



**2020 National Women’s Studies Annual Conference
Call for Proposals
The Poetics, Politics, and Praxis of Transnational Feminisms**

Proposal submissions accepted February 1 – 28, 2020

The **National Women’s Studies Association** leads the field of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. Established in 1977, NWSA has more than 3,000 members worldwide. Our annual conference regularly draws more than 2,3500 attendees and is one of the only annual meetings in the US exclusively dedicated to showcasing the latest feminist scholarship.

The General Conference begins on Thursday afternoon and concludes Sunday afternoon; it will feature concurrent breakout sessions, receptions, and professional development sessions for graduate students and junior faculty.

The 2020 conference will open on Thursday, November 12, 2020 with pre-conferences. The Program Administration and Development (PAD) and Women’s Centers (WC) meetings offer networking and professional development opportunities for women’s and gender studies and women’s center administrators. The Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) is designed to support women of color in their professional goals and leadership development; interested candidates must apply to participate.

The 2020 NWSA conference theme, “The Poetics, Politics, and Praxis of Transnational Feminisms,” seeks to open conversation about the evolution of transnational feminisms. Rooted in the pioneering scholarship of Jacqui Alexander, Inderpal Grewal, Caren Kaplan, and Chandra Talpade Mohanty, among others, transnational feminism has been a subject of feminist study, theorizing, and discourse for decades. It has contributed immensely to decentering Western, especially US, scholarship and generated new forms of anti-racist, anti-imperialist, and decolonial feminist praxis and epistemologies that cross national boundaries.

The intention of this call is to revisit the linear narratives that accompany gender

Co-Chairs:

- Premilla Nadasen, Barnard College
- Dána-Ain Davis, City University of New York
- Robyn C. Spencer, Lehman College

2020 Review Chairs:

- Emma Amador, University of Connecticut
- Monica Casper, University of Arizona
- LeConte Dill, New York University
- Xin Huang, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- Zenzele Isoke, University of Minnesota
- Annie Menzel, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Nadine Naber, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Margaret Noodin, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
- Margo Okazawa-Rey, San Francisco State University
- J.T. Roane, Arizona State University
- Red Washburn, CUNY Kingsborough
- Erica Williams, Spelman College

and feminist studies which circumscribe the emergence and definition of transnational feminism as well as erase the long history of Black transnational feminisms. It also seeks to affirm the particular discourses within transnational feminisms that have been deepened by analyses of class, culture, religion, ethnicity, race, and caste. This is a critical historical moment to foreground the global context and to consider what a systemic, materialist, anti-racist transnational feminist analysis can offer.

Transnational feminism converges and is in tension with other discourses of liberation. The theme aims to foreground scholarship and praxis that seek to bring transnational feminisms into deeper engagement with indigenous feminisms, intersectionality, radical Black feminisms, postcolonial feminisms, queer theory, ecofeminisms, disability studies, transgender studies, theoretical developments of anti-blackness and racial capitalism, neoliberalism, and neocolonialism/postcolonialism. These discourses of liberation both engage with and look beyond the state.

NWSA welcomes proposals that lift up the many peoples who are obscured by, have been excised by, or have not been recognized as being part of, the transnational feminist dialogue, such as religious and racialized minorities, refugees, and queer communities. This call invites proposals from and about those individuals and communities who, although rarely identified as “national” representatives, often illuminate better how the structures of power operate. The theory and practice of transnational feminism can provide crucial insights and tools that help us to imagine new ways of living.

Participants are invited to interrogate: Who has been unaccounted for in both the history and present iterations of theoretical discourses of transnational feminisms? How can we fully analyze the inequalities that animate the local/situated/historically specific and simultaneously develop practices of mutual support and collective engagement? How can we offer alternatives to the geographical construct of the Global North/Global South in ways that foreground the complex hierarchies within both of these locations but that also attend to the ongoing imperial aggression against the Global South? What are the multiple manifestations of transnationalism? How has transnational feminist praxis diverged from theoretical discourse? How is transnational feminism expressed and represented in art, music, culture, and digital spaces? How can transnational feminist poetics, politics, and praxis help us work towards alternatives to the militarized, extractivist capitalism that is wreaking havoc with human and non-human life in ruthlessly unequal ways? What possibilities do the “poetics” offer for pushing the boundaries of theoretical constructs?



