Call for Proposals
Transcending Boundaries Research Symposium

Life of the Mind . . . Body *and* Soul

3rd Annual

Transcending Boundaries Research Symposium

May 1, 2020

University of Chicago

 "Life of the Mind" is one of the University of Chicago's most beloved unofficial mottos, meant to convey a deep commitment to intellectual and philosophical inquiry that eschews the supposedly lesser carnal pursuits of life that may distract students at other venerable institutions. This focus on the mind above all else has its roots in the Enlightenment ideals of Rene Descartes, which place a mind-body hierarchy as the foundation of humanistic thought, the scientific method, and Western thought overall. However, while "Life of the Mind" at UChicago prioritizes Cartesian Enlightened intellectualism, this mantra is and problematic on two fronts: its negates to acknowledge humanism's prerequisite of non-European exclusion and ignores the potential epistemological contributions of the body and soul. So, what happens when we begin to explore the minds and ideas of people of color? How can we include the body and the soul into this conversation? Further, how does this elevation of Western thinking shut the door to other epistemologies that aren't based in a mind-body divide, but instead focus on holistic integration of mental, physical, and spiritual inquiry? The 3rd annual Transcending Boundaries Research Symposium, **Life of the Mind… Body *and* Soul,** now invites UChicago's underrepresented graduate student population to present their scholarship, which may reflect work not fully encompassed or embraced by the exclusionary Life of the Mind ethos. This may include research on non-Western traditions, practical rather than merely theoretical applications, marginalized communities, religious beliefs, and more.

We conceive of this theme quite broadly and invite proposals from **all divisions and fields.** Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

MIND:
- Cognitive Processes
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Intellectual Traditions
- Education
- Pedagogy
- Legal Philosophy
- Political Theory
- Urban Planning
- Speculative Fiction
- Financial Modeling
- Bioethics
- Trauma
- Coding
- Physics
- Math

BODY:
- Excluded Bodies
- Incarcerated Bodies
- Poverty
- Gentrification
- Colorism
- Public Health
- Labor Rights
- Behavioral Science
- Bodies in Movement
- LGBTQAI+ Rights
- Biological Bodies (i.e, anything living or viruses)
- Natural Bodies (e.g., water and terrain)
- Sound and Spaces of Protest

SOUL:
- Religious Movements
- Aesthetics
- The Sublime
- Rituals and Ceremonies
- Communal Practices
- Afro-Futurism
- Freedom & Liberation
- Indigeneity
- Music Theory & Performance
- Protest & Solidarity
- Digital Citizenship
- Human Rights
- Culture

Presentation Procedures

Humanities and Social Sciences

Each speaker will be allotted a *total* of 30 minutes for their presentation: 20 minutes to present their papers followed by 10 minutes for questions. The program committee will compile topically-based three-paper sessions after the initial abstract selection. Keep in mind that your audience comes from a variety of backgrounds, so please keep disciplinary jargon to a minimum. If you have any questions, contact the program committee.

Sciences

Each speaker will be allotted a *total* of 30 minutes for their presentation: 20 minutes to present their papers and 10 minutes for questions. We understand that this is a deviation from traditional timings, but we want to give presenters more time to communicate their findings to a general audience and give the audience members enough time to ask questions. Please keep disciplinary jargon to a minimum. In your presentation please take time to explore how your study topic or personal experience relates to the theme of the symposium.

Sessions will be assembled after abstracts are received. We understand that this is a deviation from other conferences where presenters submit abstracts to specific sessions. Also, presenters are welcome to use visuals, you will have access to A/V technology, and if you have other visuals please contact the program committee. If you have any questions, please contact the program committee.

Poster Presentations

Students from all divisions are welcome to submit posters proposals. Posters must be no more than 48'' by 48'' inches. You must print your own posters. Guidelines for posters will be distributed with acceptance information.

Abstract Requirements

The title must be in all caps and no longer than 15 words. The body of the abstract must adhere to a maximum of 300 words. This is exclusive of the abstract title and the author listing (if applicable). Please make the abstract as informative and representative of your presentation as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the program committee.

Application Restrictions and Submission Procedures

Only one proposal per person is allowed.

Abstracts are due on March 13, 2020, at 11:59 pm Central Standard Time (USA).

No late abstracts will be accepted.

Please submit abstracts via this google form https://forms.gle/PTw2P2t6yk3PTMLeA

If you have any submission issues please contact **grad-dab@uchicago.edu**

If selected, presenters will be notified on March 30, 2020, with further details.