

2009 UW Graduate Conference for Interdisciplinary Studies

Transcendent Ecologies, Immanent Economies?

May 21-22, 2009

University of Washington, Seattle

Call for Papers | Fifth Annual Graduate Conference
for Interdisciplinary Studies

In hopes of continuing to build a stronger sense of scholarly community in the Pacific Northwest, West Coast, and beyond, this year's Conference for Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle invites papers and panels that explore complex problems of transcendence and immanence in an increasingly interrelated globe. The theme of the conference, "Transcendent Ecologies, Immanent Economies," suggests that the concept of the world out of which we create a habitable environment for our species is, ultimately, predicated upon our supposed ability to name, organize, and influence—i.e., economize—its interrelated parts. In order to do so, must we imagine ourselves to have some exterior vantage point? Or is transcendence merely an illusion, meaning we are limited to immanent critiques? We seem, nevertheless, to have a persistent urge to transcend or get outside of the environments or systems we've created (whether epistemological, ontological, built, natural, aesthetic etc.) in order to view and narrate them. Implicit in this paradox is our uncertain capacity to change the values that undergird the ecologies and economies with which we construct our lives. The conference thus invites proposals from all disciplines that interrogate how the shifting notions of transcendence and immanence determine/effect the ways we talk about, understand, and shape our world.

The conference's conceptual split between economy and ecology arises from the notion that the ecological world is eminently opaque, while the idea of economy connotes actuality, transparency, and manageability. That said, the conference also self-consciously invites critical investigations that would challenge the assumption that economies manage ecologies.

Possible panel topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

Economy and Ecology in Antiquity
Supreme Fictions and Ideas in Things
Biophilosophy and Media Ecologies
Economies of Translation
Transcendentalism
Ecocriticism
Marxism and Ecology
Capitalism and the Hyperreal
Affect and Science

Science and Literature
Evolutionary Ecologies
Racial Ecologies
Electoral Ecologies
Ecologies of Public and Private
Economy
Enlightenment
Eros in Economy/Erotic Ecologies
Coins and Currency

We welcome proposals of 300 words or fewer for both individual 15-20 minute papers (8-10 pages MLA style) and three-paper panels. Abstracts should include full name, paper title, institutional affiliation and, optionally, an indication of preferred panel. Submission Deadline: **February 20, 2009**.

Please send submissions (either in-text or attached) to uwclit@u.washington.edu
For more information, please visit our website at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwclit/conference2009/>