NWSA invites all of those interested to submit proposals for panels, roundtables, papers, and workshops that represent the wide range of intersectional and transnational scholarship in the US and beyond.

Please note that submitted proposals must address the general theme of the conference

SESSION PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMATS

PANELS

Panels provide an opportunity for examining specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives given that they include **3-4 participants and 1 moderator**. 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 described in the proposal.

ROUNDTABLES

Roundtables include 1 moderator and 4-6 presenters who make brief, informal remarks about a specific idea or project. They allow for extensive discussion and audience participation.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops provide an opportunity to exchange information or work on a common problem, project, or shared interest. Workshops are typically experientially oriented, grounded in some sort of women's and gender studies research agenda, and include brief presentations that allow adequate time for reflective discussion and interaction.

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Individual paper proposals are 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. **IMPORTANT: Due to meeting room space constraints, individual paper submissions are frequently converted into poster sessions. NWSA strongly encourages presenters who wish to deliver traditional papers to organize complete panels with colleagues.**

POSTERS

Poster proposals present research or analysis on a topic by combining graphics and text on a 4'x8' board. The poster 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.

SPECIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMATS

AUTHORS MEET CRITICS

Authors Meet Critics (AMC) sessions are designed to bring authors of recent, cutting-edge books, deemed to be important contributions to the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies, together with discussants chosen to provide a variety of viewpoints.

Three or four such sessions will be included in the program. NWSA members are invited to nominate **books published between 2014 and 2019**. Both single-authored books and edited collections that are the result of collaborative engagement among the contributors will be considered. **Only current NWSA members may submit nominations, including self-nominations; nominations by presses will not be accepted.** Members of the 2020 program committee will review the nominations and make selection decisions.

Once the AMC proposal submission is complete, NWSA Staff will contact the session organizer to confirm the proposed discussants will be available if the AMC proposal is accepted.

Nomination deadline for Authors Meet Critics Sessions: February 28, 2020

LIGHTNING SESSIONS

Lightning sessions consist of quick, powerful, and provocative 5-minute presentations on the presenters' research connected to the conference theme. A session will consist of **6 to 8 presenters and 1 non-presenting timekeeper**. Presenters will speak for 5-minutes about their research and hold a discussion session at the end. Only full-formed sessions will be considered.

SPONSORED SESSIONS

Sponsored Sessions may be submitted by NWSA constituent groups on topics of interest to group members and NWSA members as a whole. To submit a sponsored session for consideration, please choose Sponsored Panel, Sponsored Roundtable or Sponsored Workshop in the online submission system. This will ensure the session is correctly identified in the program, if accepted. One sponsored session per constituent group will be offered space in the conference program if submissions are received by the proposal deadline, proposals meet review criteria, and proposals are accepted by reviewers.



- All panel proposals must include complete contact information for **at least three participants plus a moderator**. Incomplete panels with fewer than three participants will not be considered for review.
- Workshops and roundtable proposals that feature multiple participants must include all participants' names and contact information at the time of proposal submission.
- In rare cases a one-person workshop may be considered, but the proposal should indicate why the presenter is uniquely suited to address the topic independently.
- Session organizers who intend to present need to add themselves as presenters via the online submission system.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Different session formats carry different submission requirements. We recommend reviewing the requirements below and assembling your proposal in a Word document from which you cut and paste before logging in to the submission system.

Those who have a proposal accepted must become current NWSA members and register for the conference to be included in the conference program. This includes critics who are part of an AMC.

