Call for Paper & Session Proposals
36th Annual Meeting of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies
Michigan State University
October 16-19, 2014

Interdisciplinary Public Problems, the Global Community, and Diversity

Michigan State University is proud to host the 2014 annual meeting of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies. Presentations and workshops will be held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center located on the campus of Michigan State University. Given MSU’s proud history as the nation’s pioneer Land Grant University and its commitment to research and education that engages scholars from the humanities, natural sciences, arts, social sciences and professions, the 2014 AIS conference will invite participants to explore the ways in which interdisciplinary studies engage today’s problems and opportunities.

The theme of the 2014 AIS conference emerged from a growing consensus that public problems—problems affecting multiple groups and populations across cultures in a diverse, global community—require insights and tools from a variety of disciplines, perspectives, and practices. As scholars and teachers, we are members of both local and global communities with a mandate to explore the roots and potential solutions to public problems and to educate a generation that is capable of addressing them. To do this, we must interrogate, integrate, and expand existing knowledge by creating collaborative relationships among disciplines in the arts, humanities, and sciences and by adopting integrative modes of research, education, and learning, communication, and policy-making.

We invite proposals for individual papers, sessions, panels, workshops and roundtable discussions. Scheduled sessions times will be 90 minutes long, and the program committee would welcome sets of sessions on related topics.

The program committee is particularly interested in presentations that employ research from two or more humanities, natural science, arts, or social science disciplines. Specialized presentations dealing with the perspectives offered by individual disciplines are encouraged if they are designed to stimulate discussions on the wider conference theme of interdisciplinary public problems. General presentations that advance the mission of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies are also encouraged. We welcome presentations on any relevant topic, including:

- Social, political, or environmental issues that represent a “wicked problem” for scholars, scientists, policy-makers
- Models of interdisciplinary partnerships: public-private collaborations, government-funded interdisciplinary programs, cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary initiatives
- The impact of diversity in undergraduate students’ learning environments: residential colleges (living-learning environment), commuter campuses, and virtual campuses
The role of experiential learning in undergraduate education, including study abroad, internship, service-learning, inquiry-based laboratories, team-teaching across disciplines, artistic or performance-based learning experiences, use of original sources, study of complex problems from multiple angles, student scholarship and research as an interdisciplinary endeavor

Pathways into interdisciplinary problem solving on the undergraduate level

The ethics and politics of global or local interdisciplinary research

Role of the media (including social media) in shaping interdisciplinary public problems in the global community

Models and strategies to integrate the arts and/or humanities and the social and/or natural sciences

Paper proposals should include the presenter’s name, title, organizational affiliation, email address, the paper’s title, and a 150-250 word paper abstract. Individual papers should be designed to fit into a 30-minute time period for presentation and questions.

Proposals for sessions, panels, workshops, performances, or roundtable discussions should include the organizer’s and presenters’ names, titles, organizational affiliations, email addresses, session and paper titles, and a 250-400 word session abstract. They should be designed to fit into one or more 90-minute time period.

Proposals should be emailed to ais2014@msu.edu with “Proposal” in the subject line. Proposals submitted by May 15, 2014 will be given priority, and we will respond to submissions by June 1, 2014. The program committee will continue to accept proposals until the final deadline of July 31, 2014. Please direct any questions to ais2014@msu.edu