



IMAGINED COMMUNITIES, REAL CONFLICTS, AND NATIONAL IDENTITIES

Columbia University (New York)

Date: April 23-25, 2009.

Place: International Affairs Building,
Columbia University, New York.

Deadline: November 5, 2008.

There is no application form to fill out in order to send proposals, but a Fact Sheet is required, which is to be downloaded at <http://www.nationalities.org>. All proposals and Fact Sheets must be sent by email to Dominique Arel at both darel@uottawa.ca and darelasn2009@gmail.com.

Individual paper proposals must include the name, email and affiliation of the author, a postal address for paper mail, the title of the paper, a 500-word abstract and a 100-word biographical statement that includes full references of your last or forthcoming publication, if applicable. Long CVs will be rejected, as the bio statement must be sent in narrative form, like a long paragraph. Graduate students must indicate the title of their dissertation and year of projected defense. They can also submit bibliographic information of a recent or forthcoming publication.

Panel proposals must include the title of the panel, a chair, three paper-givers with the title of their papers, and a discussant; the name, affiliation, email, postal address and 100-word biographical statements of each participant and include full references of their last or forthcoming publication, if applicable. Graduate students must indicate the title of their dissertation, the year they join a doctoral program and year of projected defense. A 500-word abstract of each paper is not required for panel proposals.

Proposals for films or videos must include the name, email and affiliation of the author, a postal address for hard (paper mail), the title of the film, name of director, country and year of production, a 500-word abstract of the theme of the film and a 100-word biographical statement.

Proposals using an innovative format must include the title of the panel, the names, emails, affiliations, postal addresses, 100-word biographical statements of each participant (same specifications as above) and a discussion on the proposed format.

The 14th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) is organizing 100 panels on the Balkans, Central Europe and the Baltics, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Central Asia and Eurasia, the Caucasus, Turkey, Afghanistan, China and surrounding territories.

The Convention will include special sections on

- theoretical approaches to nationalism and empire,
- the independence of Kosovo and its implications, and
- the war in Georgia and its implications.

Thematic panels will deal with Islam and politics, genocide and ethnic violence, anthropology of identity, citizenship and nationality, religion, language politics, conflict resolution, autonomy, gender, EU integration, NATO expansion, diaspora politics, international law, and many more.

The ASN Convention, the most attended international and inter-disciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind, welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics related to national identity, nationalism, ethnic conflict, state-building and the study of empires in Central/Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Eurasia, and adjacent areas. Disciplines represented include political science, history, anthropology, sociology, international studies, security studies, economics, geography and geopolitics, sociolinguistics, psychology, and related fields.

The Convention also features a section devoted to theoretical approaches to nationalism, from any of the disciplines listed above. The papers in this section need not be grounded in an area of the former Communist bloc usually covered by ASN, provided that the issues examined are relevant to a truly comparative understanding of nationalism-related issues. In this vein, we are welcoming theory-focused and comparative proposals, rather than specific case studies from outside Central/Eastern Europe and Eurasia. A dozen panels are normally featured in the Nationalism section.

In the wake of the dramatic events that have unfolded in late summer 2008, the Convention will also present a special section on »The War in Georgia and its Implications.« The Convention is inviting paper, panel, roundtable, or special presentation proposals on various aspects of the conflict, as it relates to Georgia, the South Caucasus, the North Caucasus, Ukraine, the »frozen« conflicts, Russian nationalism, Russophone minorities in the »near abroad«, domestic politics, the Fate of the »Coloured« Revolutions, NATO enlargement, US-Europe-Russia relations, the European Union and related topics. A special section will also be devoted to »The Independence of Kosovo and its Implications,« with emphasis on Balkans post-war reconstruction, international law, self-determination, ethnic conflicts, minority rights, regional security and so forth.

Since 2005, the ASN Convention has acknowledged excellence in graduate studies research by offering Awards for Best Doctoral Student Papers in five sections: Russia/Ukraine/Caucasus, Central Asia/Eurasia, Central Europe, Balkans, and Nationalism Studies. The winners at the 2008 Convention were Jesse Driscoll (Stanford U, Political Science) for Russia/Ukraine/Caucasus, Sarah Cameron (History, Yale U) and Kristin Fabbe (Political Science, MIT, US) for Central Asia/Eurasia/Turkey, Helena Toth (Harvard U, History) for Central Europe, Valentina Burrai (UC London, UK, Political Science) for the Balkans, and Lee Seymour (Northwestern U, Political Science) for Nationalism Studies. Doctoral student applicants whose proposals are accepted for the 2009 Convention, who have not defended their dissertation by 1 November 2008, and whose papers are delivered by the deadline, will automatically be considered for the awards.

The 2009 Convention is also inviting submissions for documentaries or feature films made within the past few years and available in DVD format (either NTSC or PAL). Most films



Individual proposals to serve as discussant must include the name, email, affiliation, postal address, a paragraph about the areas of expertise of the proposed discussant, and a 100-word biographical statement (same specifications as above).

All proposals must be included in the body of a single email, except for the Fact Sheet that must be attached. Attachments other than the Fact Sheet will be accepted only if they repeat the content of the email message/proposal, and if all the information is contained in a single attachment. The reception of all proposals will be acknowledged electronically (with some delay during deadline week, due to the high volume of proposals).

Participants are responsible for covering all travel and accommodation costs. Unfortunately, ASN has no funding available for panelists.

An international Program Committee will be entrusted with the selection of proposals. Applicants will be notified in December 2008 or January 2009.

Information regarding registration costs and other logistical questions will be communicated afterwards.

The full list of panels from last year's convention can be accessed at http://www.nationalities.org/convention/pdfs/ASN_2008_final_program.pdf. The film lineup of last year's convention can be accessed at <http://www.nationalities.org/convention/films.asp>. The programs from past conventions, going back to 2001, are also online at <http://www.nationalities.org/convention/past.asp>.

Several dozen publishers and companies have had exhibits and/or advertised in the Convention Program in past years. Due to considerations of space, advertisers and exhibitors are encouraged to place their order early. For information, please contact Convention Executive Director Gordon N. Bardos at gnb12@columbia.edu.

The Convention organizing committee: Dominique Arel, ASN President; Gordon N. Bardos, Executive Director; David Crowe, ASN Chair of Advisory Board; Sherrill Stroschein, Program Chair.

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selected for the convention will be screened during regular panel slots and will be followed by a discussion moderated by an academic expert. Films on the 2008 Program included *Milosevic On Trial* (Denmark, 2007), *Nanking* (US, 2007), *Around Mostar, the Bridge and Bruce Lee* (Italy, 2007), *Yippee* (US, 2007) and *The More You Speak, The More You Cry* (Greece, 2007).

The 2009 Convention invites proposals for individual papers or panels. A panel includes a chair, three presentations based on written papers, and a discussant. Proposals using an innovative format are encouraged. Examples of new formats include a roundtable on a new book, in which the author is being engaged by three discussants (twelve book panels were featured in the 2008 Convention); a debate between two panelists over a critical research or policy question, following rules of public debating; or special presentations based on original papers where the number of discussants is equal to or greater than the number of presenters.

The 2009 Convention is also welcoming offers to serve as discussant on a panel to be created by the program committee from individual paper proposals. The application to be considered as discussant can be self-standing, or accompanied by an individual paper proposal.