



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
**FEMINISM UNBOUND: IMAGINING A FEMINIST FUTURE**  
**November 8-11, 2012 • Oakland, CA**

**INDEX**

Conference Overview	2
About the Theme	2
Authors Meet Critics Sessions	6
About the Meeting Location	7
Step-by-Step Guidelines for Submitting All Proposals	7
Conference Participation Guidelines and Requirements	9
Session Formats	9
Proposal Submission Requirements	11
General Conference Review Procedures	12
Proposal Status	12
Registration and Housing	13
Travel Information	13
Registration Refund Policy	13
Disability Information	13
Childcare	13
Scholarships and Travel Grants	13
Program Administration and Development Pre-Conference	14
Women of Color Leadership Project	15
Women's Centers Pre-Conference	16
Important Deadlines at a Glance	18

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**Conference Overview**

The **National Women's Studies Association** leads the field of women's studies in educational and social transformation. Established in 1977, NWSA has more than 2,000 members worldwide. Our annual conference regularly draws more than 1,500 attendees and is the only annual meeting in the US exclusively dedicated to showcasing the latest feminist scholarship.

The 2012 conference will open on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> with two pre-conferences hosted by the Program Administration and Development and the Women's Centers Standing Committees. These daylong events offer networking and professional development opportunities for women's and gender studies and women's center administrators.

The General Conference begins on Thursday afternoon and concludes Sunday afternoon; it will feature concurrent breakout sessions, new member events, and professional development sessions for graduate students and junior faculty.

**Meeting Location**

The National Women's Studies Association 2012 annual meeting will be held at the Oakland Marriott City Center and the Oakland Convention Center in Oakland, California, from November 8-11, 2012.

**About the Theme**

***Feminism Unbound: Imagining a Feminist Future*** builds on our conversations about Feminist Transformations in 2011 by examining the ways feminist scholarship is transgressing such boundaries as public/private; gender conformity and sexuality; nationalism; disability, race, ethnicity, class and culture. It encourages us to explore our vision of 21<sup>st</sup> century feminism. What are the issues that are or should be shaping its direction? How are global movements of people and ideas changing our theoretical lenses, political and economic realities, as well as our cultural productions and representations? What are the most transformative forms and foci of activist engagements, particularly in light of contemporary patterns of global interconnectedness, accompanied by unparalleled economic crises and burgeoning political movements? As scholars committed to progressive social change, what are the assumptions upon which we base our knowledge claims and select tools to investigate our past, explain our current realities, and work for a different, more equitable future both locally and globally?

NWSA 2012 identifies several thematic areas in which feminist transgressive possibilities have been particularly relevant and/or require sustained dialogue:

- ***Revolutionary Futures***
- ***Traveling Theory***
- ***Social Networks, Power, and Change***

- *Decolonizing Knowledge*
- *Creative Awakenings*

### **Theme 1: *Revolutionary Futures***

The signs of economic and political unrest and change are everywhere. This moment is a fruitful one to apply feminist analyses of the various global democratic movements and challenges to those ideals, from the Arab spring movement to the Occupy Wall Street protests.

- How have feminist analyses been pushed to grapple with the paradox of a higher level of attention to gender and women’s human rights in a time of fierce militarization, sustained economic inequality, and continued ecological decline?
- How have feminist interventions and critiques been important in understanding the ongoing role of gender in new social movements, such as Occupy Wall Street?
- What are the implications of the increasing global rise of female leaders, such as Hillary Clinton, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Christine Lagard, (the new managing director of the IMF Chair), for enacting a feminist future? Are they reshaping the gendered and raced dynamics of world politics, or acting, as Zillah Eisenstein suggests in some cases, as sexual decoys, that is, handmaidens of more militaristic and exploitative forces?
- How has feminist transnational organizing on various issues (e.g., domestic worker rights, violence, sex work, and HIV/AIDS) contributed to new theories of social movements and feminist activism?
- How have feminist scholars and activists participated in shaping public opinion about the Obama presidency and its commitment to democratic ideals?
- How does the corporatization of the academy and shrinking public resources for public higher education affect advancing a feminist future?

