“Crisis and Transformations: Rethinking Knowledges, Histories, Identities, Technologies”
2016 ASPECT Graduate Conference

April 1-2, 2016
Graduate Life Center, Newman Library Multipurpose Room, and Squires Center/Black Cultural Center
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.

The Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT)
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Virginia Tech

— Preliminary program —

Day One: Friday, April 1st
1:00-2:00 pm Conference Registration Graduate Life Center (GLC) Meeting Room D
2:00-2:15 pm Welcome and Opening Remarks, François Debrix, ASPECT Program Director
GLC Meeting Room D

2:15-4:00 pm -- Panel Sessions A:
GLC Meeting Room D: Registration, Logistics, Snacks

Panel A1 – “Science Fiction and the City”
GLC Meeting Room B, 2:15-4:00 pm
Chair: Michael Saffle (Religion and Culture, VT)
Discussant: Rebecca Hester (Science and Technology in Society, VT)

Caroline Alphin (ASPECT, VT), “Thinking the Necropolitical: Cyberpunk Necroscapes and Necro-Temporality in Blade Runner”
Mario Khreiche (ASPECT, VT), “Corporate Science Fiction and the City in the 1930s World of Tomorrow”
Leigh McKagen (ASPECT, VT), “This Is the New World;” Crisis and Transformation, Science Fiction, and an Evolving American Cultural Identity”

Panel A2 – “Ecologies of Crisis”
GLC Meeting Room D, 2:15-4:00 pm
Chair: Andy Scerri (Political Science, VT)
Discussant: Jenn Lawrence (GFURR, VT)

Elia Zaru (University of Milan), “Social Struggles and the Crisis: Within or Against ‘the Political’?”
Tim Filbert (ASPECT, VT), “Resilience Thinking, the Unknowable, and Neoliberalism”

Panel A3 – “Practices of Bordering”
GLC Meeting Room F, 2:15-4:00 pm
Chair: Barbara Ellen Smith (Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies, VT)
Discussant: Eli Jamison (History, VT)
Sierra Funk (Indiana University), “Immigrants: We Get the Job Done! Renegotiating History and Identity in Lin-Manuel Miranda's Hamilton”

Jordan Laney and Shelby Ward (ASPECT, VT), “Becoming Weird: The Compulsions to Create an Other America in Appalachian Borders”

James Nguyen (York University), “The One-Dimensionality of Borders”

5:00-6:30 pm Conference Plenary Presentation 1:
Multipurpose Room, Newman Library

Simon Stow (Department of Government, College of William and Mary)
“When Crisis Becomes Disaster”

7:00-9:00 pm Reception for all conference participants
Squires Center, Black Culture Center (first floor)

Day Two: Saturday, April 2nd
9:00-10:00 am: Breakfast for conference participants
Multipurpose Room, Newman Library

All day: Conference Registration and drinks/snacks
GLC Meeting Room A

10:15 am-12:00 pm -- Panel Sessions B:

Panel B1 – “Knowledge, Education, and Critique”
GLC Meeting Room B, 10:15 am-12:00 pm
Chair: Barbara Hassell (independent scholar and author)
Discussant: Trish Nickel (GIA and ASPECT, VT)

Edgar Valles (University of Wisconsin), “Beyond Morality: Community Space Education and The Narrative of Success”
Alex Stubberfield (ASPECT, VT), “Symbiogenic Interaction: The State and University Development Rationalities”
Larry Creech (Georgetown University), “Race and Education: A Losing Combination”

Panel B2 – “Rethinking Race in a Transnational Context”
GLC Meeting Room C, 10:15 am-12:00 pm
Chair: Ryan Briggs (Political Science, VT)
Discussant: Komal Dhillon (Religion and Culture, VT)

Michelle Deramo (ASPECT, VT), “Rejecting and Resisting in the Construction of Somali Bantu Diasporic Identity”
Victoria Bui (University of San Francisco), “White Beauty, the Fairest of Them All: The Impacts Of Skin Whitening on Filipino Minorities”

Panel B3 – “Justice in Crisis”
Tom Beaumont (University of Alabama), “Engaging Identities in Mourning with an Ethic of Discomfort”
Claudio D’Amato (ASPECT, VT), “Communities, Capabilities, and Service-Oriented Humanitarian Ethics”
Adam Smith (McGill University), “The Impotential Human: Agamben, Biopolitics, and the Priesthood”
Lindsay Whittaker (Philosophy, VT), “The Extended Mind of the One: Applying the Extended Mind Hypotheses to Account for Othering”

Panel B4 – “Media and Technologies in Transformation”
GLC Meeting Room G, 10:15 am-12:00 pm
Chair: Christian Matheis (GIA, VT)
Discussant: Simon Stow (College of William and Mary)
Amiel Bernal (ASPECT, VT), “Epistemic Overload, Governance and Technologies”
Ryan Artrip (ASPECT, VT), “The Virulent Function of Language: From Babel to Information”
A.M. Stapp, (Sociology, VT), “Direct Action and the Potentially Transformative Liminal Spatio-Temporalities of Crises”

