

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The History Department's 41st Annual Susman Graduate Student Conference

### **Disorderly Conduct: Disturbing the Peace in History and the Archive**

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ on Friday, April 5, 2019

The graduate students from the Department of History at Rutgers University are pleased to invite their peers in the humanities and social sciences to submit papers for the 41st annual Susman Conference, "Disorderly Conduct."

Through this conference, we hope to question narratives of order that often dominate historical discourse. What happens when things fall apart? When the movements, networks, categories, and systems that so often make up our narratives fail to make sense of our subjects, where does that leave us? Even our narratives of resistance and revolt against systems of power often assume order or impose it, offering neat relationships between opposing subjects. What might history that embraces messiness, chaos, and confusion look like? At the same time, we know that *disorder* does not necessarily mean a complete lack of order, nor does *order* disallow moments of disorder. How and why can disorder and order work together and in opposition?

Just as our subject matter may disturb the peace of standard historical narratives, how can we approach seemingly disordered archives, and how might we work against imposed archival order? Do scholars have a responsibility to order or disorder their archives? Moreover, how do we as scholars conduct ourselves in ways that preserve or disrupt order, both in our profession and the world at large? How might disordering the traditions of our discipline offer new insights into history, new paths to success, and/or new modes of historical thinking? We acknowledge that disorder can benefit some groups while disadvantaging others, and that some may not have the privilege of enacting disorder. At the same time, "disorderly conduct" is a legal charge that can be used by the powerful to disempower protest, or to police difference. What are the stakes of a disordered world, across academia, politics, the environment, and elsewhere?

We encourage papers that touch on any of these questions and more, and we are excited for a conference that positions historians as both chroniclers of disorder and individuals with the power to enact their own systems of (dis)order.

We welcome graduate students to submit proposals that explore any time period, geographical location, theory, methodological approach, and analytic frame.

Proposals are due by **January 1st**. Please submit all proposals to the Susman planning committee at [susmanconf@history.rutgers.edu](mailto:susmanconf@history.rutgers.edu). Individual paper proposals should include a 150–300 word abstract with paper title and CV with author contact information. Please list any audio-visual requirements.