

Women of Color (WOC) in Collaboration and Conflict Graduate Working Group Call for Papers

Witnessing and Testimony: Hurt, Healing, and Herstories

The University of California Research Cluster for the Study of Women of Color in Collaboration and Conflict was founded in 1991 by faculty and graduate students at UCSC. Importantly, the cluster's critical engagement with the political, socio-cultural, and spatio-temporal meanings underpinning the category of 'women of color' departed from the perspectives of that time as their mission explicitly involved studying the complexities of multiple, dispersed, and conflicting identities. Reviving the cluster, and continuing and expanding this work, in 2016-2017, doctoral students from across three campuses (UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, UC Berkeley) will collaborate to co-author and co-edit a journal on the theme of witnessing and testimony as a decolonial feminist methodology. This collaboration across disciplines will allow this working group to build upon our diverse experiences and training as we deeply examine and push the nexus of identity, subjectivity, violence, conflict and collaboration.

The Women of Color in Collaboration and Conflict invite submissions on the theme of ***Witnessing and Testimony: Hurt, Healing, and Herstories*** from self-identified women/womyn of color undergraduate and graduate students at UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis and UC Berkeley, to be published in an upcoming journal produced by the WOC multi-campus working group and presented at a one day conference at UC Santa Cruz in Spring 2017. We will be collaboratively mentoring and supporting each other as writers, editors, students, teachers, and learners through an editing workshop which will be held in the Summer of 2016 at UC Santa Cruz.

With a commitment to working across disciplinary boundaries, we invite submissions that may include, but are not limited to, conventional academic essays, interviews, creative writing, poetry, personal narratives, and fiction as well as visual art. To think through our theme, we privilege testimony and personal stories as a critical feminist methodology, as it allows for the understanding, (re)creating, and (re)framing of our identities. To this aim, we seek to destabilize static understandings of the category "women"—inside and outside the academy—while holding onto storytelling and testimony as practices attentive to the ways women/womyn of color have reflected on, and creatively contested, oppressive systems that seek to control bodies of color.

Submission Guidelines:

This will be a **peer-reviewed journal**.

Written work: approximately 5,000-10,000 word limit. We honor the writing process, so we do not want the word count requirements to limit your work.

Visual Art: Attach visual art as a TIFF, PNG, or JPG/JPEG. Image submissions should be in a high-resolution digital format, preferably in PNG, but JPEGs are also acceptable. Images must be 25 MB or less. The journal is formatted to be printed at 8.5" x 11". Contributors should include the title of the work, year it was created, and

the medium. An artist's statement of 40 words or less is optional. Submissions should also include a short biography of the artist.

*We honor and encourage collaborative work, therefore, collaborative pieces and interviews will be accepted.

Types of work we invite include (but are not limited to):

- Academic Scholarship
- Interviews
- Creative Writing
 - Poetry
 - Personal Essay
 - Fiction
- Visual Art
 - Photography
 - Painting
 - Graphic Art

Topics and questions may include but are not limited to:

Collaborative work develops and puts into practice, alternative methodologies that challenge dominant epistemologies, enabling and facilitating a multidimensional framework for examining identity-formation, as well as political and personal practices:

In what ways does working in collaboration make visible our lives and experiences, and thus challenge the erasure of us as women of color scholars in academia?

How does centering witnessing, testimony, and storytelling, as decolonial feminist methodologies, help us think through/contemplate/complicate our relationship, experience, and/or interactions with any of the topics below?

How do these interventions shape and impact, transform and shift, identities and understandings of the categories of women-identified people of color?

How can we collectively engage with these different experiences through a **decolonial feminist praxis**?

What elements of our lives, experiences, or approaches in relation to, or with, the below topics make centering witness, testimony and storytelling uniquely useful or imperative to our survival?

-affect and emotion

-spirituality

-**embodied knowledge**- the body as a site of knowledge production and locus of power

-community

- collaborative work (inside or outside the academy)
- intergenerational dialogues
- healing and self-care, trauma
- social justice
- literature, art, and performance as knowledge production
- intersectional approaches and analysis
- decoloniality as theory and praxis (i.e. testimony/storytelling as a mode of community building and resistance)
- borders/borderlands, im/migration
- health and medicine
- reproductive labor - notions of labor (i.e. labor as material relations, labor as community)
- indigenous epistemologies (i.e. ontologies, temporalities, socialities)

Call for Paper Timetable:

Timely submission of the papers is critical to the success of the program.

1. Deadline for Proposals

By Friday, April 15, 2016, the WOC must receive completed submissions, along with a 250-word biography of the author(s). Submissions, along with the author's contact information, should be submitted via email: ucscwocresearchcluster@gmail.com. Please put "Witnessing and Testimony: Hurt, Healing, and Herstories" in the subject line.

2. Acceptance of Proposals

By Friday, June 17, 2016, the committee will make a decision on all proposals. The number of accepted proposal might be limited. The committee will contact authors regarding their proposal by this date.

3. Collaborative Editing Workshop

The WOC will work collaboratively with the authors of the accepted submissions. An editing and networking workshop will be hosted during early September 2016 at Santa Cruz, CA. Travel and lodging for participants will be covered.

4. Journal Launch

We will hold a Women of Color conference/journal launch event in March 2017 at UC Santa Cruz, CA, as a celebration and promotion of the publication of the WOC journal.

The WOC Working Group looks forward to receiving submissions in response to the call, and we are happy to respond to inquiries from interested parties. All submissions and inquiries can be directed to WOC's co-editors at: ucscwocresearchcluster@gmail.com.