



## **Liberatory Practices for Worlds in Crisis**

*A graduate student conference March 22 and 23, 2025 at MIT*

### **Call for Papers**

In 2024, we are surrounded by crisis in nearly every sector of our world(s): environmental, political, social, cultural, and interpersonal. Crisis is not a new nor a unique phenomenon: Indigenous societies have faced decimation, war has torn through family and political associations, and environmental devastation cycles again and again.

And yet, we have found new ways of living, resisting, and surviving. In *Ideas to Postpone the End of the World* (2019), Brazilian philosopher and Indigenous movement leader Ailton Krenak urges us to consider the past and present, writing that “When people speak of imagining a new possible world, it’s in the sense of rearranging relations and spaces, introducing new understandings of what we recognize as nature as if we were not nature ourselves.”

This conference invites graduate student scholars, activists, and practitioners to examine what it means and has meant to survive in a world in crisis. What do we mean by crisis? How do historical experiences of crisis inform our understanding of present crises? What is the meaning and purpose of “liberatory practices” in the historical and contemporary world? How do Indigenous, feminist, queer, trans, disability or other lenses offer alternative understandings of crisis? What world is possible after a crisis? By exploring these and more questions, we hope to consider how new methods of study and care practices in our scholarship might allow us to imagine different worlds, develop resilience in a crisis-laden world, become “undisciplined” academically, and/or form more caring and collaborative communities.

Submissions may cover theoretical analyses, empirical studies, performative practices, reflections on community actions, and others. We especially encourage scholars who may be marginalized in their lived experience and/or in their academic field to participate.

Potential topics may include but are not limited to:

- Liberatory practices and emancipation;
- Methods of resistance;
- Institutions and power;
- Systems of oppression;
- Understanding and defining crisis;
- Cosmologies and pluriversal politics;
- Relationship between scholarship and practice;
- Speculative futures;
- Alternative methods of study;
- Care practices.

## SUBMISSIONS

All proposals must be submitted at <https://tinyurl.com/2025CFPsubmissions> by October 30, 2024 at 11:59pm Eastern. All participants will be notified about the status of their proposal no later than January 13, 2025.

This will be an in-person conference. We understand that funding and other life aspects may not permit all speakers to attend in-person. Please specify in your submission if you will need a hybrid option as we will only be able to accept a limited number of remote speakers. Please understand that we are a small organizing team and are balancing our need to work within capacity alongside the needs of panelists.

### Submission types:

- **Academic Paper Submission**
  - 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.
  - 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.

- **Academic Project Submissions**

- Project submissions 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.
- Past projects included dance, theatrical works, visual arts, film screenings, workshops, interactive activities, and mixed media presentations.
- Lastly, please provide a web link to relevant visual, audio, portfolio, project/program plan, or support materials (no more than 5 images or 5 minutes of audio or video).
- If you would like to discuss a potential project with the committee, please feel free to reach out to us at [gcws.conference@gmail.com](mailto:gcws.conference@gmail.com).

- **Panel Submission**

- If you would prefer to design your own panel please have each person submit their paper/project idea as noted above and specify the intended panel idea and participants.
- Self-designed panels may have between **3 and 5 speakers**.

For more information contact the GCWS Graduate Student Conference Committee at [gcws.conference@gmail.com](mailto:gcws.conference@gmail.com) or visit our website at <https://www.gcws.mit.edu/>.