### **Theme 2: *Traveling Theory***

Our present state of financial crises and oppositional possibilities challenges us to reimagine the relationship of theory to practice and of practice to theory. But, our moment also demands that we consider and challenge the geopolitics of intellectual work itself. The questions related to this theme center the dissemination, exchange, and (im)mobilities of feminist knowledge, in an effort to work towards a transnational feminism that is also multi-lingual, multi-genealogical, and multi-directional.

- What are the genealogies of feminism both within and outside of the “global North” and what are the politics of circulation within and across geopolitical contexts?
- How are feminist institutions and theories complicit with colonialism and empire?
- What are the challenges and possibilities facing theorists whose work circulates in feminist international circles?
- How does feminist thinking benefit from an interaction and interarticulation with critical ethnic studies, Diasporic, and “decolonial” perspectives?
- What strategies can we use to break down the institutional barriers between locations of feminism in the academy? How might Women's Centers and WGS departments authentically partner with one another in a way that escapes the shallow conception of a theory/practice divide?

- What are the challenges and limitations of English as “lingua franca” of feminist thought, and what are the politics of translation in feminist research and scholarship?
- How do we engage divergent paths and genealogies for feminist transnational theorizing (not just North-South and South-North but South-South)?

### **Theme 3: *Social Networks, Power, and Change***

Social networks have long been a key instrument of social change and power redistribution, providing the foundation for social movements across geo-political formations and historical eras. The global explosion of new technologies has enabled new types of social networks and presents new opportunities and challenges for enhancing and mobilizing feminist theorizing and activism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- How do social networks and coalitions utilize intersectional frameworks to affect change?
- How do feminist social networks translate political agendas in different historical contexts and across identities, languages, and borders?
- What lessons are to be learned from the interface between non-virtual and virtual networks on political agendas, contemporary social movements and uprisings around the globe—such as The Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street?
- As more women and girls use new technologies to become documentarians of the everyday, what pleasures and dangers are produced and how do they shape identities, networks and ideologies.
- How do we as feminist scholars assess the future of feminist organizing, social change and power in light of the 2012 U.S. Presidential election?

### **Theme 4: *Decolonizing Knowledge***

Hegemonic norms within the contemporary Western academy continue to privilege an epistemological monocultural lens derived from the Enlightenment legacy. In order to develop feminist alternatives to this legacy, this theme explores the tools we use to release and utilize subjugated knowledges and interrogates the bases for our knowledge claims.

- How are our knowledge practices framed by the rhetoric of modernity/logic of coloniality and how do we avoid repeating practices through which other knowledges are subalternized?
- What are the cognitive processes that allow for the cultivation of processes for internal decolonization? What are the epistemic possibilities that identity and subject formation provide for decolonizing knowledge?
- How can we use textual/discursive or real-lived sites of colonial/neo-colonial encounter, i.e., those social spaces where cross cultural encounters occur within asymmetrical relations of power, as opportunities for engaging resistant processes of decolonization?
- How does border thinking, a geopolitically located epistemology emerging from the critical reflections of migrants (bracero/workers and refugees), on structures of

- dominance, help us to understand relations of power inhering in the global division of labor, its genealogies, and its historical trajectories?
- How does the organization and mission of the contemporary North American academy facilitate what Mary Louise Pratt refers to as “imperial meaning-making” that provides the rationale for North America’s national projects and reproduces its status as metropolitan authority?
  - What are the politics of what Shannon Sullivan and Nancy Tuana call ‘unknowledges,’ conceived not just as gaps in knowledge, but as intentional practices of not knowing about injustice?
  - What roles do theories of the body and embodiment play in a decolonizing reconstruction of knowledge?
  - What types of pedagogical politics and practices are critical to the decolonization of knowledge?

