

CATR/ACRT

Canadian Association for Theatre Research /

Association Canadienne de la Recherche Théâtrale

Call for Submissions for Conference 24-27 May 2014 Brock University

Performance History Seminar: 'The Challenge of Setting Boundaries'

Proposals are invited for a seminar exploring the challenges of performance history, as it relates to the ongoing research of participants. Like earlier seminars at CATR/ARCT, including last year's Performance History Seminar, this session will explore the relationship between the historian of performance and documentary evidence; but it will also encourage participants to raise more general questions concerning provenance, disciplinary and cross-disciplinary benefits and challenges, and other issues that have arisen while conducting research.

One focus this year will be on the challenges we face when setting boundaries in archival research, its interpretation, and in the writing of a history--'boundaries' broadly defined as a line that distinguishes--that *draws a line around*--individuals, communities, territories, nations, classes, races, sexualities, as well as bodies of evidence, methodologies, genres, and disciplines. Submissions may engage with the 'boundaries' of their own primary archival research, asking when we should 'draw the line' and search no more, writing our histories from what we have in hand. They may interrogate the disciplinary boundaries of our aggressively interdisciplinary work, questioning the extent to which we can productively import and co-mingle methods of inquiry developed specifically for one kind of study into another. Participants may explore the necessity, often against our better judgment, to impose homogeneity on a group, to generalize in order to write a comprehensible history.

Potential participants may examine the call for proposals on the website for further ideas, and are encouraged to think about the Congress theme--and the word 'boundaries'--in considering their proposals. To be clear, however, we also welcome proposals that do not directly address this theme; it is merely meant to provide direction for discussion.

Participants will submit 'working papers' by April 15, 2014, exploring a challenge they are facing in their ongoing research, along with documents if appropriate, all of which will be posted to a password-protected, secure website in advance of the conference for viewing by participants and registrants. We will divide participants into groups for on-line discussion, assign respondents, and organize the conference session as a series of related research questions for discussion. Papers will not be read during the seminar, but will act as pretexts for conversation.

We encourage proposals from graduate students, scholars early in their careers, and seasoned veterans. The area of research is not restricted to a particular time or place. Explorations of the challenges in discussing any area of drama, theatre and performance studies will be welcome.

Please send initial proposals of no more than 250 words, along with a brief biography, to Stephen Johnson at the University of Toronto (stephen.johnson@utoronto.ca). *Copy in the body of the email, please.*

Deadline for submission is **13 January 2014**. We welcome questions in advance of submitting a proposal. See www.catractr.ca and follow the link to Conferences.

