

## Call For Papers

Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference  
February 26-28, 2021  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

### **Ancestral Futurisms: Embodying Multiracialities Past, Present, and Future**

The issue of time has long been debated in mixed-race studies. Racist histories of anti-intermixture, anti-miscegenation, and the illegality—and at times, the selective acceptance—of interracial marriage and unions are not simply components of our collective past but continue to motivate cultural producers, theorists, and community organizers to imagine more just futures. For those of us who think, teach, and organize around multiraciality, the issue of time remains an important one to consider. The 6th Critical Mixed Race Studies conference listens to the past as it gathers under the theme “Ancestral Futurisms” in order to bind alternative histories of multiraciality with their reimagined futures. In doing so, we concentrate on the embodiment of multiplicity and the pursuit of social justice. By challenging past conceptions of multiraciality dictated by white supremacy, we seek to decolonize the politics of multiracialism by producing new practices and radical hope. The goal of our convening is to build and imagine intersectional counterspaces that foster community and collective action among artists, community members, students, clinicians, and academics invested in the critical field of mixed race studies. By moving the conference to Arizona, we seek to engage the Southwest borderlands as an Indigenous space that has been contested through migrations and racial encounters.

**Proposals:** CMRS welcomes submissions from cultural workers, artists, activists, and scholars from all fields. We invite individual paper presentations, panels, roundtables and workshops (solution based items) and posters that address the conference theme in a broad sense. Presentation formats may be varied and diverse, and we welcome proposals that involve poetry, visual art, storytelling, and other non-academic formats. Proposals might address, but are not limited to the following:

Ancestral Futurisms	Imagining Liberation and Resistance
Dismantling Anti-Blackness, Anti-Indigeneity, Anti-immigration	Critical Mixed-Race Methodologies and Knowledge Production
Mestizaje and Its Discontents	Haunting, Alternate Histories
Cross-Racial and Multiracial Kinship	Essentialized Race and Scientific Racism
Comparative Racializations	Race in Sports and Multiracial Athletes
Diasporic Intimacies and Global Mixed-Race Experiences	Transracial Adoptee Experiences
Environmental and Reproductive Justice	Decentering Whiteness and Dual Nonwhite Experiences
Notions of Time, Space, and Generational Experiences	Multiracial Politics in the 21st Century
Embodied and Identity Performance	Windows and Portals to Ancestral Knowledge
Cultural Geography, Migration and Multiplicity	Media and Visual Representations
Transnational Circuits of Multiracialism	Literary and cultural productions
Queer and Trans Aesthetics	Speculative Fiction, Magical Realism, Art/Performance
Gender and the Sacred	

Deadline for Submissions: April 1, 2020

Notification: June 2020



## #CMRS2021 Session Descriptions & Proposal Requirements

### PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposal topics are not limited to the theme “Ancestral Futurisms: Embodying Multiracialities Past, Present, and Future.” Successful proposals will engage topics that promote critical thought and debate around issues pertaining to multiraciality. In line with the CMRS mission statement, the Program Committee is especially interested in presentations and performances that ultimately work to undo local and global systemic injustice rooted in systems of racism and White supremacy. Each proposal submitted for consideration must have the following criteria:

#### **Basic information about each presenter**

Name, pronouns, contact information (phone, email), bio (limit to 50 words), professional affiliation.

#### **Proposal**

Each proposal will have a brief abstract and a description/summary according to the criteria below. In order to ensure that each proposal is reviewed and evaluated anonymously, make sure to remove any identifying information from the abstract and the description/rationale.

1. Title: Title of the proposal.
2. Abstract: 100 words. This is an overview of the presentation(s) that introduces the topic and foci in a succinct and accessible manner. For panel proposals, the abstract establishes how all of the presentations coalesce under a common theme. If your proposal is accepted for presentation at the conference, this abstract will be published in the conference program and available for all attendees to view.
3. Description/Summary:
  - **For Paper, Roundtable, Workshop, and Poster proposal submissions**: 500 words (including references). The description/summary should explain the purpose and main objective(s) of the proposal and address how the topic/question/issue relates to the conference theme and/or advances the field of CMRS. It should be in line with the CMRS mission statement.
  - **For Panel proposal submissions**: 1000 words (including individual presentation/paper titles and references). The panel summary should explain the purpose and main objective(s) of the panelists' topics/questions/issues, including how they relate to the conference theme and/or advance the field of CMRS. It should be in line with the CMRS mission statement. Finally, the panel summary should list the title of each presentation followed by a 2-3 sentence description for each panelist's presentation. In order to ensure that each proposal is reviewed and evaluated anonymously, make sure to remove any identifying information from the summary (e.g., identify separate presentations by “Panelist 1” or “Panelist 2”).

## Other requirements

- **Registration:** Those who have a proposal accepted must register for the conference, therein becoming a CMRS member, to be included in the conference program.
- **Accessibility requests (if needed):** Please list any accessibility accommodations you may require.
- **MXRS LIVE Event:** If submitting for the MXRS LIVE Event, provide a link to share a sample of work or film to be considered. It does not need to be complete, but should be developed enough to give a solid impression of your work.

## PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

A successful proposal will demonstrate the following:

- Relevance of topic to CMRS conference theme or the field of CMRS
- Clarity and focus of inquiry
- Significance to the field of CMRS
- In line with the CMRS mission statement

## SUBMISSION FORMATS

All session times are set at 90 minutes, with the exception of the MXRS LIVE Event.

All conference rooms will be equipped with internet access and a screen/projector.

### Individual Paper

Papers are submitted as individual proposals that if accepted will be organized into a panel of 3 to 4 presenters. Each presenter has 12 to 18 minutes to present. CMRS encourages presenters to organize complete panels with colleagues and submit a single proposal as a panel (see Panel Submission below).

### Panel

Panels provide an opportunity for examining a specific problem or topic from a variety of perspectives provided by the 3 to 4 presenters who collectively submit a single proposal. Each presenter has approximately 12 to 18 minutes to present, leaving at least 30 minutes of audience discussion after all have presented. An outside person or one of the presenters must function as a moderator who introduces the speakers and keeps time.

### Roundtable

Roundtables consist of 3 to 6 participants who gather around a shared concern in order to generate discussion among the roundtable participants and the audience. Roundtables may present alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specified subject or in relation to a common theme. To this end, participants are asked to deliver brief position statements in response to questions distributed in advance by the organizer or take turns responding to prompts from the moderator. The bulk of the session should be devoted to discussion. The moderator introduces the participants, holds time, and facilitates discussion. Because the flow of discussion is particularly critical in the roundtable format, the moderator should be selected with attention to this issue. The organizer brings together the participants and submits the group's proposal, but may or may not be the moderator.

**Workshop**

Workshops provide an opportunity to exchange information or work on a common problem, project, or shared interest. Workshops offer opportunities for engaged introductions to new developments in the field and participatory discussion of current ideas and practices. Successful workshop proposals articulate learning goals for the workshop and means for participants to achieve them.

**Poster**

Posters are visual presentations displayed on bulletin boards. The visual displays can be creative, exploratory and experimental, works-in-progress, new concepts, late-breaking research results, or narrated artwork. Posters present research or analysis on a topic by combining artwork, images, or graphics with text on a typical 36" high x 48" wide or 91.4cm high x 121.9cm wide board. Standard size Bi/Trifolds to be displayed on a 3'x6' table will also be permitted. Posters will be displayed during an assigned session time. During these poster sessions, presenters accompany their displays to discuss content, answer questions, and invite conversation.

**MXRS LIVE Event**

Mixed Roots Stories is looking for performance and/or film (short or feature) pieces to feature during the festival.