

CFP for the Modernist Studies Association's Annual Conference

“Upheaval and Reconstruction”

Toronto, ON, Canada

October 17-20, 2019

**Host: Ryerson University's Modern Literature
and Culture (MLC) Research Centre, in
collaboration with the University of Toronto,
York University, and OCAD University**

From the Boer War to the Great War, and from the Russo-Japanese conflict to the Amritsar Massacre and anti-colonial uprisings, modernism and modernity are shaped by processes of upheaval and reconstruction. While modernism is often treated as an artistic and literary movement characterized by conflict, violence, and despair, it nonetheless strove towards renewed hope and positive transformation. At the centenary of the 1919 Peace Conference, the Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Toronto 2019 Conference invites considerations of the processes of upheaval and reconstruction and prompts reexaminations of modernism and modernity at various times and across global spaces.

“Upheaval and Reconstruction” encompasses many of the central innovations of the modernist period and we encourage proposals that take up the many ways the above could be conceptualized. Topics might include: Altered identities and communities; the pain of others and healing; ecological disaster and repair; grief and reparative commemoration; gender, sexuality, and the refashioned body; modeling conflict resolution; networked communicative systems; reconfiguring home; revolution and aftermath; migration, diversity, and inclusion; modalities of decolonization; appropriation, expropriation, and reconciliation; and intersections of apocalypse and utopia.

We also invite proposals that speak to two special “streams” that are designed to encourage interdisciplinary and intercultural approaches:

“**Indigeneity**,” which invites attention to the roles of gender, sexuality, class, race, and region; epistemologies and ontologies; artistic and cultural forms; questions of firstness; institutions and

legal systems; territoriality; allotment and citizenship; decolonization; renewal and resurgence; and restorative justice and reconciliation.

“Making Modernism in/out of Canada,” which explores anthologies, serials, editorial practices, intermediality, national identity, separatism, American domination, architecture, environmentalism, exportation, and movement and migration.

If you are interested in proposing a panel or roundtable to be linked to either of these streams, please make this clear in your proposal.

In order to encourage more international participation, to increase interdisciplinary reach, and to foster more vertically integrated sessions that put younger scholars together with more established ones, the MSA is for the first time inviting **individual paper proposals** that are not a part of a pre-constituted roundtable or panel proposal. While pre-constituted roundtable and panel proposals do not necessarily need to address one of the conference streams, individual paper proposals must speak directly to one of this year’s special conference streams. The MSA Program Committee will vet these individual proposals and organize them into panels and roundtables as appropriate.

The conference organizers for “Upheaval and Reconstruction” thus invite proposals for seminars and workshops (due January 25), individual papers tied to one of the conference streams (due February 8), and panels, roundtables, and digital exhibits (due March 8). We encourage proposals relevant to the conference theme but panel, seminar, and roundtable proposals on all topics related to modernism are welcome. The primary criterion for selection in all categories will be the quality of the proposal, not its relevance to the conference theme.

Individuals seeking to create or to participate in a pre-constituted panel or roundtable are encouraged to visit the [MSA CFP page](#) or the [MSA Facebook page](#) for guidelines on how to develop or promote a panel or roundtable.

All proposals of all types must include requests for AV provisions and disability accommodations.

The MSA values diversity of national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, migration status, ability, class, employment status, and other forms of identity. We encourage conference participants and organizers to take this into account when making proposals for the MSA Toronto 2019 conference.

All queries should be directed to **info@msatoronto2019.org**

Participation

Because we wish to involve as many people as possible as active participants, the MSA limits multiple appearances on the program. Thus, you may participate once, but only once, in **each** of the following categories:

- Seminar, either as leader or as participant
- Panel or roundtable, as participant (you may also chair a different panel or roundtable)
- “What Are You Reading?” session

For instance, you may lead a seminar, present a paper on a panel, and participate in a “What Are You Reading?” session, but you may not present two papers (ie, you may not present a paper on a roundtable and also on a panel). MSA rules do not allow panel or roundtable organizers to chair their own session if they are also speaking in the session. The session chair must be someone who is not otherwise participating in the session. Panel organizers are encouraged to identify a moderator and include this information with their proposals; the MSA Program Committee can also ask another conference attendee to serve as a moderator. Participation in a pre- or post-conference workshop or in a digital exhibition does not constrain other forms of participation.

All those who attend the MSA conference must be members of the organization with dues paid for 2018-2019 (MSA membership runs from July 1 until June 30 each year.) For information on MSA, please check the [website](#). Participants are expected to present in person.

CALL FOR SEMINAR PROPOSALS

Deadline: January 25, 2019

Seminars are among the unique features of the MSA conference. Participants write brief position papers (5-7 pages) that are circulated and read prior to the conference. Each seminar is limited to 15 participants. Seminars generate lively exchange and often facilitate future collaborations. The format also allows a larger number of conference attendees to seek financial support from their institutions as they educate themselves and their colleagues on subjects of mutual interest. Seminars are two hours in length. Because seminars led solely by graduate students are not likely to be accepted, we encourage interested graduate students to invite a faculty member to lead the seminar with them. Please note that this is the call for seminar leaders. Sign-up for seminar participants will take place on a first-come, first-served basis coinciding with registration for the conference.

