

Gripped by...Desire? : Radicalizing Affects, Politics, and Queerness in Our Contemporary World

**!!!2nd Annual University of Toronto Women and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference!!!**

The early 2020s have been a period in which many of the forces that shape our lives have left us disoriented. Consequently, we find ourselves *gripped* — gripped by numbness and desire, gripped by storms of affect that tug in both reactionary and revolutionary directions, and gripped by the pain of history and the need for decolonial formulations of futurity.

As such, for this conference we propose an interaction with the theme of being “Gripped by Desire.” How can we use desire to think about, as Ruth Wilson Gilmore (2011) has written, carrying forward a question from past radical traditions, “What is to be done?” Rather than giving into a “return to normalcy”, “after” the overwhelming present moment and the attempt to contain it, how can we begin to desire otherwise? What would it mean to bring ourselves together based out of a desire that is radically action-oriented? Who is the “we” that is living in the present?

We welcome papers that engage with (but not limited to):

- Transnational and the Global
- Indigenous Feminism
- Intersectionality
- Race and Racialization
- Queer and Trans Studies
- Affect Archives / Affect Theory
- Climate Change / Negationism
- Aesthetic and Performance
- Feminist Archive and Genealogy
- History of the Present / Present-day Institutionalality
- Postcolonial/Decolonial Feminism

Please submit an anonymised abstract between 200-250 words. Identify the topical stream you would like your paper to be clustered and include 3-5 keywords below the abstract.

Please include the title of your paper, your name and institutional affiliation in a separate cover page.

Submissions should be sent as a word doc or PDF to [wgsiconference2022@gmail.com](mailto:wgsiconference2022@gmail.com)

Questions? Email: [wgsiconference2022@gmail.com](mailto:wgsiconference2022@gmail.com)

**!!! SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 !!!**