CALL FOR PAPERS:
MSA 16, “Confluence and Division”
November 6-9, 2014
Pittsburgh, PA USA
Hosts: Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh
http://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/msa16/

PROPOSAL DEADLINES:
Seminar Proposals, February 28, 2014
Thursday Workshop Proposals, February 28, 2014
Panel Proposals, May 9, 2014
Roundtable Proposals, May 9, 2014
Poster Sessions and Digital Exhibits, May 9, 2014

Conference Overview & Location
November 6-9, 2014, at the Omni William Penn in downtown Pittsburgh

The Modernist Studies Association conference will be hosted by Duquesne University and co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh. The organizers are pleased to invite modernist scholars to the city of Pittsburgh, about which Marianne Moore observed:

It is a far cry from the ‘queen of jewels’
and the beau with the muff,
from the gilt coach shaped like a perfume bottle,
to the conjunction of the Monongahela and the Allegheny,
and the scholastic philosophy of the wilderness
to combat which one must stand outside and laugh
since to go in is to be lost.

Indeed, Pittsburgh sits at a powerful natural confluence of rivers – the Allegheny and the Monongahela – that forms the Ohio River at the western “point” of what is now the city’s vibrant downtown. This geographic conjunction speaks to the city’s history and character, marked in distinctive ways by convergences, collusions, and confluences that simultaneously function as splits, severances, divisions: the meeting of East Coast and Midwest, of urban streets and rural Appalachia, of capitalist splendor and worker resistance, of Gilded Age mansions and depleted communities, of stunning natural beauty and equally stunning environmental degradation.
A confluence of multiple modernisms marks Pittsburgh’s history, alongside collisions and divisions wrought by modernity’s energies. Reaching its industrial zenith and most diverse population during the modernist period, Pittsburgh’s geographic and cultural character emerged from powerful forces distinguishing modernity. The city offers a rich site to contemplate the multifaceted impact of the modernist era.

Call for Papers: CONFLUENCE AND DIVISION
Taking our cue from Pittsburgh’s history and character, the conference theme encourages a focus on the confluences and divisions of plural modernisms, and on forces of modernity underlying cultural shifts that powerfully conjoin and pull apart the twentieth century’s socio-economic and cultural fabrics. What emerges as modernisms and modern forces interact – “high” and “low” culture, wealth and poverty, ethnic and racial diversities, capital and labor, environmental and industrial, etc.? How can modernist practices, aesthetics, and formations be situated within or in relation to modernity’s energies, imagined as layers, structures, and figures of confluence and division? How can an interdisciplinary movement across “divisions” create new “confluences” in modernist studies? The conference organizers for CONFLUENCE AND DIVISION invite proposals for seminars, workshops, panels, roundtables, and multimedia/digital exhibitions in modernist studies.

While we encourage proposals relevant to the conference theme of Confluence & Division, this theme should not discourage proposals on other topics: we welcome all panel, seminar, and roundtable proposals. The primary criterion for selection will be the quality of the proposal, not its link to the conference theme.

We invite proposals for complete panels and roundtables. If you do not have a full panel or roundtable, but wish to create one, please visit our MSA CFP page or the MSA Facebook page to announce your idea.

All queries should be directed to msasixteen@gmail.com

All those who attend the MSA conference must be members of the organization with dues paid for 2014-15 (MSA membership runs from July 1 until June 30 each year.) For information on MSA, please check the website, msa.press.jhu.edu.
Important Deadlines:

- Seminar Proposals and Thursday Workshop Proposals, February 28, 2014
- Panel Proposals, Roundtable Proposals, and Poster Sessions and Digital Exhibits, May 9, 2014

Participation Because we wish to involve as many people as possible as active participants, the MSA limits multiple appearances on the program. Thus, you may participate once, but only once, in each of the following categories:

- Seminar, either as leader or as participant
- Panel or roundtable, as participant (you may also chair a different panel or roundtable)
- “What Are You Reading?” session

You may lead a seminar, present a paper on a panel, and participate in a “What Are You Reading” session, but you may not present two papers. MSA rules do not allow panel or roundtable organizers to chair their own session if they are also speaking in the session. The session chair must be someone who is otherwise not participating in the session. Panel organizers are encouraged to identify a moderator and include this information with their proposals; the MSA Program Committee can also ask another conference attendee to serve as a moderator. Participation in a Thursday workshop or in a poster session or digital exhibition does not constrain other forms of participation.

CALL FOR SEMINAR PROPOSALS AND THURSDAY WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Deadline: February 28, 2014

Seminars are among the most significant features of the MSA conference. Participants write brief “position papers” (5-7 pages) that are circulated and read prior to the conference. Because their size is limited to 15 participants, seminars generate lively exchange and often facilitate future collaborations. The format also allows a larger number of conference attendees to seek financial support from their institutions as they educate themselves and their colleagues on subjects of mutual interest. Seminars are two hours in length.
Because seminars led solely by graduate students are not likely to be accepted, we encourage interested graduate students to invite a faculty member to lead the seminar with them. Please note that this is the call for seminar leaders. Sign-up for seminar participants will take place on a first-come, first-served basis coinciding with registration for the conference.

