



Call for Papers

'Interfacing Minorities: Creative Hybridity and Unexpected Environments' Åbo Akademi University 8-9 March 2018



Åbo Akademi University, as part of its Centennial celebrations, in collaboration with the taskforce in Social Sciences and Humanities representing the 28 Universities of the international COIMBRA Group, will be hosting an interdisciplinary conference – *'Interfacing Minorities: Creative Hybridity and Unexpected Environments'* – on March 8-9th 2018.

The Conference has been conceived within the remit of Minority Studies as one of the University's four designated focal areas of research. Thematically, its emphasis will be on positive outcomes, innovations, and solutions arising from the creative friction experienced by minority groups coming into contact with similarly positioned and larger communities. Confirmed keynote speakers include Juan Manuel Amaya Castro, Universidad de los Andes and Nicos Trimikliniotis, University of Nicosia.

Proposals

We invite abstracts for individual papers for the two thematic streams taking place on 9th of March 2018. Proposals may address (but are not limited to) the following questions, and may be framed (while keeping a wider multidisciplinary catchment area in mind) according to the affordances of any particular relevant discipline:

- **'Minorities and New Narratives of Belonging'**

The contemporary understanding of diversity has come to be dominated by two narratives: vulnerability and the corresponding idea of the helpless victim, and securitisation based on conceptualisation of difference as a threat. This session seeks to look at broadly understood minorities from the fresh angle as generating new narratives of inclusion and belonging that would go beyond these hegemonic perspectives.

- **'Minorities and Commons'**

According to Trimikliniotis, Parsanoglou and Tsianos the concept of Commons responds to the need to turn from the 'politics of pessimism' to a 'politics of possibility' and underline the role of the subaltern migrants in creating new forms of subjectivities. We invite papers reflecting on the role of migrants and minorities in

creating new forms of the ‘socialities, solidarities and connectivities’¹ in particular, in reshaping the modes of societal interactions.

Submission of proposals

Proposals for this seminar (300-400 words per paper), as well as a brief biographical note (200 words approx.) should be sent as attachments to: Magdalena Kmak (magdalena.kmak(at)abo.fi) and Pamela Slotte (pamela.slotte(at)abo.fi).

Deadline for the submission of proposals: 12th November 2017.

We will notify you about the acceptance of your proposals by: 1st December 2017.

The official language of the conference is English.

Accommodation and reasonable travel expenses will be covered for speakers whose papers are accepted.

For more information, see: <https://www.abo.fi/student/en/interfacingminorities>

¹ N. Trimikliniotis, D. Parsanoglou and V. Tsianos ‘Mobile Commons and/in Precarious Spaces: Mapping Migrant Struggles and Social Resistance’, in *Politics of Precarity: Migrant Conditions, Struggles and Experiences*, Leiden: Brill 2016