Call for Papers

Recalibrations

May 10, 2019

Political, economic, environmental, and social crises across the globe have led humans to pose existential questions about organized society and its imposition of structures on the world. In this time of precarity and disagreement, our confidence in preconceived structures is disintegrating as we begin to examine and critically dismantle our social constructions. Despite the growing unease, such crises are often when literary movements flourish. In an age in which truth and security have become unstable, in what ways does literature and literary analysis aid in recalibrating these systems?

This year’s Graduate English Conference at York University invites proposals on recalibrating literary and social perspectives. By definition, “recalibration” encompasses acts of rethinking, re-ordering, and renaming. This conference seeks to examine transformative perspectives—literary expressions of transformation or literary perspectives which become sites of social recalibration. Amid communal, environmental and ideological anxieties, how can literature assist in changing global perspectives and actions? What literary forms and/or rhetoric does recalibration entail or promote? The renewal and transformation of perspectives is a common theme in literature; how does this reflect our current approach to political and social resistance? How can literature be positioned as a recalibrating device that aids in the transformation of social discourse and popular rhetoric?

This conference will explore issues of justice, identity, environmental preservation, and various renewed outlooks on social issues and crises. While this conference focuses on literature and related fields, we welcome papers from other perspectives, including Humanities, History, Education, Political Science, Disability Studies, Equity Studies, and other adjacent disciplines. We invite submissions on any topic related to recalibrations, transitional commentaries, and transformative perspectives.

We welcome proposals on (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Law and Literature
- Social Justice
- Literary History
- Translation Theory
- Language and Identity
- Ecocriticism
- Post-Colonialism
- Gender Studies
- Queer Theory
- Genre and Literary Form
- Adaptation and Palimpsests
- Dystopian and Speculative Fiction

Please send an essay proposal of 250-300 words and a 100-word biographical note to recalibrations2019@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions is March 15.