12:15-1:45 pm Conference Plenary Presentation 2:
Multipurpose Room, Newman Library
Ariana E. Vigil (Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
“The Many Deaths of Ruben Salazar”

1:45-3:00 pm: Light lunch for conference participants
Multipurpose Room, Newman Library

3:15 pm-5:00 pm -- Panel Sessions C:
Panel C1 – “Modernity in Crisis”
GLC Meeting Room B, 3:15-5:00 pm
Chair: Raji Soni (Religion and Culture, VT)
Discussant: Gabriel Blouin Genest (Political Science, VT)
Bryant Sculos (Florida International University), “Frustrations: A Dispatch and Apotheogms from Wrong Life”
Katharine Cross (ASPECT, VT), “Transmodern Identities and Alternative Cultures of Peace in Radical Religious Movements”
Arun Sharma (Public Administration and Policy, VT), “Modernity: The Design for Bureaucratic Capture”

Panel C2 – “Bodies in Transformation”
GLC Meeting Room C, 3:15-5:00 pm
Chair: Sharon Johnson (Foreign Languages and Literatures, VT)
Discussant: Janell Watson (Foreign Languages and Literatures, VT)

Heidi Schmidt (Hollins University), “Feminism and the Family: Internalized Sexism and Equal Rights”
Maria Tudela (North Carolina State University), “Critique of Autonomy”
Holly Jordan (ASPECT, VT), “Heroine Mothers: Women’s Bodies, Neo-Natal Policy, and ‘Demographic Warfare’ in Israel”

Panel C3 – “Language and Narrative Possibilities”
GLC Meeting Room F, 3:15-5:00 pm
Chair: Edward Weisband (Diggs Endowed Professor and Political Science, VT)
Discussant: Sascha Engel (ASPECT, VT)

Hirbohd Hedayat (Political Science, VT), “The National Language Game: Towards a Wittgensteinian Analysis of Nationalism”
Michael McPhie (University of Utah), “Diabetes in America: The Impact of Attention and Crisis Language on Public Perception and Discourse”
Melissa Schwartz (ASPECT, VT), “‘Lyric Thinking’ in the Contemporary Native American Poetry of Joy Harjo and Luci Tapahonso”
Eli Schwanz, (OCAD University), “Engaging with a New Conceptual Genre of Narrative and Its Possibilities”

Panel C4 – “Contestations in/with Religion”
GLC Meeting Room G, 3:15-5:00pm
Chair: Brian Britt (Religion and Culture, VT)
Discussant: Rachel Scott (Religion and Culture and ASPECT, VT)

Taulby Edmondson (ASPECT, VT), “The Windies and the Civil Religion of the American South”
Stephanie House-Niamke (Public Administration, VT) “Womanist Theology: A Comparative Analysis of Womanism in the Black Church”
Nina Salmon (ASPECT, VT), “Desegregation Caesura: Grace and the Episcopal Church in Virginia”

5:15 pm-7:00 pm -- Panel Sessions D:

Panel D1 – “Security, Cynicism, and Surveillance”
GLC Meeting Room B, 5:15-7:00 pm
Chair: Priya Dixit (Political Science, VT)
Discussant: Paul Avey (Political Science, VT)

Stephen Christian (University of Utah), “Ontological Security through Cynicism”
Mary Ryan (ASPECT, VT), “Surveillance in American Democracy”

Panel D2 – “Democracy, Legitimacy, and ‘the Market”’
GLC Meeting Room C, 5:15-7:00pm
Chair: Bettina Koch (Political Science and ASPECT, VT)
Discussant: Luke Plotica (Political Science, VT)
Dominick Cooper (Philosophy, VT), “John Locke on Executive Power”
Rebecca Hollender (The New School), “Crisis and Emancipatory Transformation”
Jared Keyel (Planning, Governance, and Globalization, VT), “Winning the Lottery: The Diversity Lottery as Neoliberal Multiculturalism”

Panel D3 – “Economic Transformations, Neoliberal Re-Organization”
GLC Meeting Room F, 5:15-7:00 pm
Chair: Scott Nelson (Political Science, VT)
Discussant: Daniel Breslau (STS, VT)

Judson Abraham (ASPECT, VT), “Wallerstein’s Politicized Interdisciplinarity”
Sascha Engel (ASPECT, VT), “Crisis, Austerity, and Nationalism”
Johannes Grow (ASPECT, VT), “The Political Semantics of Crisis”
J. Joseph Aloil (University of North Texas), “The Culture and Nature of Springs”

Panel D4 – “Rewriting (Post)-Colonial Narratives”
GLC Meeting Room G, 5:15-7:00pm
Chair: Aaron Ansell (Religion and Culture, VT)
Discussant: Ariana E. Vigil (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Francine Rossonde Paula (ASPECT, VT), “The Antipoverty Policy of Brazil: The Global Meets the Local Temporal Disjunctions”
Jeffrey Attridge (Material Culture and Public Humanities, VT), “Changing the Narrative: The Postcolonial Museum from an Indigenous Brazilian Perspective”
Mohammed Pervaiz (ASPECT, VT), “Historicism, Reform and the Ulama during the British-Colonial Period”

7:15-7:30 pm: GLC Meeting Room C: Brief closing remarks