

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Performance Studies Focus Group (PSFG) Sessions

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference

August 7-11, 2019 – Orlando, FL

[Scene Changes: Performing, Teaching, and Working through the Transitions](#)

Submission Deadlines:

October 24: for submission of abstracts for individual papers to conference planner Steve Luber at sluber@conncoll.edu.

November 1: for submission of complete session proposals directly to ATHE at www.athe.org.

The Performance Studies Focus Group (PSFG) of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) invites paper and session proposals for ATHE's 2019 annual meeting in Orlando. Proposals will be welcomed in many formats—e.g. scholarly panels, seminars, roundtables, performance-based presentations, working groups, and other innovative, alternative-session structures—as well as on all theatre- and performance-related topics, particularly those that address the 2019 ATHE conference theme of “Scene Changes: Performing, Teaching, and Working through the Transitions.”

Our meeting in Florida—a site that illustrates the complicated intersections of leisure, violence, politics, and, hovering over it all, imminent climate change revolution and oppression—provides an opportunity to reconsider the power of performance to rehearse and produce change in times of transition. PSFG encourages papers and proposals representing all historical periods and geographic locations. Proposals might consider some of the following questions, or pose alternatives to them:

- **Performing Change** – What is the relationship between performance and the environment at different historical moments? How might performance be deployed as a challenge to the ambivalence surrounding climate change? What is the importance of performance in a world in which ecologies are transitioning as we speak?
How can we take up questions of transitional bodies? What bodies are “made” transitional through enactments of law or normalizing ideologies? What are some possible connections between bodily hypervisibility and trans identities? How does the paradigm of transitional bodies illuminate the processes of bodily control enacted by the state? How might we think with and through performance and the nonhuman, post-human?
How do we challenge or rethink performances of trauma, performances of testimony and witness, performances of power, and performances of fear and outrage across media practices?
- **Teaching the Scene** – How do we understand the changing field of Performance Studies? What do recent (and long-standing) transitions of the field have to tell us about the position of performance in everyday life? How do we labor through transitions—in the field, in politics, and in our own lifetimes? How does performance studies as a field continue to offer opportunities to challenge and reimagine education? How can performance scholars and practitioners use performance, and concepts of transition, to interrogate accepted narratives and empower students? In what ways could transitional performance contribute to the creation of utopian performatives (Dolan) or possible futurities (Muñoz)?

- **Working through Transition** – How do concepts of liminality inform our thinking about cultural and artistic formation? Is the concept of transition helpful in assessing creative movements? How can (and how have) performance theorists and practitioners utilize transitional aesthetics to resist repressive cultural formations and ideologies? How has our field reified or challenged appropriated social structures, what McKenzie called the liminal-norm? What possibilities for troubling the familiar divisions between theory and practice, pedagogy and research, can be prompted by a reevaluation of (transitional) aesthetics?

How to Submit Your Proposal:

1. All session proposals are filed electronically directly to ATHE. A link to the session proposal form [can be found here](#). All session proposals have a deadline of November 1. After submission, please forward a copy of your completed proposal to Steve Luber (sluber@conncoll.edu). **Also: please note that all audio-visual technology requests must be included in your completed proposal (see #3 below).** Include all requests for guest passes or conference grants. ATHE permits two conference presentations per participant.
2. ATHE also accepts proposals for Multidisciplinary (MD) Sessions. Multidisciplinary Sessions must be sponsored by two different focus groups. **All MD session organizers must contact the Conference Planners of both sponsoring groups before submitting their session directly to ATHE.** Rather than thinking of these sessions as “multidisciplinary,” then—for much of our work in theatre and performance studies is inherently multidisciplinary—think of these sessions as “multi-focus group.” Crafting your proposal so it will address the constituencies of these different focus groups will likely make your MD Session proposal more successful. [More information on proposing Multidisciplinary Sessions is available here.](#)
3. Please indicate A/V needs in your session proposal. If you do request audio or visual aids—particularly an LCD Screen and/or sound equipment—please be aware of the following: In order to schedule as many excellent Focus Group sessions as possible your session may be scheduled in a room without any audio or visual aids available. You will need to confirm in the proposal whether or not you would be willing to present this session if the requested audio visual is not available. Please understand that, if you say you are unwilling to present without and audio-visual aids, the odds of your proposal acceptance may be negatively affected. See additional information about [A/V requests here](#). You may request one piece of A/V equipment for free (see previous link for list of equipment). If you need more than one piece of A/V equipment, please remember to apply for the appropriate grant to cover the cost of A/V support **at the time that you submit your session proposal**. The grant must be requested separately from the submission of your proposal.
4. Historically, submissions that pull together a strong panel of participants have been more successful than panels comprised of individually submitted papers. If you are looking for co-panelists, please visit our Facebook Group ([here](#)) or contact a PSFG officer about relaying your inquiries to our group membership. You can find information about becoming a member of PSFG and joining our listserv [here](#).

However, with an eye toward helping to promote networking opportunities via PSFG, especially amongst new ATHE members, we are working to improve the individual-paper submission process. So, when you submit an individual paper proposal, the Focus Group Conference Planner will curate panels, matching up related papers, **and then put those authors in touch with one another so that they can craft their own session proposal by the November 1 deadline.** In order to facilitate this process, individual paper proposals must be received directly by the Conference Planner Steve Luber (sluber@conncoll.edu), **no later than October 24th.** These proposals should include title and affiliation, contact information, a brief bio, an abstract of 250 words, and specifications for any A/V needs.

5. Notifications for accepted and rejected sessions are typically announced by mid-March.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact:

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