

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

**Theatre and Social Change (TASC) Focus Group Sessions  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference  
Austin, Texas  
August 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

### Submission Deadlines:

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020** (individual paper proposals: submit to [poundswi@bc.edu](mailto:poundswi@bc.edu) or fill out the Google form <https://forms.gle/suebNcVpniny5Zoe7>)

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020** (complete panel proposals: submit to [www.athe.org](http://www.athe.org))

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The **TASC Debut Panel** call for proposals will be posted on ATHE's website by Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you are planning to submit a proposal to our Debut panel, the submission deadline will be March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. More info will be provided on CFP next month.

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**The Theatre and Social Change (TASC) Focus Group invites proposals for in-person, virtual, or hybrid panels for next year's conference to be held in Austin, TX.** The 2021 conference will be a hybridized format, including in-person sessions in Austin and pre-recorded virtual sessions. This year's theme is "*Re*: - "Originally: in the matter of, referring to... Subsequently: about, concerning" (OED). Referring to ATHE. Concerning ATHE. Our 2021 conference theme begins with a recognition and calls for a reckoning. Participants are invited to consider the following:

Re- the prefix complicates our reckoning. Its meanings include "back from a point reached" and "back to the original place or position." It risks nostalgia, a rootedness in what was, even as we seek to redesign something new. But nostalgia from whose perspective? Some questions related to the overall theme to consider addressing include:

- How might ATHE be at the vanguard of what this moment requires?
- In confronting white supremacy and settler colonial privilege in our classrooms, discipline, and institutions, how do we resist a simple return to the nostalgic "normal" without reinscribing losses of histories, languages, cultures, and lives?
- What can we remember, revive, reinterpret from theatre and performance history to revision a more equitable, just, safe, and sustainable world?
- What reparations must our disciplines and institutions enact?
- What transgressions, anxieties, and/or aspirations emerge with a reimagined anti-racist future?
- In what ways has theatre and performance been rewritten? What can be learned or gained from our migration to digital modes?

- How has the chaos, fear, and hope of this moment offered time to reflect on racist, sexist, classist or homophobic practices in theatre making and the academy?
- How might this moment and its reverberations inform historiography? Like an echo, how might separate historical events, periods, and/or geographies connect and propel unforeseen futures?
- How will performance assist communities to recover from this double pandemic?

Visit [https://www.athe.org/page/21conf\\_home](https://www.athe.org/page/21conf_home) for more information and for the complete overall conference CFP.

**TASC invites you to consider** proposals **for in-person, virtual, or hybrid** sessions regarding the conference theme for panels and roundtables, as well as proposals that challenge traditional session formats through ACTIVE workshops, performance, or other “session events.” We strongly encourage you to consider ways in which to make your session/panel active and interactive. TASC remains committed to giving voice to a diversity of methodological approaches and geographical emphases.

TASC brainstormed several topic ideas for ATHE 2021. Those topics are listed below for you to consider. Please do not feel limited by these topics.

- The drive towards activism on college campuses related to issues of Race, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- The resilience of community despite gentrification
- Energizing activism in and about Austin
- Indigenous populations in Texas and challenges they face
- Drama therapy and applied theatre – addressing the health and wellness of people, communities, and the climate
- Areas of support for audience and participants as it relates to health and wellness
- Polarization – race relations and socioeconomic divides in communities and theatres
- Training artist-citizens in higher education
- Best practices for collaborating within a community
- Complexities of identities in communities and on stage
- The disenfranchisement of marginalized voices both on and off stage

Although full panel proposals are highly encouraged, TASC will accept individual paper proposals, with which we will attempt to pair you with other individual papers. No guarantee can be made that individual papers will find a place on a panel. If you/we are unable to pair you with other presenters/papers, your individual paper will not be accepted. TASC does not support single presentations or panels (with rare exceptions for workshops). If you would like to submit an individual paper, please e-mail your paper proposal, contact information, and a brief bio to Tiffany Pounds-Williams, TASC Focus Group Conference Planner at [poundswi@bc.edu](mailto:poundswi@bc.edu) (please CC Theresa R. Dudeck, TASC Focus Group Rep, at [tdudeck@pdx.edu](mailto:tdudeck@pdx.edu)) or fill out the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/suebNcVpniny5Zoe7> no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

