

**2022 Cultural Studies Association Conference**  
**The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association (USA)**  
**Dates:** June 2-4, 2022  
**Location:** Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL  
**Final Deadline for Submissions (EXTENDED): January 31, 2022**

As we near the extended deadline for submissions for the 2022 Cultural Studies Association conference, we wanted to send an assurance that we have preparations in place to hold a hybrid conference if conditions allow, so that people can attend either in person or virtually. But we are also watching developments around COVID-19 and especially the Omicron variant closely. We hope all CSA members will enter their submissions by January 31, 2022 and note their modality preference. As we get closer to the conference date we will be in touch if there are any changes that need to be made to our intended modality. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you in June one way or another!

**This Year's Theme: Reckoning(s)**

The Cultural Studies Association (CSA) invites proposals for participation in its twentieth annual meeting. Proposals on all topics relevant to cultural studies will be considered, but priority will be given to those that engage this year's theme of "Reckoning(s)." (Membership in the CSA is not required to submit a proposal, but is required in order to present at the conference.)

2022 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Cultural Studies Association and, in light of this milestone, we take up the idea of reckoning--of taking stock of where we are as an association, a field of study, and a society. The act of reckoning entails a process of evaluation, a determination of value or worth, and ultimately a decision on how to proceed moving forward, for an individual, a group, or an institution. As such, reckoning is a process that mobilizes reflection on the past in order to shape the future. We invite proposals that engage with reckoning from its most expansive to its most intimate sense. That is, both as a material, epistemological, political, or social practice that engages with some of the most pressing concerns of our present time, and as an engagement with small, specific scenarios, such as individual reckonings, reckoning through close readings, or personal and private reckonings.

The CSA encourages reflection on reckoning at a time profoundly destabilized by the COVID-19 pandemic and the political and social upheavals that intensified in 2020 and continue to be emergent today. The current conjuncture impels a moment of revaluation and reassessment at a global scale. While we invite proposals that address either historical or current

reckonings, we offer, as a starting point, questions stemming from the viral, political, and social tumult of recent years. Proposals might examine, for example, how the pandemic has demanded that we analyze our needs and our desires through a new lens, raising critical questions about the systems of power we live under, the language we use to communicate with one another, the shape and characteristics of our relationships with others and myriad other presumptions about daily life. Proposals might consider these or other questions in specific cultural, geographic, or historical contexts, or they might situate reckoning as a material or speculative practice that sheds light on broader theoretical trajectories. We ask, in short, what conditions does reckoning require and what are its possible, likely, or even inevitable results?

### **Engaging with the Theme**

As with past conferences, we welcome proposals from all disciplines and topics relevant to cultural studies, especially from fields in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. We also welcome proposals geared towards the interests of specific Working Groups. The CSA currently holds Working Groups in Literature, Migration & Mobility, Visual Cultures, Theories of Cultural Studies, Performance, New Media & Digital Cultures, Film Studies, Globalization & Culture, Ethnography, Environment Space and Place, Culture and War, Critical Pedagogies, Cultural Policy Studies, Critical Feminist & Queer Studies, and Black and Race Studies.

Topics that applicants might address include, but are not limited to:

- Reckonings over social norms and practices brought about by social media (policing, revenge porn, etc.)
- Memorialization, museums, and markers, including placing, removing, or changing historical markers to contextualize or narrativize histories.
- Science as a process of reckoning
- Reckoning as in accounting for, billing for, coming to a settlement about
- Race, reparations, and reckoning
- Retelling, reimagining, reframing
- Alternate ways of knowing, telling, or believing; “I reckon” as a placeholder for the colloquial, the vernacular, for multiple englishes
- Reckoning, religion, and righteousness
- BLM, “Me Too,” and other popular movements as instances of reckoning with the past or planning for the future
- Decolonization of knowledge, land, and institutional power
- Reckoning with the climate crisis

- Epistemological reckonings: ways of knowing, legitimating, questioning, and overturning knowledge.
- Rebuilding and recovery--the past and trauma, healing and reconciliation, social and environmental disasters
- Reckoning as a lens for viewing the future (Afrofuturism, Indigenous futures, etc)

The CSA aims to provide multiple and diverse spaces for the cross-pollination of art, activism, pedagogy, design, and research by bringing together participants from a variety of positions inside and outside the university. Therefore, 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 (see session format options listed below). We are 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.

### **Important Dates:**

- Submission System Open: Friday, October 15, 2021
- Final Deadline for Submissions (EXTENDED): **MONDAY, January 31, 2022**
- Early Bird Registration: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 until Friday, March 25, 2022
- Friday, March 11, 2022: Notifications sent out
- Friday, March 25, 2022: Early Registration Ends, Regular Registration Rate Begins
- Friday, May 6, 2022: Last day to register to participate in the conference. If you do not register by this date and are not a current member, your name will be dropped from the program.

