Our common denominator is our desire to challenge, cross, and erase dangerous borders between art and politics, practice and theory, artist and spectator, mentor and apprentice, body and cultural nightmares. We strive to eradicate myths of purity and dissolve borders surrounding culture, ethnicity, gender, language, power, and métier. Sadly, at this point in time, these are still considered radical acts.

–The Pocha Nostra Manifesto for 2012

One path to genuine understanding of others, and out of this moral morass and ethical minefield of performative plunder, superficial silliness, curiosity-seeking, and nihilism, is dialogical performance. This performative stance struggles to bring together different voices, world views, value systems, and beliefs so that they can have a conversation with one another. The aim of dialogical performance is to bring self and other together so that they can question, debate, and challenge one another.

–Dwight Conquergood, “Performing as a Moral Act”

The Performance Studies Interest Group invites submissions for WSCA’s 2016 Annual Convention. The theme for the convention is “Collaboration, Innovation, and Convergence,” which opens the space for a diversity of performative and performance methods, theories, and approaches that challenge the numerous borders attempting to confine and delimit communicative potential. With La Pocha Nostra and Dwight Conquergood in mind, we are interested in papers, performances, sessions, and panels that take an intersectional approach to performance studies, including those addressing the collaboration, innovation, and convergence between, among, and through cultural difference(s).

I. COMPETITIVE PAPERS

a. Scholar-artists are encouraged to submit papers to the Performance Studies Interest Group for competitive selection. Papers should have a performance studies research focus and can utilize any methodology, critique, and/or theoretical perspective. We welcome diverse and creative approaches to academic research (e.g., critical/cultural, indigenous, queer, feminist, poetic, personal narrative, autoethnography, performance ethnography, among others). Competitive Papers should not: (1) have been presented at another conference or convention; (2) have been published; and (3) have been accepted for publication. For all submissions, please use APA, MLA, or Chicago style.

b. Debut Award: The Performance Studies Interest Group welcomes and encourages debut competitive papers. The WSCA Executives Club Award is made to the author or co-authors of a paper presented as the convention “who have not
presented a paper at a state, regional, national, or international convention, or published in any academic journal.” Papers presented at student-only conferences are exempt from this requirement. All authors of a co-authored paper must meet these eligibility requirements for a paper to be considered a Debut Paper. Papers eligible for the Debut Award should be marked “DEBUT” in the upper right-hand corner of the title page. Please also indicate whether each author is a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral student.

c. All papers should be submitted in PDF, RTF, or MS Word format. Submitted papers should include two separate attachments:

i. A title page with title of paper, names of all authors, and the addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and institutional affiliations of each author. Also include audio-visual requests only if absolutely necessary for your presentation or performance. You are encouraged to bring your own audio-visual equipment(s) whenever possible. Equipment availability is extremely limited and expensive. See the WSCA policy on Audio-Visual Equipment at Conventions in the Policies and Procedures Manual on the website http://www.westcomm.org/

ii. The paper, including a 100-250 word abstract, and a maximum of 25 pages of text. Remove authors’ names from the paper.

d. Please submit competitive and debut papers electronically to:
Benny LeMaster
Program Planner, Performance Studies Interest Group
WesternPSIG@gmail.com

II. PANEL PERFORMANCES

a. We invite scholar-artists to submit completed scripts and (optional) video clips for performances to be scheduled on panels. Panel performances should be between 10-15 minutes and can be in various modes (e.g., critical/cultural, indigenous, queer, feminist, poetic, personal narrative, performance (auto)ethnography, multimedia, digital, etc.). While you are invited to submit program panels featuring a number of short performances (see program proposals below), panel performances are intended for individuals (or groups) with 10-15 minute performances interested in being programmed with other 10-15 minute panel performances. Videos will be accepted due to the nature of performance work; scripts don’t always allow for diverse performance styles to be fully understood and considered. Please note: as we are taking video submissions, only scripts can ensure anonymity of authorship. We believe this will remain a thoughtful review process by having multiple reviewers from a variety of locations, styles, and research backgrounds. To submit a performance for consideration, submit the following separate attachments:

i. A title page with title of performance, names of all performers, and the addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and institutional affiliations
for each performer. Also include audio-visual requests only if absolutely necessary for your performance. You are encouraged to bring your own audio-visual equipment(s) whenever possible. Equipment availability is extremely limited and expensive. See the WSCA policy on Audio-Visual Equipment at Conventions in the Policies and Procedures Manual on the web site http://www.westcomm.org

1. (Optional) Include URLs to video clips that are hosted on an online platform (e.g., Vimeo, YouTube, etc.) Please be sure to make your videos “private” and to disclose the password (or the means to access video content) on your title page.