Panel Proposals

- Panel Title
- Panel Rationale (100-250 words)
- Individual papers from 3-4 potential presenters including,
 - Individual Paper Titles
 - Individual Abstracts (50-100 words each)
- Name of 1 moderator
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
 - Additionally, please do not put requests for accommodations here. There will be another screen to enter information about accommodations.
- Requests for accommodations (if necessary)

Roundtable or Workshop Proposals

- Title
- Abstract (50-100 words)
- Rationale (100-250 words)
- Names of roundtable or workshop participants
- Name of 1 moderator
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
 - Additionally, please do not put requests for accommodations here. There will be another screen to enter information about accommodations.
- Requests for accommodations (if necessary)

Individual Paper or Poster Proposals

- Title
- Abstract (50-100 words)
- Rationale (100-250 words)
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
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Author Meets Critics (AMC)

- Book Title
- Book Summary (150 words)
- Rationale (250-500 words, including publication date, publisher, ISBN number, author name and affiliation, and discussion of the book's importance to the field of women's studies and/or conference themes)
- List of 3-4 critics with their affiliations and their rationale for inclusion
 - AMC session organizers (the person who submits the AMC proposal) are responsible for contacting potential critics and securing their participation.
 - Once the AMC proposal is submitted, NWSA staff will contact the AMC session organizer to request documentation that critics have agreed to participate in their session.
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
 - Additionally, please do not put requests for accommodations here. There will be another screen to enter information about accommodations.
- Requests for accommodations (if necessary)

Lightning Sessions

- Title of Lightning Session
- Names of 6-8 other presenters including
 - Titles of each talk
 - 2-3 sentence description of each talk (50 words or less for each)
- Name of 1 timekeeper
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
 - Additionally, please do not put requests for accommodations here. There will be another screen to enter information about accommodations.
- Requests for accommodations (if necessary)

Sponsored Session Proposal

- Please follow the guidelines above based on the type of session you are submitting, i.e. panel, roundtable, workshop.
 - NWSA staff will contact the chair/s of the constituency group to confirm that if the proposal is accepted, the proposal will be the sponsored proposal for the constituency group.
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Pre-Conference Call for Proposals

Each year, NWSA hosts multiple pre-conference sessions including the Program Administration and Development (PAD) Pre-Conference, the Women's Centers Committee (WCC) Pre-Conference, and the Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP). For the past 2 years, NWSA has piloted teach-ins and institutes for NWSA attendees. NWSA is broadening the pre-conference session offerings for the 2020 NWSA Annual Conference. Read more about pre-conference sessions.

Please submit proposals to preconference@nwsa.org. (NOTE: this is a different proposal submission process than the one used for the general conference).

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

A Pre-Conference Institute provides conference attendees a chance to engage with concepts, materials, and other attendees in a half-day format. Organized around certain themes connected to the general conference theme, Pre-Conference Institutes take a deeper dive into pedagogical issues and questions of interest to a variety of NWSA members including scholars, activists, administrators. Please see the Appendix for an example of an NWSA Pre-Conference Institute.

Institute Proposal Guidelines:

- Title
- Description of the Institute
- Names and short bios (3 sentences) of facilitators
- Learning goals for participants
- Detailed agenda/syllabus
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
- Requests for accommodations (if necessary)

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (PAD) PRE-CONFERENCE

The PAD Pre-Conference organizers invite the submission of proposals for both **workshops and panels** on a broad range of topics related to women's, gender, and sexuality studies program administration and development (individual papers will not be accepted for the PAD Pre-Conference). The 2020 NWSA conference theme is **"The Poetics, Politics, and Praxis of Transnational Feminisms."** We encourage submissions that engage with this theme, as well as those aimed at offering innovations in program administration and development. Sessions that encourage anti-racist and anti-imperialist approaches to programming, administration, and curriculum, are especially welcome. **(PLEASE NOTE: Proposals that are not specifically related to program administration and development should be submitted to the general conference using the general conference login system. Proposals to be considered for PAD's "Sponsored Session" in the general conference program should also be submitted to the general conference submission portal.)**

This year we are especially seeking proposals for workshops or interactive sessions with hands-on components that will run for 120 mins. The following are suggested workshop topics that emerged from the 2019 PAD Business Meeting:

