

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

15th Annual Communication Graduate Caucus Conference
February 27-28, 2020 | Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

What are we bound by? Whether physical, social, cultural, geographical, or political confinements, we routinely encounter boundaries which communication and media cut and cross. While it is a truism that culture and communication inevitably overlap, critical approaches to media studies should interrogate the erosion of clear boundaries between historically demarcated categories, such as: local/global, nature/culture, private/public, and human/non-human. The study of communication and media requires that we confront boundaries – those related to academic disciplines, methodological approaches, and objects of analysis – and question their significance in how we understand our discipline. Are there breaking points, transgressions, leakages, or liminality along the edges of communities or objects? How do we move beyond them?

Beyond Boundaries, the 15th annual Communication Graduate Caucus (CGC) Conference, invites explorations of the ways that communication and media cross social, political, technical, and cultural boundaries. Communication studies often grafts on, collaborates, and cross-pollinates, and we thus encourage research that steps outside or extends research domains and practices. We are particularly interested in insights which examine boundaries as sites of struggle and encourage submissions that focus on practices, communities, objects, bodies of knowledge, or activities that are often ignored, violated, invisible, or deleted due to the presence of boundaries.

The CGC welcomes proposals for 15-minute individual presentations, research-creation (research that includes creative production, artistic experimentation, and innovation in understanding and mobilizing knowledge). We also welcome proposals for pre-constituted panels composed of 3-4 speakers for a total of 60 minutes of presentation time. **Topics and themes may include but are not limited to:**

- Research that crosses disciplinary boundaries (e.g. gender studies and media, science communication, health communication, law and communication)
- Work that expands traditional theoretical or methodological boundaries (e.g., art-based research, sound studies, participant action research, media archeology)
- The role of media in redefining epistemological boundaries (e.g. fantasy versus reality, information versus knowledge, data versus experience, facts versus fiction)
- Research that interrogates themes of power and control (e.g. who gets to set boundaries? For whom? Under what circumstances?)

- Critical examinations of socio-technical phenomena that obscure and shift social and cultural boundaries (e.g. surveillance, privacy, Big Data, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, algorithms)
- Discourses of boundary formation, legitimation, and maintenance of boundaries (terms of service, user agreements, laws, policies, guidelines)
- Social movements, activism, and resistance at the margins
- Identity construction and performativity
- Environmental effects of moving beyond ecological limitations

Beyond Boundaries is pleased to announce our keynote speaker, Dr. Bobby Benedicto, Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University. Dr. Benedicto's research re-examines long-held associations at the intersections of queer theory, critical race theory, urban studies, and theories of death and temporality. His current book project "Fatal Sex" highlights cross-disciplinary work that breaks down boundaries by connecting an archive of aesthetic and cultural practices to stage an encounter between psychoanalytic and necropolitical accounts.

All submissions should include a 250-word abstract with the full name, current academic affiliation, biography of 50-100 words, and contact information of the individual presenters. Panel proposals should contain abstracts for the panel and for each individual paper (250 words each). It should also include a brief description of the topic's relevance to the conference theme. Research-creation proposals should outline technical requirements needed for their presentation. Please fill out the submission form at <https://forms.gle/7uqYU895ELPYFfQA> by December 15, 2019.

The CGC Conference provides graduate students and emerging scholars from across the social sciences and humanities an opportunity to present their work, receive feedback, participate in professional development, and network with leading experts in their fields. Upon acceptance, students are encouraged to submit their full paper for the *Canadian Journal of Communication* Student Paper Prize by January 15, 2020.

We look forward to reading your submissions!

Anna Hum, Sarah MacLean & Stephan Struve
2019-2020 CGC Conference Co-Chairs, Carleton University
cgcbeyondboundaries@gmail.com