

Call for Papers  
UCSD Literature Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference  
University of California, San Diego  
Remote, April 29th-30th, 2022

## **Beloved Community**

“Yet most people still long for community and that yearning is the place of possibility, the place where we might begin as a nation to think and dream anew about the building of beloved community.” – bell hooks, *Belonging: A Culture of Place*

In December 2021, we grieved the loss of the Appalachian Studies author, professor, Black feminist, and social activist bell hooks. Her work has allowed many to engage with intersecting ideas of race, feminism, pedagogy, environmentalism, and community through the lens of justice, sustainability, and love.

In these tumultuous times we live in, many are experiencing the overwhelming negative effects of isolationism, political unrest, racial injustice and violence, and inadequate health services during a pandemic. We would like to honor bell hooks’ memory and think about how exploring ideas of race, feminism, pedagogy, environmentalism, and especially, community in different global contexts can lead us to productively engage with and create the beloved communities that hooks so beautifully wrote about in order to combat the many injustices and violences that characterize our political and social realities.

We welcome abstracts of critical and creative papers that explore different aspects of community formation and purpose. Topics may include but need not be limited to the following:

- Role of community organizing against environmental degradation, racial capitalism, and/or land dispossession
- Indigeneity, land stewardship, Native communities and relationality
- New solidarities, subjectivities, and identities that arise when communities come together
- Transnational, Transpacific, World Literature/History/Comparative Politics
- Abolition
- Connections between the university and the local community
- Kinship and its relationship to concepts of community and building coalitions
- Community formations contribution to how groups access and create hope
- Individualism and its relationship to community, coalition, and kinship
- Temporality and futurity
- Forms of trauma that communities experience and ways of expression and remembrance
- Print cultures’ effect on community development
- Queer kinship formations
- Imagined, transnational, and/or digital communities
- Social media’s role in community formation
- Communes and Communism
- Capitalism and modernity

### **Submitting Your Proposal**

- Proposal abstracts for papers, creative works/exhibitions, and round tables should be no longer than 350 words.
- Please include brief biographical information (2-3 sentences) for each presenter.
- Our conference will be held remote for panels and roundtable discussions. If plausible closer to the conference, we will plan a few networking events in-person for those interested and in the San Diego area.
- Email your proposals to: [belovedcommunity2022@gmail.com](mailto:belovedcommunity2022@gmail.com) by **February 8th, 2022**