

Carleton University Feminist Institute of Social Transformation Grad Conference

March 23-24, 2023

Call for Submissions

The graduate students of the Feminist Institute of Social Transformation are excited to announce a call for submissions for our 2023 conference titled, “**Transforming Our Social World: Radical Practices of World Building & Destruction**”. The conference will be held as an in person/online hybrid from **March 23-24, 2023**.

We are inviting activists, collectives, community members, scholars, artists, writers, and graduate students to submit presentation proposals for projects that call for transformative social change and abolition politics.

This conference was inspired by our Institute’s recent name change, our personal projects, and the work of countless thinkers and activists working towards social transformation that benefits everyone, especially those living with multiple oppressions. We are particularly inspired by abolitionists and community organizers like Da’Shaun Harrison. Their book *Belly of the Beast: The Politics of Anti-Fatness as Anti-Blackness* (2021) calls on us to push past reform and build an entirely new world:

“If we go back to the beginning, if we pull up the roots, unless the social institutions through which we were initially socialized are destroyed, we can only ever return back to the place we left.” (p. 6)

“For us to inch toward a tomorrow not limited by the confines of today, we have to interrogate the structures that actively marginalize our bodies and beings, and we have to destroy all that is attached to those structures” (p. 8)

When thinking about abolition we also turn to Morgan Bassichis, Alexander Lee, and Dean Spade (2015). Abolition is about breaking down, or **destroying**, what oppresses us. But it is also just as much concerned with building things that **nourish** us. It is a transformative practice that is founded on collective struggle, care, and interdependence.

We invite submissions that call for the generative destruction of all systems of power (abolition) so that we can build systems that value all *bodyminds* and leave no one behind (transformation). We seek presentations that acknowledge the inevitability of harm and activate our capacity to feel it and heal it. We want to cultivate a space for collective participation where we can bring to life a world that centers consent, collective self-determination, belonging, accountability, connection, care, and harm reduction.

Among others, the conference aims to ask, seek, and further the following questions:

- What does radical social transformation look like?
- How are you working to destroy our current world and build a new one?
- Is abolition (im)possible? How do we work to make it possible?
- What is transformative praxis to/for you?
- How do abolitionist struggles inform current politics and culture?
- How can we utilize mutual aid and collective care to meet each other's needs rather than reaching to the state for solutions?
- How do we materialize spaces of accountability where harm is acknowledged, felt, and healed?
- How do we counter neoliberalism and carcerality as institutions *and* as cultural projects?

This conference welcomes (but is not limited to) the following topics:

- Futurity and Futurism
- Collective Care & Mutual Aid
- Beyond Reform: Abolition in Action
- Decolonization and Land Back
- Transnational Climate Justice
- Transnational Social Injustice and Geopolitics (ex. Anti-Islamophobia)
- Black Liberation
- Disability Justice
- Fat Liberation
- Queer & Crip Utopias
- Transness and Radical Politics
- (Im)Migration and Border Abolition
- Decolonial Movements
- Prison Activism and Abolition
- Cultural Revolution
- Food and Water Security

We are hoping to host a multimedia conference where presenters can use any form of knowledge-making, such as, but not limited to: stories (written and oral), songs, poetry, poster presentations, paintings or other artforms, podcasts, PowerPoints, research papers, TikToks or any other methods. Group presentations or activities are welcomed and encouraged. See submission guidelines below for more information.

We are welcoming submissions in English, French, and American Sign Language. Kindly submit your application with the following content in one .pdf copy (single spacing, 12pt. font) to **FISTGradCon2023@gmail.com** by **Dec 31st, 2022**.

Submission Guidelines:

- Title of your work and name of presenter(s)
- Introduction (200-250 words) to your topic **and** its relevance to our theme
- Brief Biography (150 words) of presenter(s)
- Your chosen method of presentation
- Contact information (email, institution/group affiliation if relevant, etc.)
- For creative presentations, please provide a short description (250 words) or sample (2 minutes) of your work

Guidelines for specific forms of final submissions:

- Stories: Your story in .pdf (1000-2000 words max.)
 - Storytelling, journalistic format, fiction, creative non-fiction, etc.
- Songs/Poetry: Your song or poetry written, filmed, and/or recorded in .mp3 or .wav (6 double-spaced pages/15 mins max.)
- Poster presentations: Your poster in .pdf
- Paintings or other art forms: Image of artform with hallmark in .pdf. (5 pages max.)
- Podcasts: Recording of your podcast in .mp3 or .wav (15 minutes max.)
- Power Point: PowerPoint slides .pdf or .ppx (10 slides max.)
- Research Papers: Your paper in .pdf or a sharable document link (1000-2000 words max.)
- Social media content: Your post(s) or draft (15 minutes max.)
 - YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, blogs, etc.

Kindly contact **FISTGradCon2023@gmail.com** for any questions.

Works Cited

Harrison, Da'Shaun. *Belly of the Beast: The Politics of Anti-Fatness as Anti-Blackness*. North Atlantic Books, 2021.

Bassichis, Morgan et al. "Building an Abolitionist Trans and Queer Movement with Everything We've Got." In *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex*. AK Press, 2015.