

# BATTLEGROUND STATES

# THE FUTURE

CALL FOR PAPERS

FEBRUARY 26-28, 2009

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. SIVA VAIDHYANATHAN

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**\*\*Call For Papers Deadline Extended to January 4, 2009\*\***

If, as philosopher and poet Paul Valéry says, “The prophet is in the same boat as the historian,” then why does the future often remain alienated from the past and present? Why do we envision the future as either utopic or dystopic? Why are discussions of the future frequently limited to the realm of science fiction? As the first decade of the new millennium draws to a close, the fourth annual Battleground States Conference looks towards the future. The conference seeks to address the future from cultural, ideological, political, and technological perspectives as well as reflect on contested visions of the future.

We welcome creative interpretations of the conference theme such as, but not limited to:

- Environmental change(s) and their impact on local, regional, national, and global societies as well as their effects on future generations
- The potential radical impact of emerging technologies in the fields of medicine, information, science, culture, and the arts
- Narratives of modernism alongside anti-teleological narratives representative of postmodernism
- Apocalyptic finality and post-apocalyptic renewal

Other questions to consider:

- How have particular historical moments foreshadowed the future? How might contemporary moments do the same?
- How will the unfolding of our singular political moment alter the national and global landscape?
- What space does the future permit or omit for embodied notions of the human?
- What is the fate of academia in a climate dominated by skepticism towards intellectuals?

“Battleground States 2009: The Future” will be held February 26-28, 2009 on the Bowling Green State University campus. The Culture Club: Cultural Studies Scholars’ Association hopes to elicit presenters who consider the future in its traditional sense in addition to papers that move beyond the temporal or chronological limitations of the future. As our aim is to create a conference dedicated to cross-disciplinary approaches to the future, we invite proposals from graduate students, emerging and independent scholars, junior faculty, artists, activists, filmmakers, and educators.

Abstract Guidelines:

Abstracts of 300 words or less should be sent to **battlegroundstates@gmail.com** and must be submitted **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. Submissions should include the title, abstract, presenter’s name, institutional affiliation (if applicable), contact information, A-V equipment requests, and special needs, if any. Panel proposals are also welcome and should include information and abstracts for all participants and the panel as a whole.

Please visit our website for information about The Culture Club and past conferences:

[www.battlegroundstates.org](http://www.battlegroundstates.org)