When planning your proposal, remember that:

- Presenters are limited to two (2) appearances (i.e.: Session chair, Participant, Moderator, Respondent, etc.) Exceptions are at the discretion of the Conference Committee

- All presenters are expected to be current members of ATHE
- All presenters are expected to register/pay for the conference

### **Tips for submitting proposals:**

1. Proposals for complete panels (with all presenters assembled) should be submitted directly to ATHE through the website at <http://www.athe.org>. The deadline for all proposals is **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. Please forward a copy of your proposal to TASC conference planner, Tiffany Pounds-Williams at [poundswi@bc.edu](mailto:poundswi@bc.edu) (please CC Theresa R. Dudeck, TASC Focus Group Rep, at [tdudeck@pdx.edu](mailto:tdudeck@pdx.edu)).
2. If you would like assistance in panel coordination, please use the TASC message board on TASC's page at <http://www.athe.org/members/group.aspx?id=130358> (or email individual paper proposals to the TASC conference planner at [poundswi@bc.edu](mailto:poundswi@bc.edu) (please CC Theresa R. Dudeck, TASC Focus Group Rep, at [tdudeck@pdx.edu](mailto:tdudeck@pdx.edu)) or fill out this Google form at <https://forms.gle/suebNcVpniny5Zoe7> no later than **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. Please note, this option does not guarantee submission/acceptance to the conference, which is determined by ATHE and not TASC.
3. Submissions may be either discipline specific or multidisciplinary. In general, we are interested in panel topics that address: the historical role of theatre with a conscious social perspective; the research and practice of theatre with a focus on the dynamic relationship between performance and society; and on cultural analysis and performance praxis which sees itself as an agent for social criticism and/or change. We encourage proposals that include both senior and junior scholars, as well as graduate students. A senior scholar could be asked to serve as a respondent. We also encourage collaborations with other Focus Groups to develop dynamic multidisciplinary sessions. Please see below for specific rules and guidelines for multidisciplinary proposals.

**For Theatre and Social Change Specific Proposals:** If your session addresses primarily theatre and social change, then when prompted in the application, choose “Single Focus Group” and then “Theatre and Social Change” as the group that should review your proposal. When the selection process begins, all TASC-targeted proposals will be sent to the TASC conference planner. The TASC Executive Committee will rank the proposals, and the conference committee will use those rankings to make final programming decisions. You must submit your proposal to the TASC conference planner (Tiffany Pounds-Williams at [poundswi@bc.edu](mailto:poundswi@bc.edu) (please CC Theresa R. Dudeck, TASC Focus Group Rep, at [tdudeck@pdx.edu](mailto:tdudeck@pdx.edu)) before submitting a TASC proposal to ATHE. Also, feel free to contact the conference planner if you have any problems or concerns or if you are curious as to whether your proposal is appropriate for TASC.

**For Multi-Disciplinary (MD) Proposals:** If your session has a TASC focus but is also appropriate for another Focus Group (FG), you can check “Multidisciplinary Session” on the online proposal application. Then you will be asked to select a “Primary Focus Group Sponsor” (e.g., Theatre and Social Change) and a “Secondary Focus Group Sponsor” (e.g., Directing Program). To make an MD proposal you must contact, by email, the conference planners for each FG selected before submitting proposal online to receive feedback and to make sure the proposals are appropriate for each FG. If one of your targeted FGs is not enthusiastic, it is far better to know before submission and perhaps find another FG to increase its chance of being

accepted (MD proposals are ranked by each of its affiliated FGs). See [www.athe.org](http://www.athe.org) for contact information for FG conference planners.

ATHE Theatre and Social Change Focus Group webpage:

<http://www.athe.org/members/group.aspx?id=130358>

ATHE's Call for Proposals Information webpage (with links to online proposal applications):

Visit [https://www.athe.org/page/21conf\\_home](https://www.athe.org/page/21conf_home)