### **Theme 5: *Creative Awakenings***

Imaginative thinking, creative theorizing, and arts production is necessary to the creation of emancipatory ways of belonging, governing, and loving. Although creative work is often celebrated its links to the humanistic enterprise are insufficiently acknowledged or elaborated. We invite examinations of how awakening creativity personally and politically, including but not limited to performance, dance, singing, emceeing, filmmaking, new media technologies, narrative, poetry, and the fine arts, matter to (doing) gender and women’s studies and living in this current historical moment.

- How have various genealogies of feminist, womanist, and/or queer (of color) critiques inspired and re-awakened your art?
- What are the epistemic openings provided by creative production? How does arts-based scholarship expand what we know and can know beyond the limits of conventional forms of academic analyses?
- How does art produced in communities challenge hegemonic narratives of power, collaboration, representation, and civic engagement?
- Who, where, and what nurtures and trains artists-scholars and sustains their innovation? How does the privilege of higher education influence how the creative is engaged, both as it relates to graduate training and professional advancement?
- How does the corporatization and contemporary structure of the Western academy, including the growth of interdisciplinary spaces and practices constrain or enable creativity?
- How do we use technology to create new communities and generate avenues for artistic and creative productions and representations that are a source of political and social transformation, and a critical method of decolonization. How do we make the political impact of artistic and creative endeavors apparent and accessible to our students?

NWSA invites all of those interested to submit proposals for panels, papers, and workshops that represent the wide range of intersectional and transnational scholarship in the US and beyond. Please note that **submitted proposals must address one of the five themes above to be eligible for inclusion in the program.**

### **Authors Meet Critics Sessions**

Authors Meet Critics sessions are designed to bring authors of recent, cutting-edge books, deemed to be important contributions to the field of women's studies, together with discussants chosen to provide a variety of viewpoints. Two or three such sessions will be included in the program and NWSA members are invited to nominate **books published between 2007 and 2012**. Both single authored books and edited collections that are the result of collaborative engagement among the contributors will be considered. **Only NWSA members may submit nominations, including self-nominations; nominations by presses will not be accepted.** Members of the 2012 program committee will review the nominations and make selection decisions.

Authors Meet Critics Sessions must be submitted via the regular proposal submission process and include:

- Name and affiliation of book author(s)
- Complete title of book
- ISBN (10 digit)
- Publication date and name of publisher
- Brief statement about the book's importance to the field of Women's Studies
- Rationale for inclusion in the 2012 program, and
- Suggestions for critics and session organizer, including background and rationale for inclusion for each person

**Nomination Deadline for Author Meets Critics Sessions: February 20, 2012**

### **About the Meeting Location**

Oakland, California is among the most ethnically diverse cities in the nation, with a vibrant progressive community. It features organizations such as the Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, the pro-feminist Oakland Men's Project, the Women of Color Resource Center, and feminist bookstores, among others.

Oakland's landscape is a picturesque mix of lovely hillside neighborhoods; exciting and diverse architecture; a bustling waterfront; two shimmering lakes; 19 miles of shoreline along the San Francisco Bay; unparalleled Bay views; and more parks and open space per capita than any other city in the Bay Area.

The conference site is just a block away from the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system—which serves both the Oakland and San Francisco International Airports—only 12 miles from San Francisco, and within an hour of wine country.

### **Step-by-Step Guidelines for Submitting All Proposals**

**Step 1:** Note that all proposals must be submitted electronically via [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org) by **midnight EST on February 20, 2012**. Late submissions will not be considered.

**Step 2:** Indicate whether you are submitting your proposal for the General Conference Session and identify the appropriate theme (see About the Theme above) or the Program Administration and Development or Women's Centers Pre-Conferences.

**Step 3:** The National Women's Studies Association especially encourages complete panel/session submissions. Note that full panels **must include at least three presenters** with complete contact information and affiliation for ALL panel participants as well as a **non-presenting moderator** who will be charged with introducing speakers, keeping time, and coordinating discussion. Moderators will be listed in the conference program and must register for the conference. NWSA will assist with assigning moderators for individual proposals.

