

(RE)MEDIATIONS

Graduate English Conference
Graduate English Association, University of Toronto



Conference on April 24, 2020 Proposals due January 24, 2020

“While modernity took us in the direction of textual interiority and disciplinary autonomy, we have to focus on ecological mediation and interdisciplinarity.”

~ Suresh Canagarajah, *“English Studies as Creole Scholarship: Reconfiguring the Discipline for Postcolonial Conditions”*

Beyond their crucial significance in dialectical philosophy and media studies, “mediation” and “remediation” contain other important connotations for thinking about society: mediation as the resolution of two opposing forces and remediation as the process of remedying and repairing. In this multiplicity of meanings, futurity co-exists with a backward glance, a simultaneous pull toward the past and present. This comingling of temporalities can be seen as an opportunity for complex convergences of various topics and concerns. As Canagarajah’s quote attests, some of the most pressing global concerns, such as race, environment, or political and economic welfare, need to be approached from an interdisciplinary perspective. While the humanities have increasingly embraced interdisciplinary scholarship, we also need to consider the promises contained within the oft-cited aspiration for the “truly” interdisciplinary. Why, in a world that has been marked by division, is interdisciplinary work necessary, and in particular, how can the humanities add to the efforts to repair this conflicted world?

Emphasizing the juxtaposition between old and new also provides a path for thinking through the ways in which current critical practices recycle older ones, and how previous approaches live on, informing contemporary methods. Instead of pursuing newness or a radical return, *(Re)Mediations* seeks reflection on the successes and shortcomings of previous attempts to renew literary studies. With this in mind, this conference invites perspectives that cut across borders, whether social, political, geographical, temporal, disciplinary, or otherwise. We welcome submissions from any discipline or field that intersects with literature, including creative works. Submissions are encouraged to reflect on the multi-layered and multi-faceted nature of the problems and concerns that can be addressed by discourses surrounding (re)mediations.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Genre studies, adaptations, translations
- Literature and law, literature and science, medical humanities, information sciences
- Formal, reparative, and/or recuperative readings
- Archives, textual studies, manuscript studies
- Digital humanities, artificial intelligence
- Periodization, territorialization; diasporic, postcolonial, and/or global encounters
- Social, religious, gendered, racial, and/or queer mediations
- Humanities pedagogy
- Material and dialectical analyses
- Eco studies, ecologies, and eco-criticism
- Economics and political sciences
- Affect theory, trauma studies
- Disability studies

Submissions are due by January 24, 2020. Please submit abstracts of 250-300 words and a brief bio of 50 words to uoftenglishconference2020@gmail.com.