

BATTLEGROUND STATES 2007: INTERSECTIONS OF POETICS & POLITICS

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

Following the success of last year's initial Battleground States Conference, the graduate students of the newly formed Culture Club: The Cultural Studies Scholars Association at Bowling Green State University are proud to announce this year's conference, "Battleground States: Intersections of Poetics and Politics," to be held March 29-31, 2007 in Bowling Green, Ohio. We are inviting submissions aimed at examining the often conflicted points where poetics – defined loosely as the study of art, language, literature, music and other forms of expression – and politics – which we take to mean the study of government, social systems, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and other networks of power relations– meet. The scholar's role, in both these conflicts and their larger cultural context, has been the subject of broad and heated debate.

In the interest of expanding the debate and encouraging interdisciplinary dialogues, this conference actively seeks to include a range of academic and activist concerns, methodologies and voices. We are interested in presentations that apply academic study to larger social issues, such as, but not limited to:

- Body and Identity Politics
- Mass Media, Journalism and The First Amendment
- Education and Academic Freedom
- Post-Colonialism and Immigration Politics
- Health Care and Reproductive Rights
- Religious Studies and Religion in US Electoral Politics
- New Media and Intellectual Property Law
- Gender and Sexuality in Popular Literature

We are particularly interested in presentations by scholars from the Great Lakes Region and papers that examine the cultural and political histories of that region.

This conference invites proposals from artists, activists, filmmakers, scholars, educators, and everyday people whose work engages both the political and poetic aspects of everyday life. To be considered as a presenter, please send a presentation proposal, not to exceed 300 words. To propose a panel, please submit a session proposal describing the panel topic, not to exceed 300 words. We will accept proposals by regular mail and email (include abstract in both message body as well as an attachment) to the following:

Battleground States Conference
c/o American Studies Program
101 East Hall
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Email: acsconf@bgsu.edu
Web: bgsu.edu/ACSCConf

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Paper Proposals—due by **January 15th**—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 by **January 15th**—should include the above information for all proposed participants.

Important Information:

- To preserve time for discussion, all presentations should be limited to 15 minutes.
- Notification of proposal status will be sent around February 1st.
- 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.
- The conference coordinators do not sponsor or fund travel or underwrite participant costs.

We are excited to announce that we will have two featured speakers. On Friday, March 30th, our day will end with a talk by Dr. Ray Browne, Emeritus Professor at Bowling Green State. Founder of the Department of Popular Culture and the American Culture Studies program, Dr. Browne was also a central figure in the development of the Popular Press, the *Journal of Popular Culture*, and the Popular Culture Association. We are very excited to have Dr. Browne speak. Dr. Browne will be introduced by Dr. Mark Hoppenstand, the current editor of the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

On Saturday, March 31st, our conference will conclude with a presentation by Dr. Annette Wannamaker of Eastern Michigan University. A professor of Children's Literature, Dr. Wannamaker is an expert in the fields of gender studies and masculinity in young adult literature and culture. Her book, *Boys in Children's Literature and Popular Culture*, is forthcoming from Routledge.

Located in northwest Ohio, Bowling Green State University has long been recognized as a center for the study Popular Culture. Home of the only free-standing department of Popular Culture as well as extensive archival holdings in Popular Culture and Popular Music, BGSU's strong programs in American Culture, Rhetoric, Policy History, and Theatre and Film are central to a dynamic intellectual environment.