The Proposal Review Committee encourages members to use NWSA electronic resources and other listserves to network and find colleagues with whom to develop a complete panel. NWSA bulletin boards and/or its web site will also serve as resources for those soliciting potential panelists on topics of mutual interest.

**Step 4:** Note the option to submit poster session proposals; selecting this option increases the likelihood of acceptance due to limited breakout session space.

**Step 5:** Please note that NWSA will provide limited audiovisual equipment for General Conference Sessions and encourages presenters to consider using alternative formats such as handouts to convey visual information. Presenters will know if they have received audiovisual-equipped rooms when the online schedule becomes available in mid-June.

**Step 6:** Identify the appropriate session format for your proposal. Full details on session types are listed below.

For more information on how to submit quality proposals, to find examples of accepted proposals, and for answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the conference, visit [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)

## **Conference Participation Guidelines and Requirements**

All participants on the 2012 NWSA program must be current (2012) members of NWSA, including the pre-conferences and general conference. Membership in NWSA runs from January 1-December 31, 2012. **Panel organizers are responsible for conveying information about this requirement to prospective participants.** Participants must be current members and pre-registered for the conference by **June 30, 2012** or risk being removed from the printed program book.

To inquire about your membership status, email [nwsaoffice@nwsa.org](mailto:nwsaoffice@nwsa.org) or call (301) 403-0407. Conference registration fees are separate from membership.

## **Participation Limits**

To promote broad participation in the Annual Conference, an individual may not appear in the General Conference program more than **two times** (e.g., presenting a paper, moderating a session, leading a workshop). This total does not include participation in pre-conference sessions, any session connected with an NWSA office, committee, award or invited sessions (e.g., NWSA business meetings, addresses, or awards ceremonies).

## **GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

### **Panel vs. Individual Paper and Other Session Formats**

**Panels** provide an opportunity for examining specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives given that they include **3-4 participants**. Panels may present alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specified subject or in relation to a common theme. Panel members are expected to prepare papers addressing central questions described in the proposal. *The National Women's Studies Association and the Proposal Review Committee especially encourage complete panel submissions.*

**Individual Paper** proposals are submitted individually and arranged into sessions by the Proposal Review Committee. In paper sessions, authors present 10-12 minute papers followed by audience discussion. A typical structure for a session with four papers allows approximately 5 minutes for the moderator to introduce the session, 10 minutes for each presenter, and 30 minutes for discussion.

**IMPORTANT:** Due to meeting room space constraints, individual paper submissions are frequently converted into poster sessions. NWSA strongly encourages presenters who wish to deliver traditional papers to organize complete panels with colleagues.

**Sponsored Sessions** may be submitted by NWSA Caucuses on topics of particular interest to caucus members and NWSA members as a whole. One sponsored session per caucus will be offered space in the Conference Program if submissions are received by the proposal deadline and proposals meet review criteria. Task forces and interest groups may also submit proposals for sponsored sessions, but please note that these slots are not guaranteed.

**Roundtables** typically include a moderator and 4-6 presenters who make brief, informal remarks about a specific idea or project. They allow for extensive discussion and audience participation.

**Poster Sessions** present research or analysis on a topic by combining graphics and text on a 4'x8' board. The poster session presenter is available during an assigned session time in order to interact on a one-on-one basis with the attendees viewing the poster. A well-planned poster communicates its message in a visually and textually powerful way, allowing the attendee to grasp the information quickly.

**Workshops** provide an opportunity to exchange information or work on a common problem, project, or shared interest. Workshops are typically experientially oriented, grounded in some sort of women's and gender studies research agenda, and include brief presentations that allow adequate time for reflective discussion and interaction.

**IMPORTANT:**

- All panel proposals must include complete contact information for AT LEAST THREE participants PLUS a non-presenting moderator. Incomplete panels with fewer than three participants will not be considered for review.
- Workshops and roundtable proposals that feature multiple participants must include all participants' names and contact information at the time of proposal submission.
- In rare cases a one-person workshop may be considered, but the proposal should indicate why the presenter is uniquely suited to address the topic independently.

