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/