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

All proposals should be submitted through Easy Chair using the following link:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=csa2022>

The submission system will be open by Friday, October 15, 2021. Please prepare all the materials required to propose your session according to the given directions before you begin electronic submission. All program information--names, presentation titles, and institutional affiliations--will be

based on initial conference submissions. Please avoid lengthy presentation and session titles, use normal capitalization and standard fonts, and include your name and affiliations as you would like them to appear on the conference program schedule.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS include individual memberships for up to seven affiliate faculty, staff and students at member institutions. Graduate students who wish to submit proposals are strongly encouraged to speak with their Department Chair or Program Director about institutional membership and where possible, make use of the complimentary individual memberships and therefore reduced registration rates. Full benefits of institutional membership are described here:

<http://www.culturalstudiesassociation.org/institutions>.

#### REGISTRATION:

In order to participate in the conference and be listed in the program, all those accepted to participate must register before Friday, May 6, 2022.

And remember: registration for the conference and membership in the CSA are now combined transactions.

**Register here:** <https://www.flipcause.com/widget/MTMxMDMz>

#### CONFERENCE FORMAT

For the first seventeen conferences, the CSA held successful in-person experiences. For the past two years, we have pivoted--on a dime in 2020--to produce successful and well-attended virtual conferences. These past two years have given us a glimpse of not only what is possible to do in a virtual session, but also the benefits that modality presents in terms of accessibility and international participation.

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. Those submitting to the conference can indicate whether they would prefer to present virtually or in person, but we cannot guarantee an in-person experience until much closer to the event. Given the dynamic situation presented by the pandemic, planning to be hybrid will allow us to quickly revert to an entirely online format in the future if the need arises.

We are still working out exactly what this will look like in terms of technologies and platforms, but we will update all members and conference participants (via email, social media, and the association webpage) as

conditions change and the situation develops. All of that said, we hope to see you in Chicago!

While we accept individual paper proposals, we especially encourage submissions of pre-constituted sessions. Proposals with participants from multiple institutions will be given preference.

All sessions are 90 minutes long. All conference formats are intended to encourage the presentation and discussion of projects at different stages of development and to foster intellectual exchange and collaboration. Please feel free to adapt the suggested formats or propose others in order to suit your session's goals. If you have any questions, please address them to Michelle Fehsenfeld at: [contact@culturalstudiesassociation.org](mailto:contact@culturalstudiesassociation.org)

The CSA is committed to inclusion and diversity and encourages proposals including members of groups historically under-represented within the organization. We will prioritize panel proposal submissions that contribute to the diversity and diversification of the CSA, with particular interest in marginalized, liminal, or under-privileged representation and participation.

**PRE-CONSTITUTED PAPER PANELS:** Pre-constituted panels allow three or four short (15-20 minute) presentations, leaving 30-45 minutes for questions and discussion. Panels should have a chair/moderator and may have a discussant. Proposals must include the title of the panel; the name, title affiliation, and contact information of the panel organizer; the names, titles, affiliations, and email addresses of all panelists and chair and/or discussant; a description of the panel's topic (<500 words); and abstracts for each presentation (<150 words). Pre-constituted panels are preferred to individual paper submissions.

**INDIVIDUAL PAPERS:** Individuals may submit a proposal to present a 15-20 minute paper. Selected papers will be combined into panels at the discretion of the Program Committee. Proposals must include: the title of the paper; the name, title, affiliation, and email address of the author; and an abstract of the paper (<500 words).

**ROUNDTABLES:** Roundtables allow a group of participants to convene with the goal of generating discussion around a shared concern. In contrast to panels, roundtables typically involve shorter position or dialogue statements (5-10 minutes) in response to questions distributed in advance by the organizer. The majority of roundtable sessions should be devoted to discussion. Roundtables are limited to no more than five participants, including the organizer. We encourage roundtables involving participants from different institutions, centers, and organizations. Proposals must include: the title of the roundtable;

the name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the roundtable organizer; the names, titles, affiliations, and email addresses of the proposed roundtable participants; and a description of the position statements, questions, or debates that will be under discussion (<500 words).

**PRAXIS SESSIONS:** Praxis sessions allow a facilitator or facilitating team to set an agenda, pose opening questions, and/or organize hands-on participant activities, collaborations, or skill-shares. Successful praxis sessions will be organized around a specific objective, productively engage a cultural studies audience, and orient itself towards participants with minimal knowledge of the subject matter. Sessions organized around the development of ongoing creative, artistic, and activist projects are highly encouraged. The facilitator or team is responsible for framing the session, gathering responses and results from participants, helping everyone digest them, and (where applicable) suggesting possible fora for extending the discussion. Proposals must include: the title of the session; the name, title, affiliation, and contact information the facilitators; a brief statement explaining the session's connection to the conference theme and describing the activities to be undertaken (<500 words) and a short description of the session (<150 words) to appear in the conference program. Please direct any questions about praxis sessions to Michelle Fehsenfeld at [contact@culturalstudiesassociation.org](mailto:contact@culturalstudiesassociation.org).