## **Proposal Submission Requirements**

Different session formats carry different submission requirements. We recommend reviewing the requirements below and assembling your proposal in a Word document from which you cut and paste **before** logging in to the submission system.

### Panels

- Panel title
- Panel rationale (75-150 words) that describes the logic by which the papers are grouped
- Individual paper titles and individual paper abstracts (50-100 words) for each of the 3-4 papers that comprise the panel

### Individual Papers and Poster Sessions

- Paper or poster title
- Paper or poster abstract (50-100 words)
- Paper or poster rationale (100-250 words)

### Roundtable, Workshop, and Authors Meet Critics Sessions

- Session title
- Session abstract (50-100 words)
- Session rationale (100-250 words for roundtables and workshops; 250-500 words for Authors Meet Critics)

**Sponsored Sessions** are typically panel proposals and must comply with the guidelines above, whatever form they take.

**Abstracts** explain to conference attendees the proposal's topic, foci, and/or goals in a clear and succinct manner in the program. Abstracts may be revised or edited for the printed program.

**Proposal rationales** (75-500 words) and abstracts serve as the basis for evaluation by the Proposal Review Committee and should include some or all of the following, as appropriate:

- Objective or purpose of the paper, panel, workshop, etc.
- Perspective and/or theoretical framework and/or references to relevant texts, research, or on-going debates in women's and gender studies or related fields
- Results and/or conclusions and point of view
- Relevance to the conference theme or subtheme
- Discussion of how the session will be structured

### Authors Meet Critics Rationales Must Also Include:

- Name and affiliation of book author(s)
- Complete title of book
- ISBN (10 digit)
- Publication date and name of publisher
- Brief statement about the book's importance to the field of Women's Studies
- Rationale for inclusion in the 2012 program, and
- Suggestions for critics and session organizer, including brief background and rationale for inclusion for each person

**IMPORTANT:**

- All proposal rationales **MUST** be explicit about how the proposed poster, panel, paper, roundtable, or workshop is grounded in specific texts, authors, or research relevant to contemporary women's and gender studies, queer studies, ethnic studies, or other related fields.
- Remember to remove any **IDENTIFYING INFORMATION** (individual or institution names, for example) that would compromise NWSA's commitment to anonymous review.
- Proposal rationales assist proposal reviewers with evaluating the session or paper's appropriateness for inclusion in the conference program.
- Abstracts and proposal rationale may not exceed word limits above.
- *Incomplete proposals will not be considered.*

**Conference Review Procedures**

All conference proposals are reviewed anonymously (without author identification).

Guidelines for reviewers are developed by the Proposal Review Committee and include:

- **Topic:** Is the topic/question/issue relevant to the field of women's/gender studies?
- **Relationship to Sub-Theme:** Are the topics/questions/issues discussed in the proposal clearly connected to one of the five conference sub-themes?
- **Frameworks:** Is the proposal grounded in relevant feminist/womanist theoretical/conceptual/applied frameworks?
- **Clarity:** Is the proposal well-organized, coherent, and clear?

**Proposal Status**

NWSA will send accept/decline notifications by email on **April 18, 2012** to all prospective participants.

### **Registration and Housing**

All conference presenters and attendees must be registered for the annual meeting. The National Women's Studies Association has negotiated a group rate of \$159 plus tax for single/double/triple/quad at the Oakland Marriott City Center, where most conference events will occur.

### **Travel Information**

Oakland is easily accessible via the Oakland and San Francisco International Airports. Both airports are served by the local subway system, BART. BART trains stop just a block away from the conference hotel.

### **Registration Refund Policy**

The National Women's Studies Association regrets that it cannot refund conference registration payments.

### **Disability Information**

The National Women's Studies Association will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations to presenters and attendees with disabilities. Please indicate your need for accommodations on the registration form. We must receive requests for accommodations by **September 1, 2012**.

