



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life Eleventh Annual National Conference

**Convergence Zones: Public Cultures and Translocal Practices
Seattle, Washington
23-25 September 2010**

Conference Theme

Imagining America invites university affiliates (faculty, students, staff, and administrators) and community partners (individuals and organizations) to participate in our eleventh annual national conference, 23-25 September 2010, hosted by the University of Washington. The theme of this year's conference, *Convergence Zones: Public Cultures and Translocal Practices*, signals an exploration of how public scholarship creates new connections among disciplines, communities, and sectors. As our work shuttles across institutional, geographical, and professional boundaries, our projects become zones of convergence where social interests, cultural practices, and new and old media intersect. Animated by hybrid modes of participation and circulation, these convergence zones reshape our research, teaching, and engagement activities as they foster new projects, knowledge, and publics.

Conference Keynote

Diana Taylor is Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish at New York University and the founder of the Hemispheric Institute. Her work on performance and politics across the Americas highlights the mediations involved in cross-cultural transmission and exchange. She is author of *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas*; *Disappearing Acts: Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina's "Dirty War;"* and *Theater of Crisis: Drama and Politics in Latin America*. The Hemispheric Institute is a multilingual and multinational consortium of artists, scholars, and activists that facilitates collaboration among researchers and practitioners through conference-festivals and web-mediated courses, archives, and public forums.

Conference Location

Seattle is a unique city in many ways, with strong neighborhoods separated by hills and waterways, a history of labor migration that has produced hybrid and layered ethnic identities, and an economy made up of emerging and declining industries. Founded as a center for

international trade and the exploitation of natural resources, Seattle is currently a hub of technological and media innovation, social justice activism, and radical environmentalism. Situated on the Pacific Rim, the city officially welcomes globalization, even as its residents have catalyzed fervent anti-globalization actions and demonstrations. As in other global cities of the twenty-first century, these tensions play out across digital divides, patterns of migration and settlement, and uneven processes of community development and gentrification.

Conference Structure

Embedded in Seattle's regional history and geography, the 2010 conference will include both on-campus sessions and visits to off-campus sites where teaching and research-based collaborations are forged. The site visits will draw on the expertise of local, national, and international practitioners, and feature partnerships that engage through various modalities of practice: community arts and media; digital archives and pedagogies; participatory mapping and oral histories; environmental restorations and built environments; music and sound. Site visits will encourage dialogue among conference participants involved in similar initiatives outside the region, with one central goal of the conference being the creation of local and translocal communities of practice.

Conference Proposals

Imagining America welcomes proposals that engage the broad conference theme. We are particularly interested in innovations that span the virtual and embodied networks, built and natural environments, and local and global processes that shape existing and emerging forms of public scholarship. Individuals submitting session proposals may consider engaging or extending the following questions:

- How can academic and community practitioners collaborate in generative, authentic, and mutually-beneficial ways?
- What interdisciplinary practices and cross-sectoral alliances are emerging in the projects you are developing?
- How are issues of social justice engaged as you identify and address social, political, and environmental problems?
- How do your projects situate themselves within institutions of higher education and across local or translocal geographies of intellectual and activist practice?
- How does *Imagining America*'s core commitment to cultural diversity and social equity play out in the design and implementation of your projects?
- How do you document and assess the impact of public and engaged scholarship in ways that balance community impact and student learning goals?

Participant-led sessions will advance the conference theme by investigating the purposes, methods, and theories of public scholarship and practice; building capacity among individual and institutional conference participants; linking practice to reflection; and developing participants' individual and collective ability to work across diverse geographical scales and social locations of institutional practice, ranging from course syllabi and college-wide curricula to sustained social, economic, and cultural development initiatives.

Conference Formats: Panels, Posters, Roundtables, Seminars, and Workshops

Conference formats are intended to encourage the presentation of projects at different stages of development, to foster hands-on learning, and to address the always challenging question: “What next?” Please feel free to adapt the suggested formats or propose others in order to suit your session’s goals.

All of the conference session formats listed below will be 90 minutes in length.

Space and technology requests: The conference has a finite set of resources available in terms of space and technology. Imagining America encourages an emphasis on participant engagement and interaction. In your application, you can request specific space and technical accommodations, including audio-visual equipment such as video/data projectors and DVD/VCR combo players. You will be asked to provide a short justification for your request in terms of the goals and format of your session. Requests will be evaluated in terms of these justifications and available resources.

1) **Panels:** A team of individuals may present their research, work, and/or experiences, leaving 30-45 minutes of the session for questions and discussion designed to foster cross-institutional learning.

Panel proposals should include: the title of the panel; the name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the panel organizer; the names, titles, affiliations, and email addresses of all panelists; and a description of the panel's topic (<500 words). Panels are limited to no more than five participants, including the organizer.

2) **Posters:** Conference attendees may present and solicit feedback on their existing and emerging projects by displaying a poster (or other table-top media) at a conference session dedicated to that format. Posters typically mix a brief narrative description with photographs, organizational or historical charts, maps, and other modes of presentation. Brochures or hand-outs may be available, or the presenter might display a presentation or DVD on her laptop.

Poster proposals should include: the name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the presenter; and a description of the project and how it will be displayed (<500 words).

3) **Roundtables:** A group of participants may convene with the goal of generating discussion around a shared concern. In contrast to panels, roundtables typically involve shorter position or dialogue statements (5-10 minutes) in response to questions distributed in advance by the organizer. The majority of roundtable sessions should be devoted to discussion. Roundtables are limited to no more than five participants, including the organizer. We encourage roundtables involving participants from different institutions, centers, and organizations.

Proposals for roundtables should include: the title of the roundtable; the name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the organizer; the names, titles, affiliations, and email addresses of the proposed roundtable participants; and a description of the position statements, questions, or debates that will be under discussion (<500 words).

4) **Seminars:** A seminar leader or team may propose a small-group (8-15 person) session limited to participants who have prepared in advance. Preparation may involve shared readings, pre-circulated draft papers or other materials, and/or other forms of pre-conference collaboration. We particularly invite seminars designed to generate future collaborations among participants. A limited number of seminars will be selected by the program committee, and a call for

participation announced on Imagining America's webpage and listserv no later than **May 1, 2010**. Interested parties will apply directly to the seminar leader(s) for admission to the session. Seminar leader(s) will be responsible for providing the program committee with a confirmed list of participants (names, titles, affiliations, and email addresses required) for inclusion in the conference program no later than **June 1, 2010**. *Please note: To run at the conference, seminars must garner a minimum of 8 participants, in addition to the seminar leader(s).*

Proposals for seminars should include: the title of the seminar; the name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the seminar leader/team members; a description of the work to be completed by participants in advance of the seminar; and a description of the issues and questions that will be raised in discussion (<500 words).

5) **Workshops:** A facilitator or facilitating team may set the agenda, pose opening questions, and/or organize hands-on participant activities. The facilitator or team is responsible for gathering responses and results from participants and helping everyone digest them.

Proposals for workshops should include: the title of the workshop; the name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the (lead) facilitator and for any co-facilitators; a description of the activities to be undertaken (<500 words); and a description of space requirements, if appropriate.

Submission Deadline and Process

Imagining America is now managing proposal submissions electronically. Please prepare all the materials required to propose your session according to the given directions before you begin electronic submission. We recommend saving a copy of this information in a Word document. Then go to:

<https://catalysttools.washington.edu/webq/survey/schadmin/94295>

You will be asked to enter the information into the fields provided (you may choose to cut and paste).

Deadline for submissions is Friday, **April 2, 2010**. The Program Committee will send final notifications regarding proposed sessions no later than **June 11, 2010**