

Performance Working Group
2022 Cultural Studies Association
Call For Proposal: Reckoning(s)

The Performance Working Group invites submission for the 20th annual meeting of the Cultural Studies Association (CSA), June 2-4, 2022. The plan for this year's conference is to meet in person, in Chicago, with an integrated virtual component that will allow for simultaneous presentation and participation for those unable to join us.

In conversation with the main theme “Reckoning(s),” the Performance Working Group calls for proposals to consider how reckoning(s) manifest in—or can be theorized within the framework of—performance. We are looking to the ways that performance and performance studies itself may be the subject and site of reckonings. We are interested in tri-chronic ways that reckonings and performance work with one another—looking to redress past injuries and injustices, considering how to proceed into the future, and working in the present to perform or facilitate solutions. As policy, debate, and discussion continue around the unmarked graves of indigenous children in Canada's Residential School System, the sustained extrajudicial killings of black people by police, the disproportionate effects of climate change on the people least responsible, and around many recent examples illuminate, the process of reckoning is as entangled with the future as it is with the present or past. Given these, Performance Working Group encourages topics that include but are not limited to:

- Epistemological reckonings: ways of knowing, legitimating, questioning, and overturning knowledge, (auto)ethnography, “I reckon” as a placeholder for the colloquial, the vernacular, for multiple englishes
- Ontological reckonings: Land back, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo
- Performance as memory machine: archive, repertoire, (re)enactment, haunting
- Reckonings for alternative audiencing, spectating, participating in performance
- Performance as a worldmaking or worldchanging practice: Afrofuturism, indigenous futurisms, border-thinking, colonality
- Performance as protest, protest as performance
- Intersectional antagonisms in performance

While we welcome traditional academic papers and panels, we also encourage contributions that experiment with alternative formats and intervene in the traditional disciplinary formations and exclusionary conceptions and practices of the academic such as praxis sessions, make(r) space (see conference format in the full conference call [here](#)). The Performance Working Group is particularly interested in proposals for sessions designed to document and advance existing forms of collective action or catalyze new collaborations. We encourage submissions from individuals working beyond the boundaries of the university: artists, activists, independent scholars, professionals, community organizers, and community college educators.

In order to create more dynamic and long-term conversations, we will organize panels based on topic as well as the objective of the work. Given this, please include a description of your project (<100 words) in your abstract (<500 words): is it a book proposal, part of dissertation/thesis, shortened version of seminar

paper, early-stage brainstorming, a conversation, an invitation to work on a project? How would you approach this project in a long-term way? What kinds of artistic/academic collaboration are you looking forward to? We welcome you to think expansively and unconventionally in the description of your project. It may include what you may hope for from a panel but do not know how to realize.

Please submit all required information through [Essay Chair](#). Deadline for submission is Monday, January 31, 2022 (Extended). If you have any questions, feel free to email the Co-Chairs of the Performance Working Group: Hui Peng (hpeng@gradcenter.cuny.edu) and Evan Moritz (evan.moritz@mail.utoronto.ca)