

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS



## WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES CONFERENCE

### *Futuristic Feminisms: Visionary Perspectives across the Disciplines*

The Women's and Gender Studies Program Steering Committee of Oakton Community College, located in Des Plaines, Illinois in the near northwest suburbs of Chicago, invites proposals for its biennial conference to be held **March 22, 2013**.

This one-day conference, *Futuristic Feminisms: Visionary Perspectives across the Disciplines*, will present scholarly and creative work by feminist activists, writers, scientists, visual and performing artists, and scholars that examines future directions of feminism and Women's and Gender Studies through diverse lenses. Award-winning spoken word poet and activist Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai will serve as keynote speaker.

The Committee seeks proposals for panel presentations—consisting of research papers, readings, performances, or media presentations—as well as roundtable discussions and poster sessions focused on topics related to the overall conference theme. Possible topic areas could include, but are not limited to:

- Bodies
  - Body modification
  - Fashion and adornment
  - Genderqueer bodies
  - Racialized bodies
  - Genocide, rape, and vulnerable bodies
- Feminism, white privilege, and shame
- Feminist science fiction and fantasy
- Gender, sexuality, and virtual realities
  - Avatars, Second Life
  - Cyberfeminism
  - Games and role playing
- Graphic novels and other new literary forms
- Music, Spoken Word, and Performance Studies
- New directions in feminist research, including:
  - Disability Studies
  - Environmental Studies
  - Feminist responses to incarceration and detention
  - Gendered health and medicine
  - New feminist theories
  - Peace, conflict, and Social Justice Studies
  - Popular movements, activism, and revolt
  - Reproductive justice
  - Sexuality studies
  - Transnational feminisms
- New media and technology
  - Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr
  - Jezebel, Bitchmedia
- Women in politics, business, engineering, and science

**Panel presentations** consist of individual research presentations or performances organized around a single topic, concluding with a brief question and answer session. Panels should feature three or four presenters, as well as a non-presenting moderator responsible for introductions, time keeping, and overall coordination. Sessions are 75 minutes; time is divided equally among presenters, with 15 minutes for introductions and discussion. In lieu of a panel, selected one-person workshops are acceptable. Participants are encouraged to *present* material to the audience rather than simply read a paper.

**Roundtable discussions** feature between four and six presenters, hosted by a moderator. Each participant makes brief opening remarks on a particular theme or project, followed by discussion and audience participation. Sessions are 75 minutes, including introductions and opening statements.

**Poster sessions** include display in a central location throughout the day as well as at a special afternoon reception. Presenters must be available to set up, take down, and discuss posters with viewers at the reception.

Proposals by established scholars and artists are welcome. Both graduate and undergraduate students are also encouraged to submit.

The Steering Committee encourages proposals for fully-formed panels and roundtables. It also welcomes proposals from individual presenters; individuals will be grouped with presenters on similar themes.

All accepted presenters must register for the conference. Fees—which include lunch and refreshments—are \$15 for Oakton students, \$20 for all other students, and \$35 for non-students.

Proposals must clearly state the type of presentation (panel, roundtable, poster session), and include:

- Title and topic (see list for suggestions).
- An abstract of no more than 300 words.
- Names and brief biographies (no more than three sentences) for all presenters.
- Contact information (including e-mail).

Submit via e-mail to [wgs@oakton.edu](mailto:wgs@oakton.edu) or in hard copy to:

Women's and Gender Studies Program  
Oakton Community College  
Division of Languages, Humanities, and the Arts  
1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016  
Attn: Kathleen Carot

The Women's and Gender Studies Steering Committee will review all proposals and make selections based on appropriateness of topic, quality of proposal, and contribution to Women's and Gender Studies scholarship and creative endeavors. The Committee will pay special attention to proposals that feature intersectional and multidisciplinary approaches and/or inclusion of presenters from faculty, artist, and student groups. Oakton will attempt to meet audiovisual equipment needs—please state such needs clearly in the proposal. Accepted presenters will receive an audiovisual equipment checklist prior to the conference.

**Deadline for proposals is February 1.** Notification of proposal status (accepted or declined) will be sent via e-mail no later than February 15.