ii. The completed script. Please remove author and performer names from the script.

b. Please submit panel performances electronically to:
   Benny LeMaster
   Program Planner, Performance Studies Interest Group
   WesternPSIG@gmail.com

III. SOLO/ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES

a. This year, we invite scholar-artists to submit completed scripts and (optional) video clips for solo and/or ensemble performances. Solo/ensemble performances are intended to fill an entire panel slot (75 minutes, preferably including time for discussion and/or questions) and can assume various modes (e.g., critical/cultural, indigenous, queer, feminist, poetic, personal narrative, performance (auto)ethnography, multimedia, digital, etc.). Videos will be accepted due to the nature of performance work; scripts don’t always allow for diverse performance styles to be fully understood and considered. Please note: as we are taking video submissions, only scripts can ensure anonymity of authorship. We believe this will remain a thoughtful review process by having multiple reviewers from a variety of locations, styles, and research backgrounds. To submit a solo/ensemble performance for consideration, submit the following separate attachments:

i. A title page with title of solo or ensemble performance, names of all performers, and the addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and institutional affiliations for each performer. Also include audio-visual requests only if absolutely necessary for your performance. You are encouraged to bring your own audio-visual equipment(s) whenever possible. Equipment availability is extremely limited and expensive. See the WSCA policy on Audio-Visual Equipment at Conventions in the Policies and Procedures Manual on the web site http://www.westcomm.org

1. (Optional) Include URLs to video clips that are hosted on an online platform (e.g., Vimeo, YouTube, etc.) Please be sure to make your videos “private” and to disclose the password (or the means to access video content) on your title page.
ii. The completed script. Please remove author and performer names from the script.

b. Please submit solo/ensemble performances electronically to:
   Benny LeMaster
   Program Planner, Performance Studies Interest Group
   WesternPSIG@gmail.com

IV. PROGRAM PROPOSALS

a. Program proposals should focus on a unifying theme relevant to research, theory, or instruction in Performance Studies. Programs may consist of a chair, individual presenters/performers, and a critic or respondent in a format traditionally presented at conferences. However, ensemble or solo performances, debates, round table discussions, performance activities, or other unique formats are encouraged. Innovative program proposals, especially those that provide opportunities for interaction among participants and attendees, are encouraged. Programs co-sponsored with other interest groups are also welcome. Programs that relate to the convention theme, “Collaboration, Innovation, and Convergence,” are encouraged particularly as it opens space for co-sponsorship with other interest groups.

b. All program proposals should be submitted in PDF, RTF, or MS Word format. Submitted program proposals should include two separate attachments:
   
   i. A title page with title of program, names of all participants (include specific titles for individuals, if inclined), and the addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and institutional affiliations of each participant. Also include audio-visual requests only if absolutely necessary for your performance. You are encouraged to bring your own audio-visual equipment(s) whenever possible. Equipment availability is extremely limited and expensive. See the WSCA policy on Audio-Visual Equipment at Conventions in the Policies and Procedures Manual on the website http://www.westcomm.org/
   
   ii. The proposal, including descriptions of performances, abstracts, or scripts, etc. fitting the format of the proposed program. Remove author names, please.

   c. Please submit program proposals electronically to:
      Benny LeMaster
      Program Planner, Performance Studies Interest Group
      WesternPSIG@gmail.com

V. Western States Communication Association Performance Studies Interest Group
Outstanding Contributions to Performance Studies Award (OCPSA)
a. This award seeks to honor a WSCA member who has completed a terminal degree and has been active with performance studies for more than five years. The criteria for this award are as follows:

i. Regular past or present attendance to the WSCA convention and active involvement in the performance studies discipline as well as the performance studies interest group

ii. A robust body of scholarship including both publications and performances

iii. A history of service to performance studies with specific service to WSCA.

iv. Persons must be nominated (including self-nominations) by a current WSCA member

v. Winner should ideally plan to attend the convention in which she/he/ze is being awarded

b. Deadline: Nominations are due by the WSCA submission deadline. Letters of nomination should be no more than 2 pages and include the following: a brief history of the individual’s work, a justification for awarding the individual, and a description of the contributions made by this individual to WSCA. Please also include a copy of the nominee’s CV. All nominations must be sent via email to the Chair-Elect of the Performance Studies Interest group, who serves as the OCPSA Committee Chairperson. Submit nominations to WesternPSIG@gmail.com and place “OCPSA Nomination” in the subject line.

Should you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the Performance Studies Interest Group chair at: WesternPSIG@gmail.com