

# **Rouge Forum Conference**

## **Call for Proposals**

**May 27 & 28, 2016**

**Hosted by**

**St. Mary's University**

**Calgary, Canada**

**Proposal Deadline: Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### **Conference Theme: Teaching for Democracy and Justice in an Age of Inequality**

This year's Rouge Forum is dedicated to the overarching question of how we engage our students or communities in important issues and work necessary to foster a more just and democratic world. We look to bring scholars, teachers, and community members with varied experiences, perspectives, and approaches in order to contribute to the larger conversation with the conference attendees.

Here, we are intent on providing a more fulsome conference experience, where attendance means more than simply presenting and listening. At this year's Rouge Forum we are developing new formats to better enable meaningful conversations between attendees and presenters; one's that lead to the sharing of ideas and experiences, while forging new relationships within and across disciplines for a common purpose: the pursuit of a more just and democratic world.

We encourage speakers and participants from any discipline whose work intersects with the broad theme of the conference to attend this year's Rouge Forum. We are particularly interested in having discussions around pressing issues of current significance in our communities and across the world. Discussions are encouraged to address at least one of the following themes, broadly construed:

Dignity of Work and Workers

Economic Equity and Justice

Indigeneity in the 21st Century

Intersections of Identity and Society

Human Rights, Responsibilities, and Relations

Reciprocity and Solidarity in the Pursuit of Human Dignity

Respect for the Earth, Nature, and Nonhuman Animals

## **Session Types:**

### **Fire Lightings - 90 Minute Sessions**

In place of the traditional paper presentations, we are initiating a new and (we hope) more engaging and social format of powerful, short presentations followed by more intimate and inclusive conversations. A 200-500 word abstract of the panel discussion will be peer reviewed for acceptance to the conference. Proposals should include the core question you will pose for discussion in your talking circle.

#### *Format:*

Rapid-Fire Talks: 7 minute presentations concentrated on a theme with 21 slides timed to advance in 20 second increments. The purpose of these quick fire presentations is to open up the rest of the session to discussion around questions posed by the presenters. In their final slides, presenters will pose a core question that they would like to consider with conference attendees.

Talking Circles: Following the presentations, speakers will have assigned break-out tables to discuss, collaborate, network, and problem solve on the question that they posed. This break out is intended to provide more intimate involvement by attendees, and to foster rich discussions, generate ideas, and foster relationships in ways that empower attendees to share their experiences with each other and the speakers.

## **Panel Discussions- 90 Minute Sessions**

A panel discussion is typically composed of three to six participants who discuss their scholarly work within the context of a dialogue or conversation on a topic related to the conference theme. A chair should be identified who introduces the panel and frames the issues and questions being addressed. We encourage proposals to include a central problem or issue that presenters intend to discuss. Individual proposal submissions may be combined into panels with the same theme/topic or can be proposed by a coordinated group of individuals. A 200-500 word abstract of the panel discussion will be peer reviewed for acceptance to the conference.

### *Format:*

Panel Discussion (60 mins – 45 disc / 15 ques): Panelists will discuss issues around a core question or problem, lending their expertise / experience to the problem, while also asking questions, challenging, and affirming each other. Each of these discussions should be posed as genuine explorations of complex problems that require thoughtful conversations as starting points to meaningful action, and answer questions from the audience

Garden Sessions (30 minutes): Following the panel discussions, garden sessions are less formal opportunities for attendees to speak to individual presenters. If weather permits, these garden sessions can be held both inside and outside.

## **Alternative Format and Special Interest Groups (90 minutes)**

Alternative proposals that do not fit into the above categories, such as workshops, performances, video and multimedia presentations, and round-table dialogues, are encouraged. We also welcome proposals for the organization of special interest groups. A 150-250 word abstract of the panel discussion will be peer reviewed for acceptance to the conference.

Please send your proposals to: [rg@richgibson.com](mailto:rg@richgibson.com)

Local Contact: [cory.wrightmaley@stmu.ca](mailto:cory.wrightmaley@stmu.ca)

For authors who wish to submit short papers (1500-2500 words) a selection of high quality articles will be published in the conference proceedings.