



**NEXUS 2016 Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference:
Alt + Shift: Unlocking Alternative Methodologies and Marginal Positions**

7th Biennial Conference
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

When: Thursday, March 3 – Saturday, March 5, 2016
Plenary Speakers: Dr. Malea Powell (Michigan State University)
Dr. Andrea Kitta (East Carolina University)
Dr. Dorothea Lasky (Columbia School of the Arts)
Website: <http://web.utk.edu/~nexus/> (Try Alt+Shift when visiting!)

The short-key action “Alt+Shift” is supposed to change the keyboard language. However, this function no longer changes these language settings, as it once could do, and it may not regain functioning without altering the system itself. To help change and alter the system, more research and collaboration is needed. In the same way, this conference seeks to promote connectivity between various disciplines and their approaches to changing mainstream research to recover marginal voices and discover effective alternative methodologies. Recent conversations concerning immigration, environment, vaccinations, LGBTQ communities, women, race, and violence have illustrated ongoing concerns of alienation and subjugation of marginalized perspectives in society. While the topics of debate are not new, the presence of these conversations are exposing the oppressive effects associated with mainstream narratives and dominant research paradigms.

This conference aims to bring together scholars, creative writers, and educators from a broad range of disciplines in order to provide a space to share the myriad ways that scholars are alternatively researching materials and recovering marginalized voices from the prevailing dominant paradigms. While the rise in use of alternative methodologies has opened up new opportunities for research, social action, and expression by previously under-recognized and underrepresented groups, important questions remain. Particularly, how can we actively shift from the idea of "other" in such a way that the foundation of research practice changes?

If we cross over our disciplinary confines, then we can work more fluidly to successfully answer this prevailing question. Therefore, we are seeking submissions from all disciplines, such as but not limited to English, Rhetoric/Composition, Linguistics, Sociology, Psychology, Musicology, Art, Film, Anthropology, Geography, Biology, Mathematics, and more. Abstracts (250 – 300 words) are invited on a broad range of topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- Archives, recovered narratives, and construction of new archives
- Hegemonic constructions in research and methodology in a given field
- Representations of indigenous communities and scholarship
- Role of the media in identity formation and representation
- Influence of cultural environments on communicative practices
- Influence of geography and environment on spatial development and body awareness
- Employment of theoretical paradigms (feminism, cultural studies, post-colonialism, disability studies, etc.) to recover marginal perspectives or to develop alternative methodologies
- Phenomenology engaged in art, film, literature, music, etc.
- Influence of geography on race and/or gender relations
- Representations of gender identity and/or sexual preference in MMORPGs, film, music, etc.
- Analysis of mass media’s use of tropes/metaphors to cultivate xenophobia
- Use of social media in composition pedagogy to expand audience and communication awareness
- Employment of mindfulness in the humanities and sciences as pedagogical practices
- Reconsideration of institutional/university practices to support alternative scholarship
- Non-reductionistic biology engaged in ecology, behavior, history, mathematics, etc.
- Creative submissions of all genres and media will also be considered

Individual papers or panel proposals will be considered. Please consider submitting proposals that may not fit neatly into the ones listed above.

Please submit abstracts to utnexus@gmail.com by **November 1, 2015 January 3rd, 2016 by 11:59pm.**