**SEMINARS:** Seminars are small-group (max. 15 individuals) discussion sessions for which participants prepare in advance of the conference. In previous years, preparation has involved shared readings, pre-circulated "position papers" by seminar leaders and/or participants, and other forms of pre-conference collaboration. We particularly invite proposals for seminars designed to advance emerging lines of inquiry and research/teaching initiatives within cultural studies, broadly construed. We also invite seminars designed to generate future collaborations among conference attendees, particularly through the formation of Working Groups. A limited number of seminars will be selected. Once the seminars are chosen, a call for participants in those seminars will be announced on the CSA webpage and listserv. Those who wish to participate in a particular seminar must apply to the seminar leader(s) directly by April 11 2022. Seminar leader(s) will be responsible for providing the program committee with a confirmed list of participants (names, affiliations, and email addresses required) for inclusion in the conference program no later than May 6, 2022. Seminars will be marked in the conference programs as either closed to non-participants or open to all conference attendees. Proposals should include: the title of the seminar; the name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the seminar leader(s); and a description of the issues and questions that will be raised in discussion and an overview of

the work to be completed by participants in advance of the seminar (<500 words). Please direct questions about seminars to [admin@culturalstudiesassociation.org](mailto:admin@culturalstudiesassociation.org). Please note that for them to run at the conference, seminars accepted for inclusion by the program committee must garner a minimum of 8 participants, including the seminar leader(s).

**MEET THE AUTHOR:** Meet the Author Sessions are designed to bring authors of recent books deemed to be important contributions to the field of cultural studies together with discussants selected to provide different viewpoints. Books published within three years of the conference are eligible for nomination. Only CSA members may submit nominations. Self-nominations are not accepted. Please direct questions about seminars to [admin@culturalstudiesassociation.org](mailto:admin@culturalstudiesassociation.org).

**WORKING GROUP SESSIONS:** CSA has a number of ongoing Working Groups. Working Group submissions can either be an individual paper or pre-constituted panel and must be made through CSA's online EasyChair submission portal. Choose either the Working Group Panel or Working Group Paper tracks, complete the submission information, and choose the appropriate working group from the drop-down menu at the bottom of the page. Working Groups page of the CSA website for the most updated calls: <https://www.culturalstudiesassociation.org/working-groups.html>

**MAKE(R) SPACE:** The Make(r) Space is a space for the collaborative and praxis-driven portions of Cultural Studies – making space for art, making space for political activism, making space for new modes of knowledge exchange. It is our goal that this space will be created for those that have been historically and systemically left out of these conversations: artists, activists, poets, and other cultural critics and makers. We want to create a space that helps the CSA fulfill some of the implicit praxis portion of its goals to “create and promote an effective community of cultural studies practitioners and scholars.” Building on the poets, dancers, painters, and activists already interested in the space, we welcome proposals for exhibits, performances, workshops, skill shares, story telling, and other ways of meaning-making and art-making in the world that consider the theme of “Interventions.” We especially encourage Make(r) Space submissions from individuals working beyond the boundaries of the university: artists, activists, independent scholars, professionals, community organizers, contingent faculty, and community college educators. Please email Make(r)Space submissions by March 11, 2022 to: [admin@culturalstudiesassociation.org](mailto:admin@culturalstudiesassociation.org)

**LATERAL WORKSHOP:** Lateral, the journal of the Cultural Studies Association,

invites submissions of emerging work for constructive feedback with the Lateral editors and cultural studies scholars at the Cultural Studies Association 2022 Conference. If you are interested in being considered for the workshop merely check “yes” when prompted to do so in EasyChair and, if accepted to the conference, you will also automatically be considered for the workshop. We especially invite participation from junior scholars, graduate students, and those working beyond the bounds of the university, as well as those who intend to eventually submit their work to Lateral (workshop papers that are later submitted to the journal will undergo regular editorial and peer review). Those interested in participating will be notified of their acceptance into the workshop by mid-January, and complete drafts of articles (approximately 4,000–9,000 words in length) will be due mid-May and circulated to workshop participants at least two weeks before the conference. Strong submissions will situate their considerations of cultural practices, critical theories, and/or pedagogies within established and emerging conversations on racism, capitalism, sexuality, gender, ability, and colonialism. Prospective workshop participants, including those presenting work at the 2022 CSA Conference, should submit abstracts (no more than 500 words) or draft articles (approximately 4,000–9,000 words in length) through the submission system by the deadline for submissions. The journal can be accessed at [csalateral.org](https://csalateral.org)