### **Childcare**

NWSA is committed to providing high-quality, licensed and insured childcare that is partly subsidized by the organization. You must make advance reservations for childcare on the conference registration form no later than **September 1, 2012**.

### **Scholarships and Travel Grants**

NWSA encourages student research and involvement at its annual conferences via scholarship awards. Award amounts range from \$400-1,000. For full details on how to apply for the NWSA Graduate Scholarship Award or the Lesbian and Women of Color Caucus awards, please visit: [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)

NWSA offers a limited number of registration scholarships and travel grants to accepted presenters. Students, scholars and activists with a demonstrated need for financial assistance are encouraged to apply. Particular consideration will be given to assisting student presenters and emerging scholars who have not previously received NWSA travel grants. The registration scholarships and grants are also intended to encourage the participation of individuals from under-represented constituencies in the NWSA.

The travel grant application deadline is **May 16, 2012**. Apply online at [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)

### **Questions about Call for Proposals or Annual Meeting**

Please direct questions about submitting proposals or questions of a general nature to the national office at (301) 403-0407 or [nwsaoffice@nwsa.org](mailto:nwsaoffice@nwsa.org).

## **STANDING COMMITTEE PRE-CONFERENCES**

The Program Administration and Development Committee and the Women's Centers Committee host daylong sessions that offer important networking and professional development opportunities for women's and gender studies and women's center administrators on **Thursday, November 8**. Organized by the respective standing committees of NWSA, the pre-conferences include a registration fee in addition to the general conference registration.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE PRE-CONFERENCES**

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### **Program Administration and Development Pre-Conference**

The PAD Pre-conference organizers invite the submission of proposals on a broad range of topics related to women's/gender studies program administration and development. Submissions for the PAD Pre-Conference need not fit into general conference themes; rather they should be aimed at best practices and innovations in program administration. (Proposals that are not specifically related to program administration and development should be submitted to the general conference).

We especially encourage proposals for workshops, roundtables, *complete* panels, or any variety of other formats. Proposals for interactive sessions or sessions with a hands-on component are especially welcome. Authors of individual papers and those with ideas for panels are encouraged to use the PAList to generate interest to complete panels. All proposals must be submitted via NWSA's online proposal submission system.

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

#### Women's and Gender Studies Curriculum

- New approaches to introductory courses
- Technologies and on-line teaching in the women's studies classroom
- Globalizing women and gender studies
- Connecting with STEM disciplines
- Developing and assessing meaningful high impact learning experiences/applying the Teagle report findings

#### Program Budgets and Sustainability

- Practical ideas for working/negotiating with college/university administrators
- Budgeting and fundraising
- Creating "Friends of Women's Studies" and alumni networks

#### Mentoring Students and Colleagues

- Recruiting students to women and gender studies

- Strategies for helping students find graduate programs
- Mentoring early career colleagues

#### Program Administration and Innovation

- Collaborating with Women's Centers
- Making successful tenure and promotion cases for other faculty members
- Using social media effectively
- Sharing innovation success stories

#### Professional Development and Institutional Change

- Balancing scholarship and administration
- Strategies for institutional change about race/white privilege in departments and institutions
- Successful grant seeking strategies for developing faculty

For more information on the NWSA Program Administration and Development Committee, visit [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)

#### **Women of Color Leadership Project**

The WoCLP is committing to increasing the number of students and faculty members of color working within the field of women's studies, related disciplines, and interdisciplinary fields; working at women's centers; and assuming positions of power and leadership in NWSA, including the Program Administration and Development and Women's Center Committees. The WoCLP is also designed to support women of color in their professional goals and leadership development.

Women of color in women's studies, ethnic studies, or related fields may apply if they aspire to leadership within women's studies or NWSA. Applicants may include advanced graduate students, faculty, and current program administrators who wish to be more involved in program or Association leadership. To learn more please visit [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)

As part of its continued growth and evolution, **this year the Women of Color Leadership Project also invites proposal submissions** for its programming at the 2012 conference.

