NEGOTIATING MULTIPLICITIES AND POLYVOCALITIES

As a discipline seeking to understand how people (past and present) navigate their social worlds in different ways, anthropologists emphasize alternate and marginalized perspectives. However, these perspectives and voices do not just co-exist as singular entities: they also overlap, blur the lines, mix and mingle. Anthropologists are now increasingly looking for pluralities in their research, for cases that challenge mindsets favouring “the singular” or “the straightforward”. Polyvocal approaches can be applied in theory and practice to highlight these complexities, yet we still grapple with establishing methodologies that truly capture the diversities we find in the field.

The Western Anthropology Graduate Society (WAGS) would like to invite you to participate in our 7th Annual Graduate Student Conference. Graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to present research that features, favours, or critiques multiplicities in theory, ethnography, methodology, and knowledge mobilization. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Equality and societal change
- Interdisciplinary and community collaboration
- Migration, displacement, and diversity
- Multilingualism and communication
- Human/non-human relationships
- Positionalities and power
- Essentialism and pluralism in ethnographic writing
- Multiplicities in theory and in practice
- Material entanglements

Graduate papers must be approximately 15-minutes in length, and students from any discipline or institution are invited to submit a 250-word paper abstract to UWOAGS@gmail.com by February 7, 2019. With your abstract, please include your name, contact information, degree program, year of study, department, and a paper title. Our conference programming committee will assign submissions to panels with other presenters based on shared themes or topics.

Undergraduate students are encouraged to participate as well. Papers should be 5-7 minutes in length. At the time of submission, please indicate whether you wish to present at a graduate or undergraduate panel.