



Class Matters

Working Class Studies Association Conference
Pittsburgh, Pa. • June 3-6, 2009

The Working Class Studies Association (WCSA) is pleased to announce that its biennial conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, June 3-6, 2009.

Proposals are invited for presentations, panels, workshops, and performances, according to the guidelines below. Proposals must be received by January 4, 2009.

The Working Class Studies Association

The WCSA promotes models of working-class studies, both inside and outside of the academy, that serve the interests of working-class people. These include critical discussions of relationships among class, race, gender, sexuality, nationality, and other structures of inequality. WCSA is a multidisciplinary and international association; its members and conference participants include economists, sociologists, social workers, documentary filmmakers, writers, labor educators and cultural workers, as well as historians, teachers and literary scholars. The association's web address is www.wcstudies.org.

The 2009 conference builds on the tradition of conferences that for more than a decade took place at Youngstown State University, sponsored by its Center for Working-Class Studies. The event will be hosted by Pitt's English Department, with co-sponsors from other departments, campuses, and working-class organizations in and around the city of Pittsburgh.

WCSA Conference 2009

Featuring panels, plenaries, workshops, performances, screenings, site visits, and social gatherings, the conference provides an opportunity for academics, artists, activists, workers, independent scholars, teachers and students to present their projects, make connections, and learn about resources for the work we hold in common.

The conference theme, Class Matters, is intended to encompass the broad range of fields of study and forms of work promoted by the WCSA, and proposals may reflect this diversity. (See below for a listing of topics addressed at previous conferences.) Planners of the 2009 conference also have a particular interest in topics connected to "place(s)": the local and global sites and environments of working-class lives and struggles, both historical and contemporary.

Proposal guidelines

Proposals will be accepted in three categories:

- a) Individual presentation, paper or talk. The program committee may group these into panel sessions.
- b) Panel session, featuring three or four presenters, proposing jointly. Typically 1.5 hours long, sessions may take the form of a workshop, round-table, or panel, and must provide time for response and interaction. Workshops of longer duration will also be considered.

- c) Performance, reading, or screening of creative work. Proposal must include a request for necessary space and/or technology.

Proposal format

1. Proposed title
2. Category of proposal (see above)
3. Description, in fewer than 250 words, of the session
4. Names and institutional affiliation (where appropriate) of all presenters
5. Name, address, email, and phone numbers of the person making the proposal

Submit proposals either as hard copy by mail to Class Matters Conference, English Department, 526 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, or as an email attachment to wcsa09@pitt.edu.

Proposals must be received by January 4, 2009.

Notifications of acceptance will be made by February 1, 2009. Closer to the event a web-site will be available for posting of changes and updates, travel and lodging details, and the conference program.

We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!

Conference co-chairs

Nick Coles, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh

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Charlie McCollester, Pennsylvania Labor Center, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Topics addressed at the 2005 and 2007 conferences

(This not an exclusive list, but one intended to suggest a range of interests represented.)

class in the classroom
working-class literature
labor and the body
class and the arts:
 music, theater, visual art
labor rights / human rights
working-class history
transnational perspectives on class
class on campus:
 students as workers
 working-class academics
labor organizing
community activism
gender and class
working-class political theory
class and K-12 education
class and health care
media studies / criticism

war, class and the military
working-class / middle class
class and ethnicity
urban class issues
class in a global economy
race / whiteness studies
the future of work
class and the environment
working-class economic theory
class and electoral politics
the anthropology of class
rural class issues
immigration / migrant workers
class and sexuality
working-class humor
class and religion
resistance and transformation
working-class film