

Eastern Michigan University Women's and Gender Studies
Presents the Graduate Conference

Intersectionality: Theory and Action

Interweaving Scholarship, Activism, and Community

December 3 & 4, 2015

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Nicole Carter - Director, Women's Center, Wright State University

Dr. Peter Higgins - Philosophy Professor, Eastern Michigan University

Intersectionality can be defined as a recognition of crossings between multiple forms of exclusion. Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term in 1989 to explain how discrimination based on gender, race, class, ability, sexual orientation, religion, species and other types of identity do not act independent of each other, but reinforce each other. These multiple forms of oppression are always inextricable from one another.

The theory of intersectionality is used to describe and investigate interconnected and overlapping forms of oppression. These multiple oppressions are experienced in terms of gender, race, class, ability, and sexuality, among other aspects of identity. Scholars and thinkers from a range of disciplines, including philosophy, media studies, gender studies, political science, and sociology, have explored, interrogated, and expanded ideas about intersectionality. But how do we apply theoretical intersectional frameworks outside of academic settings? Can theories of intersectionality be utilized in research? How might intersectional perspectives change the way we think about activism? In what ways are intersecting oppressions challenged, critiqued, and reimagined through the arts and humanities, as well as the sciences? These questions have helped inspire the organizing of this conference.

We are looking for papers/projects that address both oppression and empowerment of minorities, but also deconstruct these binaries. Resistance can be found in poems, films, artwork, spoken word performances, workshops on grassroots activism, and also cultural or literary analysis.

We invite you to submit proposals for papers, workshops, and art projects which address the theme of the conference. Proposals might choose to address or engage with the following topics:

- Racism, Class, and Community-Building
- (Dis)ability and Activism
- Trans* People of Color Identities
- Intersectionality and Research

Submission types, requirements and restrictions are found below.

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For all submissions please include the 10 items listed below.

Papers

Please submit a title and abstract of no more than 300 words.

Workshops

Please submit a brief description of your proposed workshop.

Art Projects

Art projects can include visual and performance art, such as photography, poetry, paintings, and dance. Please submit a brief description of your project. If applicable, include project dimensions (if visual), length (if performance), and any special equipment or materials needed (eg audiovisual equipment, mounting easels).

On the cover sheet of your proposal, include the following items:

- (1) for papers - 3000 words maximum! Word Count
- (2) author's name
- (3) institutional affiliation (if any)
- (4) mailing address
- (5) email address
- (6) telephone number
- (7) the work's title
- (8) an abstract - 300 words maximum!
- (9) What AV needs will you have?

Projects which do not include all of the above items will not be considered.

No more than one project by the same author will be considered.

All submissions need to be emailed to emuwgstconf@gmail.com

Submissions are due no later than midnight October 25th, 2015.