- Effective External Reviews: Training for External Reviewers
- When to Manage and How To Lead: Hiring and Evaluating Lecturers and Staff While Maintaining an Inclusive Community
- The Shifting Nature of Assessment
- Negotiations 101: Personal, Professional, and Programmatic

In addition to workshops, we anticipate running a number of diverse panels during the Pre-Conference. These panels should attend to inclusivity and equity in representation of individuals, ranks, programs, and institutions. The following are suggested panel topics that emerged from the 2019 PAD Business Meeting:

- Anti-Academic Analytics
- What to do when WGSS Isn't Your Discipline: Mentoring, Teaching, and Program Integrity
- Naming and renaming units: "Women"? "Gender"? "Sexuality"? "Feminist"? "Queer"?
- Self-Care for WGSS Directors and Faculty: Creating Networks
- Supporting Junior Faculty
- Navigating the Academy as Associate Professor

Topics that are perennially popular, but we still need individuals to propose and organize them:

- Advice for New Chairs and Directors
- To Merge or Not to Merge: WGS Department Consolidations
- Succession Planning – Finding and Mentoring New Leaders/WGS Directors
- Supporting Faculty of Color at Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs)
- Interrogating Whiteness and White Privilege in our Programs
- Making Invisible Service Visible

All proposals must be submitted to preconference@nwsa.org **Deadline: March 30, 2020.** **Please note that this is different from the general conference system.** All submissions will be anonymized by NWSA Staff before sending out for review.

Please include the following in your proposal submissions:

Panel Proposals

- Panel Title
- Panel Rationale (100-250 words)
- Individual papers from 3-4 potential presenters including,
 - Individual Paper Titles
 - Individual Abstracts (50-100 words each)
- Name of 1 moderator
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
- Requests for accommodations (if necessary)

Workshop Proposals

- Title
- Abstract (50-100 words)
- Rationale (100-250 words)

- Names of roundtable or workshop participants
- Name of 1 moderator
- Detailed Audiovisual Rationale
 - To request LCD projector, please add the information here. Not all requests can be granted.
- Requests for accommodations (if necessary)

Please contact PAD Co-Chairs Jenn Brandt (jbrandt@csudh.edu) and Diane Price-Herndl (priceherndl@usf.edu) with any questions.

WOMEN'S CENTERS COMMITTEE (WCC) PRE-CONFERENCE

The NWSA's Women's Centers Committee (WCC) advances the vital role that women's and gender equity centers play in the field of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies (WGSS). Women's and gender equity centers support the scholarship and best practices of both the centers themselves, and of academic programs—developing research, documenting resources, building network alliances, serving as support and advocacy centers addressing equity and inclusion, and designing projects that support feminist theory and practice.

The expressed need of the Women's Centers Committee (WCC) to have more flexibility with regard to the pre-conference format has been a topic of conversation between WCC leadership and NWSA leadership for several years. Based on discussions spearheaded by the outgoing WCC Co-Chairs and NWSA leadership, we are delighted to announce that we have support to pilot a more “un-conference” feel this next year. The format of the WCC pre-conference in 2020 will reflect more flexibility and have space for both traditional break-out sessions and elements of the Summit, such as large group workshops and less structured conversations on topics of pressing importance. An additional component of a more flexible pre-conference is extending the submission due-date for pre-conference proposals, as a later date provides additional time to select topics of immediate relevance to the community and ensures that a greater diversity of WCC content is present in both the pre-conference and the main conference. We are still currently having conversations regarding the timeline for WCC pre-conference planning and will release when we will begin accepting proposal submissions as well as the deadline as soon as we have this information. Recognizing the value of WCC contribution to the field of Women's and Gender Studies, **we strongly encourage Center professionals to continue to propose sessions for the general conference.** The NWSA General Conference will begin accepting session proposals **February 1, 2020.**

WOMEN OF COLOR LEADERSHIP PROJECT

The Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) is committed to increasing the number of students, staff, and faculty members of color working within the field of women's studies, related disciplines, and interdisciplinary fields; working at women's centers; and assuming positions of power and leadership in NWSA, including the Program Administration and Development Committee (PAD) and Women's Centers Committee (WCC).

