MSA X: Call for Seminar, Panel, and Roundtable Proposals

Deadline for Submission of Seminar Proposals: March 3, 2008

Deadline for Submission of Panel Proposals: May 12, 2008

Deadline for Submission of Roundtable Proposals: May 12, 2008

The 2008 meeting of the **Modernist Studies Association** will take place at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, November 13-16, 2008. The organization's annual conference regularly brings together in excess of 500 scholars from a variety of disciplines and features an engaging mix of keynote addresses, small seminars, panel presentations, and roundtable discussions. This year's event, "Modernism and Global Media," will be hosted by Vanderbilt University with generous financial support provided by the Office of the Dean, Vanderbilt's Center for the Americas, and various Vanderbilt departments and programs, including English and Film Studies.

With the title "Modernism and Global Media," conference organizers wish to foreground issues such as transnational and international aesthetic interaction, modernism in the Americas, Diaspora, cinema and mass media (print, radio, phonography, etc), media in various colonial and anti-colonial projects, war, global economics, migration, the Jazz Age, the Harlem Renaissance, mass culture, and popular music as well as the ways in which global media shapes racial, ethnic, gendered, classed, and regional identities and affiliations. Participants are welcome, however, to submit panel and roundtable proposals on any topic: the primary criterion for selection will be the quality of the proposal, not its link to the conference theme (capacious as it is). Detailed information about the conference—including updated calls for proposals, housing arrangements, travel information, and details regarding subsidiary events—will soon be found on-line at www.vanderbilt.edu/msax. All email queries should be directed to the conference organizers at msax@vanderbilt.edu.

Additional Conference Event: "What Are You Reading?" (See the end of this CFP)

Please note:

* All who attend the MSA conference must be members of the organization with dues paid for 2008-2009. (MSA membership runs from October to September.)

* Because we wish to involve as many people as possible as active participants, 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 presenter
- Panel or roundtable, as presenter
- Panel or roundtable, as chair

- "What Are You Reading?" session
- Open Forum (a special session organized by the Program Committee)

For example, 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 panel papers.

* MSA rules do not allow panel or roundtable organizers to chair their own session if they are also speaking in the session. Organizers are encouraged to identify a moderator and include this information with their proposals; the MSA Program Committee is also able to help you secure another conference attendee's service as moderator.

CALL FOR SEMINAR PROPOSALS

Deadline: Monday, March 3, 2008

Leading a Seminar (Information for Seminar Leaders)

Seminars are one the most significant features of the MSA conference. Participants write brief "position papers" (5-7 pages) that are read and circulated prior to the conference. Because their size 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.

Please note that this is the call for seminar leaders. Sign-ups for seminar participants will take place on a first-come, first-served basis starting in mid-April, 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 applicants. To scan past seminar topics, go to the Conference Archives http://msa.press.jhu.edu/archive/archive.html 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.

Proposing a Seminar

Seminar proposals must be submitted via email and must include the following information. Please assist us by sending this information in exactly the order given here:

* Use as a subject line: SEMINAR PROPOSAL / [LAST NAME OF SEMINAR LEADER] (e.g., SEMINAR PROPOSAL / GORMAN)

* List the seminar leader's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail address

* Provide a brief curriculum vitae (including teaching experience) for the seminar leader

* Give a brief description (up to 100 words) of the proposed topic

Submit proposals by MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008 TO:

msax@vanderbilt.edu

Seminars will be selected in late March 2008.

CALL FOR PANEL PROPOSALS

Deadline: Monday, May 12, 2008

Topics are not limited to the theme "Modernism and Global Media." Successful 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. Please bear in mind these guidelines:

* We encourage interdisciplinary panels and discourage panels on single authors.

* In order to encourage 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. However, panels composed entirely of graduate students are less likely to be accepted than panels that include degreed presenters together with graduate students.

Proposals for panels must be submitted via email and must include the following information. Please assist us by sending this information in exactly the order given here:

* Use as a subject line: PANEL PROPOSAL / [LAST NAME OF PANEL ORGANIZER] (e.g., PANEL PROPOSAL / GORMAN)

* Session title

* Session organizer's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail address

* Chair's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, and contact information (if you do not identify a chair, we will locate one for you)

* Panelists' names, paper titles, institutional affiliations, disciplines, positions or titles, and contact information

* A maximum 500-word abstract of the panel as a whole

* Brief (2-3 sentence) scholarly biography of each panelist

Submit proposals by MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008 TO:

msax@vanderbilt.edu

Panels will be selected mid-June.

CALL FOR ROUNDTABLE PROPOSALS

Deadline: Monday, May 12, 2008

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 roundtable 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 they 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.

Other MSA roundtable policies:

* Roundtables may feature as many as 6 speakers.

* We particularly welcome roundtables featuring participants from multiple disciplines, and we discourage roundtables on single authors.

* Panels composed entirely of participants from a single department at a single institution are not likely to be accepted.

* Graduate students are welcome as speakers. However, roundtables composed entirely of graduate students are less likely to be accepted than roundtables that include degreed presenters together with graduate students.

Proposals for panels must be submitted via email and must include the following information. Please assist us by sending this information in exactly the order given here:

* Use as a subject line: ROUNDTABLE PROPOSAL / [LAST NAME OF ROUNDTABLE ORGANIZER] (e.g., ROUNDTABLE PROPOSAL / GORMAN)

* Session title

* Session organizer's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail address

* Moderator's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, and contact information (if you do not identify a moderator, we will locate one for you)

* Speakers' names, institutional affiliations, disciplines, positions or titles, mailing addresses, phones, faxes, and e-mail addresses

* A maximum 500-word rationale for the roundtable

* Brief (2-3 sentence) scholarly biography of each speaker

Send proposals by MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008 TO:

msax@vanderbilt.edu

Roundtables will be selected mid-June.

ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE EVENTS: "WHAT ARE YOU READING?"

Several years ago, the MSA introduced a new kind of session, "What Are You Reading?" Designed to take advantage, in a productive new way, of the presence in one place of modernist scholars from many locations, institutions, and fields, each ninety-minute forum consists of 8 to 10 participants and a moderator. Led by the moderator, each participant reports for a few minutes on a scholarly or critical book in modernist studies, sketching the work's content and explaining why she or he found it exciting to share with other scholars. Time permitting, moderators then lead discussions in which participants can seek clarifications, draw connections, and propose further related reading. **NB**: These sessions will *not* be scheduled for Saturday night, when everyone prefers to eat, drink, and be merry. They will be spread across regular time slots.

A major goal of "What Are You Reading?" is to facilitate the sharing of exciting new scholarship (or the "rediscovery" of older scholarship) and to foster interdisciplinarity by

exposing participants to work in modernist fields other than their own. Open only to those who register for them in advance, these sessions can be very productive.

"What Are You Reading" is not intended as a venue for discussion of primary texts or works, for self-promotion, or for the enacting of intellectual conflicts. Participants will therefore be asked not to present on primary texts or works (though new editions and catalogues are welcome), their own publications, or scholarship they did not substantially admire.

To participate, all you will need to do is check the appropriate box on your MSA registration form and name a book you might be interested in presenting. MSA registration will begin mid-April; look for announcements at that time. Please note that you will have to register by 29 September to be included in "What Are You Reading?”

You will be notified of the time and location of your forum in early October. There is no need to submit any proposal or paper in connection with this event, nor do you need to contact your moderator in advance. Simply check the box, receive notice of your time and location, and show up.