

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on

### **Performances of Power: The Liminal Space between Knowledge and Ignorance**

*Submission Deadline:* May 10, 2021

*Conference Dates:* September 17–18, 2021

Knowledge and ignorance alike garner power. As emerging scholars, we are aware of the ignorance reproduced in nationalist histories of self-legitimation; we revisit the hypocrisies of imperialist racial hierarchies, the echoes of which are still heard and felt around the world; we witness universities funding STEM programs at the expense of the social sciences and humanities; and we know that the pursuit of power is often performative, whether through a cult of personality or proclaimed objectivity. In the Foucauldian sense, power is constituted through accepted forms of knowledge, scientific understanding, and ‘truth.’ However, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick reminds us that there is also significant power in ignorance; there is power in claiming gay men dangerous and inciting moral panic. Performance theory beckons us to pay attention to action rather than intention and to read history for every potential. We wonder: what stories surface in the liminal spaces between ignorance and knowledge? What might we uncover between the event and the retelling?

The History Graduate Student Association at Stony Brook University invites submissions for its interdisciplinary conference: **“Performances of Power: The Liminal Space between Knowledge and Ignorance.”** We purposefully chose a capacious title to represent the liminality of our current existence as graduate students living through a global pandemic in the wake of 2020, and to invite exploratory discussion from colleagues of various temporal and geographic foci.

We invite scholars in all fields of history and related disciplines to submit paper proposals including, but not limited to, any of the following themes:

- Necropolitics
- De/Post-colonial Studies
- Carceral Studies
- Borderlands
- Empire and Imperialism
- Gender and Sexuality
- Environment and Climate
- Medicine and Technology
- Contested Sovereignty
- Historical Memory and Public History
- Racial Solidarity and Activism
- Other related topics

COVID-19 permitting, we hope to conduct our conference in person **September 17–18, 2021** with optional virtual participation. In-person panels will be held on the main campus of Stony Brook University, located an hour and a half east of New York City by car and accessible from New England via the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson ferry. It is also directly serviced by the Port Jefferson Branch of the Long Island Rail Road, which runs from New York City. On-campus housing will be available at a reduced conference rate through the Hilton Garden Inn Stony Brook. Online panels and presentations will be held via Zoom.

Please submit paper abstracts by **Monday, May 10, 2021** to [stonybrookhgsa@gmail.com](mailto:stonybrookhgsa@gmail.com). Submissions should include the following in a single document (PDF or Word):

- Paper title and a brief abstract (100-200 words) that includes several key thematic words to help the organizing committee sort papers into coherent panels.
- Short curriculum vitae (one page) that includes the presenter's name, institution, and program of study.
- For panel proposals, submit a panel topic description (100-200 words) along with all other materials requested above.
- Please indicate in your application whether you would prefer to participate virtually or in-person.

All applicants will be informed no later than the end of June 2021, and will be asked to submit their full papers by August 15, 2020.

The Stony Brook HGSA acknowledges that this conference will be held on the territory of the Setalcott people. The conference organizers honor the Setalcott, along with the Unkechaug, Shinnecock, Matinnecock, Montaukett, and all the other Indigenous nations of Long Island.

*Organizing Committee for the Fifth Annual Stony Brook HGSA Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference.*