“Radical Love Across Difference”
Call for Proposals

Graduate students from the Boston-area Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS) present a biannual interdisciplinary conference entitled Radical Love Across Difference to be held on a virtual platform on April 9-11, 2021.

“Without love, our efforts to liberate ourselves and our world community from oppression and exploitation are doomed.” - bell hooks

By using a praxis of love to highlight the struggles toward liberation, we approach what hooks suggests is a culture of refusing systems of domination. The importance of expressing, maintaining, and transforming radical love, especially across differences, is more pressing than ever. This conference seeks to explore the role radical love plays in health crises, climate change, racial justice, migration, economic justice and further social justice movements through community and belonging, pedagogy and literacy, creative expression and storytelling, virtual life and presence, and further fields.

The GCWS conference “Radical Love Across Difference” welcomes graduate students in all areas of study to submit their abstracts or synopses of in-progress scholarly papers, dissertation or thesis chapters, or article drafts, or in-progress film/mixed media works. Proposals may come in the form of papers, films, art, performance, visual art, or alternate forms not listed above.

The conference seeks to explore:

● How does radical love constitute a distinct mode of resistance?
● How is radical love represented in the histories, stories, and traditions of ancestors and peoples?
● How can radical love foster community and just societies across difference and challenge the status quo?
● How do the structures of white supremacy and capitalism impact radical love?
● Are there limits to loving radically?
● How is radical love expressed in the virtual, social, and material world(s)?
● Can radical love influence our biological markers or gene expressions?

Topics to be explored in student works may include (but are not limited to):
• Health (e.g., health care access, pandemics, mental health support, food justice, self-diagnosis, acute and chronic medical conditions, self-love and care, impacts of trauma)
• Environment (climate justice, gentrification, land stewardship, natural disaster)
• Diaspora/migration (e.g. borders, refugees, storytelling, policies)
• Belonging (e.g. community building, notions of love, how human connection/care has changed, imaginaries of love)
• Unlearning (e.g. combatting imperialism and colonialism, alternatives to capitalism, decolonizing knowledge and practices)
• Activisms (e.g. centering racial justice, abolitionist movements, transformative justice),
• Ethics or lack thereof (e.g. commercialization of love/identities, professionalization of providing care)

**Academic Paper Submission**: Paper submissions should be for 15-minute presentations. The paper does not need to be completed in order to submit and present at our conference. Submissions should include a 250-300 word abstract, your name, pronouns, program, university affiliation, e-mail address, a short bio (3-5 sentences), three to six keywords, and any audio/visual requirements. Please submit a 250-300 word abstract at [https://tinyurl.com/gcwsCFPsubmission](https://tinyurl.com/gcwsCFPsubmission) by January 10, 2021 at 11:59PM Eastern.

**Project Submissions**: Project proposals should include a 250-300 word abstract as well as your name, program, university affiliation, e-mail address, a short bio (3-5 sentences), three to six keywords, and any audio/visual requirements. Also include the scale and duration of your piece (if relevant), as well as space or presentation preferences. Lastly, please provide a web link to relevant visual, audio, portfolio, or support materials (no more than 5 images or 5 minutes of audio or video).

All proposals must be submitted at [https://tinyurl.com/gcwsCFPsubmission](https://tinyurl.com/gcwsCFPsubmission) by January 10, 2021 at 11:59PM Eastern. All participants will be notified about the status of their proposal no later than February 20, 2021.

Note: The conference will be held virtually. We will work with all accepted presenters to create a virtual space which best supports their material, particularly if there are visual or audio portions of their work. Accepted projects will be programmed into the conference schedule by the selection committee. If you have a specific vision for how you would like your project to be included please note that in your abstract.
For more information contact Stacey Lantz, the Program Manager of Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality at gcws@mit.edu or visit our website at https://www.gcws.mit.edu/.