The WoCLP is also designed to support women of color in their professional goals and leadership development. Women of color in women's studies, ethnic studies, or related fields

may apply if they aspire to leadership within women's studies or NWSA. Applicants may include advanced graduate students, faculty, and current program administrators who wish to be more involved in program or NWSA leadership. To learn more please visit www.nwsa.org.

APPENDIX 1: THE JOSEPHINE ST. PIERRE RUFFIN K-12 FEMINIST TEACHER NWSA PRE-CONFERENCE

Teach-In Co-Chairs:

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Loyola University Maryland

Ileana Jiménez, founder feministteacher.com

Stephanie Troutman, University of Arizona

The Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin K-12 Feminist Teacher Pre-Conference is an interactive pedagogy and activism workshop designed to engage elementary through secondary classroom teachers with the NWSA Annual Conference and its themes. This pre-conference serves as NWSA's recognition of the importance of curriculum design and content in schools and the support of teacher professional development as critical feminist issues. In committing to the support of K-12 feminisms and education, the pre-conference workshop provides teachers with ways in which to apply feminist theory and content to their classroom practice; complimentary access to the conference at large; and other feminist resources--including the scholarly Meridians journal; gender, racial, and social justice training; and networking opportunities with experts in education and activism, especially those with a focus on feminist theory, women of color feminisms and intersectionality, as well as youth studies research.

The pilot initiative for this K-12 teacher pre-conference was launched as the Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin Teach-In Program (JRTP), at NWSA's "Forty Years Since Combahee" conference in Baltimore, MD in 2017. Continuing the legacy of the work at the JRTP and its namesake, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, in 2018, it was renamed and relaunched as the Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin K-12 Feminist Teacher Pre-Conference. The focal point of this teacher pre-conference will be the training of educators in how to teach feminist content, theory, and activism effectively in the classroom in an effort to gauge and enhance their students' gender, racial, and political awareness and critical consciousness.

APPENDIX 2: GENERAL CONFERENCE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FAQ

Who can submit a proposal?

We invite paper, panel, workshop, and lightning session proposals that build creatively and critically on our theme. We strongly encourage university-based scholars, independent scholars, non-academic writers, artists, researchers, and organizers to propose panels and presentations.

How many proposals can I submit?

You are welcome to propose multiple types of sessions and will be able to participate in a maximum of 2 accepted sessions in different roles.

Do I have to be a member of NWSA to submit a proposal?

No. You can log into www.nwsa.org and register as a Nonmember Guest to submit a proposal. The Nonmember Guest is only used to assist people in submitting proposals and is not a membership type.

Do I have to be a member of NWSA to present at the conference?

Yes. You can become a member on our website: www.nwsa.org. Additionally, you must register for the conference. This includes

How many times can I present and/or appear on the conference program?

People can appear twice on the conference program in two different roles. For example, if your paper was accepted on a panel and you agreed to moderate a separate panel, you can appear in those roles. However, if you submitted two paper proposals and both were accepted, you will need to choose which paper to present.

Can I submit an individual paper? Or do I have to submit an entire panel?

You can submit an individual paper. The Conference Review Chairs will group individual papers into panels.

If I request audiovisual services, will I automatically receive them?

No. We have a limited number of LCD projectors and speakers available to us due to cost. We will do our best to honor the requests, but audiovisual services are not guaranteed.

What are the review criteria for proposal submissions?

All conference proposals are peer-reviewed anonymously (without author identification). Guidelines for reviewers are developed by the Proposal Review Committee and include:

- Topic: Is the topic/question/issue relevant to the field of women's/gender/sexuality/feminist studies?
- Relationship to theme: Are the topics/questions/issues discussed in the proposal clearly connected to the conference theme?
- Frameworks: Is the proposal grounded in relevant feminist/womanist theoretical/conceptual/applied frameworks?
- Clarity: Is the proposal well-organized, coherent, and clear?