The WoCLP is soliciting proposals in support of the WoCLP pre-conference activities, as well as a possible track within the broader NWSA conference program. Women of color in women's studies, ethnic studies, related disciplines and interdisciplinary fields may submit proposals relevant to the leadership development, support, and growth of women of color within women's studies. **Please note that these proposals are separate from participation in the WoCLP as a 2012 participant.** Submissions will be accepted from advanced graduate students, faculty, and current program administrators who wish to be more involved in program or Association leadership. Past WoCLP participants are especially encouraged to submit proposals, as are those who have specialties in the fields listed below:

Suggested topics could include but are not limited to:

- Surviving and thriving in the academy
- Developing work/life balance
- Leadership challenges and opportunities
- Establishing a career path
- Planning your professional trajectory

Proposals for complete panels, roundtables, or workshops are especially welcome. Please indicate on your proposal whether you would be available for a Thursday time-slot during the WoCLP pre-conference activities.

### **NWSA Women's Centers Pre-Conference**

The NWSA Women's Centers Committee invites proposals for its Pre-Conference, to be held Thursday, November 8, 2012, the day before the NWSA conference. Approximately 100-150 professionals attend the daylong Women's Center Pre-Conference each year for networking, discussions, brainstorming, and exchange of ideas. Accordingly, strong preference will be given to proposals that foster group interaction such as roundtables and skill-building workshops. We particularly encourage proposals that engage creatively with one or more of the following themes that have been identified as key areas of concern for members.

#### **Theme 1: *Feminist Leadership***

*How do we enact feminist leadership models that are anti-sexist but also anti-racist, anti-homophobic, and/or anti-xenophobic? Are there emerging challenges of engaging in leadership roles as women or as feminists? How does power, privilege, and/or difference play a role in our ability to act as effective leaders?*

#### **Theme 2: *Best Practices***

*What are the best practices that shape our profession? Are there best practices that are contested or contextual? What are new methods that can be deployed with success, and how is success measurable?*

#### **Theme 3: *Campus Climate***

*How do we identify and improve campus climate conditions that are oppressive to women, namely women who face multiple forms of oppression? Are there any significant trends in higher education that impact campus climate for women or Women's Centers? What strategies are helpful for negotiating the tricky terrain of campus politics, especially at conservative institutions? How do we sustain ourselves, our work, and/or our ability to advocate for social justice?*

In addition, this year we are accepting poster submissions that focus on programming and events. We hope that the poster format will facilitate the exchange of ideas about effective and innovative events and programs. Posters should describe a successful program or event and explain its goals and methods. In order to inspire others to replicate your event or program, posters might also include advertisements, handouts, assessment results, learning outcomes, timeline, required materials, collaborators, recommended

readings, outreach techniques, and other relevant logistical details.

We look forward to receiving your proposal submissions! Should you have any questions, please contact the Women's Center Pre-Conference Co-Chairs: Adale Sholock (ASholock@wcupa.edu) and Gina Helfrich (helfrich@fas.harvard.edu)

## **2012 IMPORTANT DEADLINES AT A GLANCE**

### **February 20, 2012**

- Deadline for General Conference, Pre-Conference, and Authors Meet Critics proposals to be received via the website [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)

### **April 18, 2012**

- Accept and decline notifications will be sent via email for all submissions.
- Conference registration launches.

### **May 16, 2012**

- Registration scholarship and travel grant applications due.
- Women of Color Leadership Project (WoCLP) applications due.

### **June 1, 2012**

- Preliminary conference schedule posted online for review.

### **June 22, 2012**

- Registration scholarship, travel grant, and Women of Color Leadership Project participants will be notified about their awards and/or participation.

### **June 29, 2012**

- All presenters must be 2012 NWSA members and pre-registered by this date in order to appear on the conference program. **Names of participants who have not joined or registered will be removed from the program book.**

### **September 1, 2012**

- Conference attendees and/or presenters with disabilities should request accommodations by this date; requests may be made on the conference registration form. Make advance reservations for childcare on the conference registration form by this date to guarantee on-site care.