Seminar Topics: There are no limits on topics, but past experience has shown that the more clearly defined the topic and the more guidance provided by the leader, the more productive the discussion. “Clearly defined” should not be confused with “narrow,” as extremely narrow seminar topics tend to exclude many potential participants. To scan past seminar topics, go to the [Conference Archives](#) on the MSA website, click the link to a prior conference, and then click on “Conference Schedule” or “Conference Program.” You’ll find seminars listed along with panels and other events.

Submit proposals by January 25, 2019 by [clicking here](#).

CALL FOR PRE- AND POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Deadline: January 25, 2019

Pre-conference workshops are held on the Thursday that the conference begins and post-conference workshops are held on early Sunday afternoon. They focus on topics related to professional life, such as publishing, teaching, the job market, mid-career challenges and opportunities, research and the liberal arts college, and alternative/non-academic jobs. Popular workshops in previous years have been on topics including, “What Do Presses Want from a First Book?,” “Digital Approaches to Modernism,” and “Critical Writing.” Participation in a pre-conference workshop does not constrain participation in other aspects of the conference.

Workshops should be participatory in format and can be either 90 or 120 minutes in length. They may be entirely led by one person or may include a panel of experts. Please note that this call is for workshop leaders and that you should be prepared to arrive at the conference venue by Wednesday evening as scheduling a workshop as a pre-conference workshop gives it the best chance of robust participation. Registration for workshops will occur at the same time as conference registration.

Submit proposals by January 25, 2019 by [clicking here](#).

CALL FOR INDIVIDUAL PAPER PROPOSALS

Deadline: February 8, 2019

Individual paper proposals must speak directly to one of this year’s conference streams (“Indigeneity” or “Making Modernism in/out of Canada”). Successful proposals demonstrate the promise to advance new research or ideas relative to a particular topic, and/or engage with recent debates, controversies, or theoretical interventions. The MSA Program Committee will vet these individual proposals and organize them into panels and roundtables as appropriate.

Submit proposals by February 8, 2019 by [clicking here](#).

CALL FOR PANEL PROPOSALS

Deadline: March 8, 2019

Successful panel proposals will introduce topics that promise to expand research and debate on a topic, and will present a clear rationale for the papers’ collective goal. Panel proposals that engage recent contentious research, exciting new approaches, or theoretical interventions into the field are encouraged. Topics are not limited to the conference theme. Please be sure to characterize in your proposal what each paper contributes individually to the session as well how they fit together into a cohesive session as a whole.

We encourage interdisciplinary panels and strongly discourage panels on single authors. In order to allow for discussion, preference will be given to panels with three participants, though panels

of four will be considered. Panels composed entirely of participants from a single department at a single institution are not likely to be accepted. Graduate students are welcome as panelists, but panels composed entirely of graduate students are less likely to be accepted than panels that include postdoctoral presenters together with graduate students.

Submit proposals by March 8, 2019 by [clicking here](#).

CALL FOR ROUNDTABLE PROPOSALS

Deadline: March 8, 2019

All topics will be considered for roundtables. Unlike panels, which generally feature a sequence of 15-20-minute talks followed by discussion, roundtables gather a group of participants around a shared concern in order to generate discussion among the participants and with the audience. To this end, instead of delivering full-length papers, participants are asked to deliver short position statements in response to questions distributed in advance by the organizer or to take turns responding to prompts from the moderator. The bulk of the session should be devoted to discussion. No paper titles are listed in the program, only the names of participants.

Please bear in mind these guidelines:

Roundtables may feature as many as 6 speakers. We particularly welcome roundtables that include participants from multiple disciplines, and we discourage roundtables on single authors. Roundtables composed entirely of participants from a single department at a single institution are not likely to be accepted. Graduate students are welcome as speakers, but roundtables composed entirely of graduate students are less likely to be accepted than those that include postdoctoral presenters together with graduate students.

Submit proposals by March 8, 2019 by [clicking here](#).

CALL FOR POSTER SESSIONS AND DIGITAL EXHIBITS

Deadline: March 8, 2019

Reflecting the growing role of the digital humanities in modernist studies and the proliferation of work that does not lend itself to presentation in the form of a scholarly paper, we invite proposals that provide a short overview (including web links) of 1) the nature, design, and purpose of a digital project; 2) how the project advances modernist studies; and 3) how the presenters would want to exhibit and explain the project at the conference. Be sure to list all participants and institutions involved in the project, and specify who among these would attend the conference.

Submit proposals by March 8, 2019 by [clicking here](#).

Conference Access

The MSA is committed to ensuring that all conference registrants will be able to participate in conference events.

We ask that all conference attendees give thought to questions of access and work with the conference organizers to create an event that is welcoming to the entire community of participants.

If you would benefit from individual accommodations including, but not limited to, ASL translation, paper copies of session presentations, or large type documents, please contact the conference organizers.

