

Call for Papers for International Studies 5th Annual Student Conference

The Time of Monsters: Dystopia & Utopia in an Age of Crisis

Selecting Your Topic

The theme of this year's conference is **The Time of Monsters: Dystopia & Utopia in an Age of Crisis**. Think about the research you have done and the papers you have written in the context of the conference theme. More likely than not, there is a topic that you have already researched that can be expanded on and re-framed to fit the conference theme. Read the call for papers carefully and talk with your faculty advisor about your ideas.

Select your topic as soon as possible. The sooner you chose your topic the more time you will have to think about your approach, to research the subject, and to polish your proposal.

Suggested topics to consider as possible areas of investigation:

- Popular movements
- Austerity and resistance to austerity
- Economic, physical, and political violence
- Geopolitical instability
- Formations on the far right, new fascisms
- Policing, repression, and surveillance
- Ecological crises
- Permanent war
- Humanitarian crises
- Imagining alternative futures
- Media, discourse, and knowledge

Writing Your Proposal

A good proposal requires preparation, focused research, and plenty of rigorous thinking, but it is time well spent, as it will help you focus on your topic as you navigate through large amounts of information. A solid proposal is built around 3 key components:

- **A clear and coherent title.** Don't be fancy! Make sure your title clearly indicates what you are proposing to discuss and how it relates to the topic: **The Time of Monsters: Dystopia & Utopia in an Age of Crisis**
- **A well-articulated first paragraph** that clearly explains WHAT the project is (what the title is about), WHY it is significant, and HOW you will go about your investigation (methodology). Remember, this paragraph will make the first impression on the judges evaluating the applicants.
- Next, provide a brief but coherent **explanation of your project's significance** (what, why, how) and your expected original contribution to knowledge. Here you need to distill your arguments and sketch out your findings. If you have not concluded your research and are still investigating you need to explain what you expect to conclude. Judges will look to see if the proposed topic is interesting, original, coherent, and relevant to the conference topic. You need to convince them.

A useful manual is the Social Science Research Council's *The Art of Writing Proposals*, available online.
<http://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/7A9CB4F4-815F-DE11-BD80-001CC477EC70/>

All proposals must be 300-500 words, typed in Garamond font, 1.5 spaced, with 1 inch margins, formatted in a Word document. All abstracts must have a cover page that provides the following information: author name, student ID number, graduate or undergraduate status, phone number, email address, and word count. Submit abstracts to sdirr1@depaul.edu by 5pm on Monday April 13th, 2015.