

1st Call For Papers, Artwork, Plays, Film, Music, Poetry:

CULTure of (IN)difference

A University of Pretoria multi-disciplinary Post-graduate Conference

This is a call for papers, plays, musical performances and artwork for a multi-disciplinary conference for postgraduate students at the University of Pretoria. Papers in any field are welcome, as long as they are in line with the conference theme (see below). We are also looking for artwork, as the conference itself will also feature an art exhibition. Plays, musical performances, short stories and poetry are also welcome to be submitted. Since the theme for the conference addresses the Arts in South Africa, any art/music/drama etc may be submitted. Preference will be given, however, to artistic works which correspond to the theme. Abstracts for papers, artworks, plays, short stories or poetry may be between 150-300 words. Acceptance to the conference is based on abstracts alone, although a panel will view and decide on the artworks to be exhibited. Some plays may also be selected from 'Krekvars' drama festival held annually by the University of Pretoria's Drama Department. Furthermore, artists are encouraged to present their own art, whether it be in the form of visual art, design, poetry, drama, music, film etc.

The conference is scheduled for the **30th of September and 1st of October 2011**. The conference and exhibition will be held in the Visual Arts building on the University of Pretoria's Hatfield Campus.

The theme of the conference runs along the plural meanings in the title: "CULTure of (IN)difference". The word play in the title could imply, for example:

A 'Culture of Indifference' – Are South Africans uninterested in the Artistic developments/achievements made in South Africa? What are the symptoms and causes of the indifference to the relevance of art in the lives of South Africans?

A 'Cult of In' – the sense that art is driven by trends. Thus investigations and evaluations of such trends would give insight into the status of art in contemporary South African society.

A 'Culture/Cult of Difference' – South African art is often intermeshed with issues of identity (racial or cultural differences). What role does identity play in creative works? Must the arts necessarily articulate issues of race and identity in order to be considered worthwhile for South Africa?

The three above suggestions by no means exhaust the possible interpretations of the theme. Papers could be on any topic loosely related to the theme. Some suggestions include:

Race and the Arts

Current trends in the Arts in South Africa

The role of the Arts in South African Culture

The social/political status of the Arts in South Africa

The Arts as vehicles of ideology

South African Aesthetics/Musicology/Theory

South African engagement with the Arts

The Moral Status of Art in the South African Context

South African literature/poetry/drama/film

Design in South Africa

There may be a possibility of selected papers being published in a special issue of 'Image and Text' - although this remains unconfirmed at present. If this opportunity is confirmed, all relevant parties will be notified.

Abstracts/portfolios/proposals etc can be sent to:

mark.kourie@up.ac.za

DEADLINE: 18th July 2011, 12:00PM