture of democratic values.

Grounded in the rich tradition of multi- and transdisciplinary dialogues that are the hallmark of both American and Cultural Studies, this conference will draw from and include a range of academic and activist concerns, methodologies and voices. The

Battleground States Conference will critically engage current battlegrounds and crises. In particular, we are interested in presentations that map the terrains of battlegrounds such as:

- Bodies and Subjectivity
- Refugees, Asylees, and Detainees
- Health Care
- Public Media
- Education, Standardization, and Academic Freedom
- Memory and National Identity
- Religion/Religious Identities in Secular/Public Spaces

We are also interested in bringing together scholars and activists whose work reflects on and critically engages with moments of and responses to crisis. Topics might include:

- Media and Race in Hurricane Katrina
- Technology, Journalism, and New Media
- Institutional Responses to Crisis

We are interested in drawing together scholars from all fields of inquiry and are committed to fostering a space in which academic voices can actively engage and foster social and political activism.

This conference invites proposals for conference presentations by scholars, policymakers, practitioners, artists, filmmakers, activists, and other professionals whose work engages the borders and battles facing the world today. We invite proposals from traditional academic disciplines—such as history, English, sociology—and their related

interdisciplines—such as American studies, cultural studies, comparative ethnic studies, women’s studies.

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Ann Larabee

Associate Chair, Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
Associate Professor, American Thought and Language
Michigan State University

Areas of interest: Disaster Studies; Cultural Impacts of Technology; Cultural Theory;
Feminism and Technology; History of Terrorism

Keynote Panelists:

Dr. Sherry Linkon

Professor, English
Coordinator, American Studies
Youngstown State University

Areas of interest: Working-Class Studies; Scholarship of Teaching & Learning; Teaching
& Learning with Technology; Nineteenth-century American Literature & Culture

Dr. John Russo

Coordinator, Labor Studies Program
Director, Center for Working-Class Studies
Youngstown State University

Areas of interest: Labor and Social Issues; Labor Unions; Representations of the
Working-Class in Popular Culture; Automobile assembly plants in Mexico and the US

To be considered as a presenter, please send a presentation proposal, not to exceed 500 words. To propose a panel, please submit a session proposal describing the panel topic, not to exceed 500 words. We will accept proposals by regular mail and email (include abstract in both message body as well as an attachment) to the following:

Mail: Attn: Adam Franklin
101 East Hall
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Email: acsconf@bgnet.bgsu.edu

Please direct any and all questions to Adam Franklin via email at acsconf@bgnet.bgsu.edu or by phone at (419)372-0509. You can also find additional information on our conference webpage: www.bgsu.edu/acsconf

Paper Proposals—due by January 1st 2006—should include the following information:

- Name
- Institutional Affiliation (if applicable)
- Mailing Address (including zip code)
- Phone Number
- Email address
- Title for the proposed presentation
- Abstract
- A-V equipment needs, if any
- Special needs, if any

Panel Proposals –due January 1st 2006 - should include the above information for all proposed participants.

Important Information

- To preserve time for discussion, ACS limits all presentations to 15 minutes
- Notification of proposal status will be sent around January 25th
- You may read more than one paper at the conference; however, each paper must be submitted separately
- To promote discussion, all papers must be read by their authors; persons not in attendance may not have papers read by colleagues.
- ACS does not sponsor or fund travel or underwrite participant costs.