CALL FOR PAPERS

12th Annual Mini-Conference on Critical Geography

Department of Geography
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio
October 28-29, 2005

Scope of the Conference
This conference aims first and foremost to provide a venue for broad discussion of themes in critical geography. In recent years, papers and panels have been presented on a broad array of topics under the umbrella of critical human geography. Possible topics for presentation could be:

- Cities and Citizenship
- Contemporary policy issues
- Critical Geopolitics
- Cultural Politics
- Cyber spaces
- Discourses on Development
- Emotional Geographies
- Environmental degradation
- Extreme geography
- Gender
- Gentrification & Urban Struggles
- GIS and Society
- Globalization
- Interactions between Human & Physical Geographies
- Local politics of economic development
- Migration, Transnationalism, Post-Nationalism
- Neo-liberalism & the city
- Peace Studies and the Politics of Peace
- Post-colonial issues
- Race, identity, & contestation
- Regions as institutions
- Space, place & power
- Social Movements
- Sustainability
- Terrorism
- Urban political-ecology

This list of topics is by no means meant to be exhaustive. We encourage those interested in participating to explore any range of interests and to use the mini-conference as an opportunity to expand their current research agenda, explore new theoretical landscapes, and/or receive feedback on works in progress.

Organization
This year’s conference will begin on Friday afternoon (Oct. 28, 2005) with two keynote addresses by Kevin Cox (Ohio State) and Lynn Staeheli (U of Colorado). We plan to have sessions on Saturday, and if there is great interest, sessions will also be scheduled for Sunday morning. Sunday morning may also serve as additional discussion time for all participants interested in exploring future critical geographies.

Because we wish to provide a forum for discussion of themes in critical geography (and the nature of what constitutes critical geography as well), interested participants should feel free to suggest ways of presenting their research, ideas, and art beyond formal paper sessions. We shall attempt to accommodate performances, and are certainly open to formats such as round tables, panels and other discussion forums. If you are unsure about a particular format, please contact the organizers:

Bruce D’Arcus (darcusb@muohio.edu)
Patricia Ehrkamp (ehrkamp@muohio.edu)
Tom Klak (klakt@muohio.edu)
Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: The target deadline for proposing a panel, roundtable, or submitting a paper to the mini-conference is June 25, 2005. Submit abstracts or proposals for panels/roundtables/performances (including title of the paper/session and contact information) to: ehrkamp@muohio.edu; darcush@muohio.edu; klakt@muohio.edu.

Format

Panels and Roundtable Discussions
If you wish to organize a panel or roundtable (or an entirely different format), please provide a panel title and the contact information for all panelists/participants. Titles for individual contributions (if relevant) should also be provided. Panel organizers are responsible for the specific allocation of time and structure of the panel session. Please note that we reserve the right to add a panelist to previously organized panels if the topics fit.

Paper Presentations
Paper presenters should submit a paper title, abstract, and contact information by the submission deadline. Paper sessions will include 3 papers and a discussant (90 minutes, generally fifteen minutes per paper, with time reserved at the end for discussion). In early August 2005, discussants will be identified and paper presenters should forward their paper to the discussant via e-mail by October 15. The purpose of the discussant is to begin group discussion of the ideas and concepts presented in the paper. Consequently, discussants should be provided with the presentation materials as soon as possible.

Brief History of the Conference
The Mini-Conference on Critical Human Geography began as an opportunity for faculty and students to informally exchange ideas and share their research in a collaborative learning environment. In 1994, Byron Miller (Calgary, formerly University of Cincinnati), Kevin Cox (Ohio State), and J.P. Jones (Arizona, formerly of University of Kentucky) held the first conference in the moot court chambers of the University of Cincinnati Law School. During the early years, faculty and students from a variety of programs including Cincinnati, Illinois, Kentucky, Kent State, Miami, Ohio State, and Toledo regularly participated. In 2001, the mini-conference’s official connection with the University of Cincinnati ended when the “mini” was held as a joint conference of the East Lakes Division of the AAG. Since 2001, the conference has migrated from campus to campus. Today, the conference boasts participants from a variety of programs throughout the Midwest.

Initially, the conference was structured as a day long plenary session. Over the years though, the popularity of the conference has grown and concurrent sessions have been organized. Despite the expansion of the conference, the mini organizers are committed to maintaining at least two plenary sessions to allow the conference attendees the opportunity to reflect on shared panel and paper themes.

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Accommodation
A block of rooms has been reserved for the Critical Geography Mini-Conference at the Best Western Hotel Sycamore Street, Oxford, Ohio (513-523-0000). Please mention the “Geography Conference” when you make your reservation to receive the conference rate (US $63.00/night). Other hotel and motel rooms are available in and around Oxford (please check www.hotels.com for prices and details).

Accommodation for Students
Miami University graduate students and faculty are willing to host graduate students in their homes as graduate student participation is crucial to the success of the conference. If you would like to stay with a Miami University graduate student or faculty, please contact the conference organizer.

For more information please contact one of the organizers.