

Dear Presenters and Keynote Speakers,

This is a friendly reminder that preparations for the Visual Culture of the Americas Workshop 2010, Saturday 17 April continue. I look forward to receiving the following information so that we may proceed to print and distribute the program. Please send it as a Word document in attachment (please do not send documents formatted in docx, or in pdf since I will be editing the information in preparation for the programs and additional materials). The information is the following:

- 1) Name and full contact information
- 2) Short CV
- 3) Short bio
- 4) A short summary of general areas of interest
- 5) Geographical area/time-frame of specialization
- 6) Proposed title
- 7) A two-line summary of the topic you will bring for discussion
- 8) Two or three questions you would like co-participants and audience to discuss for pre-circulation
- 9) Audiovisual equipment you may require for your presentation.

Send to: msuescunpozas@brocku.ca

Few Guidelines so as to Help You to Prepare Your Presentation and Questions:

1. Objectives of the Workshop:

As stated in the original invitation, the workshop's immediate objectives are:

- a. Define and reflect on visual and material culture as a locus of urban politics and memory from inter-disciplinary and transnational perspectives.
- b. Propose the field of "visual culture" in general, and "visual studies of the Americas" in particular, as a site that allows us to bridge traditional disciplinary and national divisions.
- c. Discuss the bearing the visual field has on their research or work, with special focus on political conflict, urban studies, human rights and memory.
- d. Explore the significance of and engage the visual as a mediating field.

2. Outlook of the Workshop:

A few words about the outlook of the presenters we have invited to join us at this workshop:

- a. Presenters as a whole cover a wide variety of geographical areas and time periods.

b. Presenters bring a variety of research problems specific to their major disciplinary field of identification, field of research or domain of interest.

c. Workshop aims at a collective exploration of the single points of contact: visual field/visual culture, its significance in their major disciplinary field of identification/field of research/domain of interest.

d. Given this wide variety of geographical areas/time periods/disciplinary fields/domains we invite presenters to share insights on methodology, theoretical and/or conceptual frameworks as they pertain to the significance of the visual field to their domain of primary interest.

e. Grounded in the presenters' scholarship this workshop is a space for addressing questions pertaining to the significance of the visual field/visual culture.

3. The General Themes:

A. Morning Discussion:

‘Conflict, Violence and Resolution and Visual/Material Culture’

- Methodologies pertaining the the visual field and their intersection with studies of political conflict, human rights, justice, memory, etc
- Memory, Justice, and Visual Culture in an Interdisciplinary Perspective
- Visual and Material Culture: Locus for Interdisciplinary Sources/Studies of Truth and Reconciliation?

B. Afternoon Discussion:

‘Urban Politics and Visual/Material Culture’

- Methodologies pertaining to the visual field, and their intersection with urban studies, political culture, etc
- Politics, the City and Visual Culture in an Interdisciplinary Perspective
- Visual and Material Culture: Locus for Interdisciplinary Sources/Studies of Politics?

4. Your Presentations:

Presentations are self-reflective position notes, pieces of writing, or performances, that help open up dimensions of your research/teaching/work to further joint exploration. They should last between 10 and 12 minutes at the most. Because this is a workshop, situation we invite each of you to share questions that seem most pressing to you, related to your own continued work or your domain of research, which you may not have been able to explore and that, in your view demand sustained collective undertakings.

5. Your Participation: Special Request for the Day of the Workshop:

The organizers urge presenters to take part in activities throughout the day to ensure there is rich discussion and ample opportunity to explore shared interests.

Presenters scheduled to participate in the morning are urged to stay for the afternoon discussions. Presenters scheduled to participate in the afternoon are urged to join us all day long.

All are invited to join us for a get together and celebration at PAN Café in Downtown Saint Catharines, and for an evening hands-on print demonstration organized by [CRAM](#).

6. Medium and Long-term Objectives:

This workshop lays the foundations for a second edition in 2010-2011 to be held at SUNY at Buffalo.

One of the immediate goals of the organizers is to come up with hemispheric and global approaches to the visual field as it speaks to the proposed themes so that the group may continue exploring them together in the spirit of our location “on the border”.

Out of the two workshops (presentations and discussions) will come a proposal for a co-edited publication and submission for publication in the Spring of 2012.

7. Update on Registration, Schedule and Activities:

a) Registration:

The workshop has no registration fee. All participants will nevertheless be provided with confirmation of registration and participation.

b) Tentative Schedule:

8:30 am Registration starts/Breakfast
9:00 am Opening Remarks
9:30 – 10:15 am Keynote Speaker
10:15 Coffee break
10:30 am – 12:15 pm Morning Workshop
12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch on site
1:45 – 2:30 pm Keynote Speaker
2:30 – 4:30 pm Afternoon Workshop
4:30 – 5:00 pm Summing Up
6:00 pm Dinner / Mirror Theater Performance
8:30 pm Evening Print Workshop at CRAM

c) Catering Services/Dinner/Evening Activities:

The organizers are happy to announce there will be catering service including breakfast, the morning coffee break and lunch for all attending the workshop. Parking expenses for presenters and key speakers the day of the workshop is covered.

Dinner will be covered by the organizers for keynote speakers and presenters. PAN Café has graciously offered a delicious menu (<http://www.pancafe.ca>). General participants may pay \$25.00CAD per person.

The Mirror Theater Group will accompany us at dinner (led by Joe Norris author of *Playbuilding as qualitative research: A participatory arts-based approach* (2010)).

There will also be an evening print workshop at the CRAM Collective and Gallery with Print Master José Armando Medina. Cost participation print workshop: \$20

We thank you once more for your warm and enthusiastic response and look forward to finalizing the program and ensuring the workshop is both an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. Maria would be happy to address any questions regarding accommodation or the Niagara region (to all of you coming from NY or further we in fact recommend you stay over the weekend and get to know it better!).

Looking forward to seeing you April 17 as early as 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and registration and spending together the day.

Warmest regards,

Maria and Camilo