Seminar Topics: There are no limits on topics, but past experience has shown that the more clearly defined the topic and the more guidance provided by the leader, the more productive the discussion. “Clearly defined” should not be confused with “narrow,” as extremely narrow seminar topics tend to exclude many potential applicants. To scan past seminar topics, go to the Conference Archives http://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/archive.html on the MSA website, click the link to a prior conference, and then click on “Conference Schedule” or “Conference Program.” You'll find seminars listed along with panels and other events. Topics related to the conference theme are especially welcome and might include, for example, modernism and food, modernism and aging, or modernism and boredom. Seminar leaders might also consider proposing a topic based around the theme of Confluence and Division or any of the specific events of modernism.

Note on AV provision: All rooms will contain a web-linked computer, a screen and a data projector.

Submit proposals by February 28, 2014 by completing the following online form: MSA 16 Seminar Proposal Form (http://tinyurl.com/msa-seminar-2014).

CALL FOR THURSDAY WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Deadline: February 28, 2014

Pre-conference workshops are held on the Thursday that the conference begins. They focus on topics related to professional life, such as aspects of publishing, teaching, and writing. Popular workshops in previous years have been on topics including, “What Do Presses Want from a First Book?,” “Digital Approaches to Modernism,” and critical writing practices.

Workshops should be participatory in format and can be either 90 or 120 minutes in length. They may be entirely led by one person or may include a panel of experts. Please note that this call is for workshop leaders.
Registration for workshops will occur at the same time as conference registration.

**Note on AV provision:** All rooms will contain a web-linked computer, a screen and a data projector. Participants are asked to bring presentations on memory sticks to avoid compatibility problems.

Submit proposals by February 28, 2014 by completing the following online form: [MSA16 Thursday Workshop Proposal Form](http://tinyurl.com/msa-workshop-2014).

**CALL FOR PANEL PROPOSALS**

Deadline: May 9, 2014

Successful proposals will introduce topics that promise to expand research and debate on a topic, and will present a clear rationale for the papers’ collective goal. Panel proposals which engage with a recent contentious or exciting new research or with a theoretical intervention into the field are encouraged. Topics are not limited to the theme “Confluence and Division.”

Please bear in mind these guidelines:

We encourage interdisciplinary panels and strongly discourage panels on single authors. In order to encourage discussion, preference will be given to panels with three participants, though panels of four will be considered. Panels composed entirely of participants from a single department at a single institution are not likely to be accepted. Graduate students are welcome as panelists. However, panels composed entirely of graduate students are less likely to be accepted than panels that include postdoctoral presenters together with graduate students.

**Note on AV provision:** All rooms will contain a web-linked computer, a screen and a data projector. Participants are asked to bring presentations on memory sticks to avoid compatibility problems.

Submit proposals by completing the following online form by May 9, 2014: [MSA 16 Panel Proposal Form](http://tinyurl.com/msa-panel-2014).

**CALL FOR ROUNDTABLE PROPOSALS**
Deadline: May 9, 2014

All topics will be considered for roundtables, but we encourage proposals that develop the theme of the conference. Unlike panels, which generally feature a sequence of 15-20 minute talks followed by discussion, roundtables gather a group of participants around a shared concern in order to generate discussion among the roundtable participants and with the audience. To this end, instead of delivering full-length papers, participants are asked to deliver short position statements in response to questions distributed in advance by the organizer, or to take turns responding to prompts from the moderator. The bulk of the session should be devoted to discussion. No paper titles are listed in the program, only the names of participants. Please bear in mind these guidelines:

Roundtables may feature as many as 6 speakers. We particularly welcome roundtables featuring participants from multiple disciplines, and we discourage roundtables on single authors. Panels composed entirely of participants from a single department at a single institution are not likely to be accepted. Graduate students are welcome as speakers. However, roundtables composed entirely of graduate students are less likely to be accepted than roundtables that include postdoctoral presenters together with graduate students.

**Note on AV provision:** All rooms will contain a web-linked computer, a screen and a data projector. Participants are asked to bring presentations on memory sticks to avoid compatibility problems.

Submit proposals by completing the following online form by May 9, 2014: [Roundtable Proposal Form](http://tinyurl.com/msa-roundtable-2014).

**CALL FOR POSTER SESSIONS AND DIGITAL EXHIBITS**

Deadline: May 9, 2014

Reflecting the growing role of the digital humanities in modernist studies and the proliferation of work that does not lend itself to presentation in the form of a scholarly paper, we invite proposals that provide a short overview (including web links) of 1) the nature, design, and purpose of a digital
project; 2) how the project advances modernist studies; and 3) how the presenters would want to exhibit and explain the project at the conference. Be sure to list all participants and institutions involved in the project, and specify who among these would attend the conference.

**Note on AV provision:** While all rooms will contain a web-linked computer, a screen, and a data projector, presenters of digital projects who want additional hardware will need to provide that themselves.

Submit proposals by completing the following online form by May 9, 2014: [Poster Session and Digital Exhibit Form](http://tinyurl.com/msa-exhibits-2014).

**Conference Access**
The MSA is committed to ensuring that all conference registrants will be able to participate in conference events.

We ask that all conference attendees give thought to questions of access and work with the conference organizers to create an event that is welcoming to the entire community of participants.

If you would benefit from individual accommodations including, but not limited to, ASL translation, paper copies of session presentations, or large type documents, please contact the Program Committee Chair, Victoria Rosner, at vpr4@columbia.edu or (212) 854-2720.