

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

**Theatre and Social Change (TASC) Focus Group Sessions
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference
Orlando, FL
August 7-11, 2019**

Submission Deadlines:

November 1, 2018 (complete panel proposals: submit to www.athe.org)
October 20, 2018 (individual paper proposals: submit to amanda.dawson@brescia.edu)

The Theatre and Social Change Focus Group (TASC) invites proposals for next year's conference to be held in Orlando, FL. The 2019 conference theme is "Scene Changes: Performing, Teaching and Working through the Transitions" and invites participants to consider the following:

The city of Orlando and the state of Florida have over the years experienced dramatic scene shifts, often presaging national changes. From colonial wars to contested elections, Indian Removal Acts to mass shootings, urban experiments to moon shots—Orlando offers to the visitor a panoramic background of troubled pasts and future visions, prompting us to consider the possibilities and consequences of our scene changes. The city's various theme parks provide their own encapsulated representations of past and future, visions that are themselves constantly changing, both in their built scenic environments and in the ideologies that such scenery materializes.

The 2019 Conference Committee invites you back to Orlando for an exploration of all that the theme of "Scene Changes" suggests. What are the practical challenges of scene changes for playwrights, directors, dramaturgs, designers, actors, stage managers, and stage crews? For whom is a scene change an interlude of quiet contemplation, and for whom is it the busiest moment of the night? What is the history of the scene shift, and how have theatre artists dealt with changes in production methods and audience tastes? How do scene shifts shape audiences' experiences? How will our field respond to the challenges and opportunities represented by recent changes in leadership, and by shifting economies of production? How do we reflect on techniques of theatre education and scholarship in this changing moment? How can we begin to proactively change the scenes of the theatrical climate and structure? Perhaps most importantly, how will we make use of the present moment to redress previous wrongs, preserve what is important, and move forward into the future?

TASC invites you to consider the conference theme in your proposals for panels and roundtables, as well as proposals that challenge traditional session formats through performance, workshops, or other "session events." TASC remains committed to giving voice to a diversity of methodological approaches and geographical emphases.

Additional topics to consider include (but are not limited to):

- Theater and social change transitions in history and the present

- The changing scenery of activism on college campuses related to issues of Race, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- How is theatre itself being utilized to cope with the transitioning political climate?
- The scene shift of the #metoo movement and theatrical and performative responses to it
- When scenes (moments in time, history, etc.) shift who is brought into the space and who is excluded?
- How do we prepare our students to shift the tide *or* respond to shifting tides?
- Who are the educators and theatre makers who are “changing the scenes”
- The recent influx of female artistic directors taking the reins at major regional theatres across the US
- How does TASC encourage the disruption of borders and constructed (or imaginary) walls?
- Applying Theatre of the Oppressed today
- Social Change vs. Social Justice
- What is TASC’s potential in activism’s scene shift/set change to social media?
- Teen Activism and Theatre; Theatre as a response to violence

Although full panel proposals are highly encouraged, TASC will accept individual paper proposals. No guarantee can be made that individual papers will find a place on a panel. If you would like to submit an individual paper, please e-mail your paper proposal, contact information, and a brief bio to Amanda Dawson, TASC Focus Group conference planner, at amanda.dawson@brescia.edu no later than October 20, 2018.

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 November 1, 2018. Please forward a copy of your proposal to TASC conference planner, Amanda Dawson, at amanda.dawson@brescia.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 amanda.dawson@brescia.edu no later than October 20). 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 (amanda.dawson@brescia.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 or not 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 in order 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 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):
https://www.athe.org/page/19_proposal_forms