

GOINGS ON ABOUT THE CONVENTION



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REPRESENTING IDENTITIES

Anything that matters is here. Anything that will continue to matter in the next several thousand years will continue to be here. Approaching in the distance is the child you were some years ago. See her laughing as she chases a white butterfly.

—Joy Harjo,
“Anything That Matters”

“Anything that matters” is in New York City—now that you have arrived. I welcome you—long-established members and newcomers alike, from *every* state in the union and from *twenty* countries outside of the USA—as you reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and reignite the scholarly and personal con-

versations that constitute the 58th Annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

“Representing Identities,” the theme of our 2007 convention, asks us to consider identities as they are constructed through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and silence. Where better to consider this question than in New York City, where 8.1 million people represent over 170 national origins and speak over 160 languages and countless dialects? Where better to investigate identities based on culture, ethnicity, race, sexuality, or ability? Where better to interrogate the identities we ascribe to our students and to probe our own identities as teachers, students, researchers, and historians? After all, “anything that matters” is now here.

As we converge on Manhattan, please take some time to introduce yourself to the newcomers, whom you’ll recognize by their yellow ribbons. Take time, too, to welcome the international scholars on our program, whom you’ll recognize by their burgundy ribbons (and the affiliation on their name tags). If you can possibly spare a session, please use that session to attend one of their presentations. After all, every major figure at our convention was once a first-time attendee. These scholars offer fresh perspectives that inspire our field to reflect on its theories and practices—and its international influences. And this year, since all the workshops and most other optional activities are being held on Wednesday, we have *three full days*, Thursday through Saturday, to attend concurrent and featured sessions, make connections, and enjoy one another in one of the world’s most stimulating cities.

When you look through this year’s convention program of 560-plus panels, you’ll find a great selection of sessions with a North American focus and an impressive

number of sessions that take an international stance. You'll discern some professional trends (consideration of electronic media, of equity, and of the content of composition itself) and discover a rich array of coalitions, caucuses, consortiums, forums, workshops, alliances, SIGs, and special events—gatherings that demonstrate the ways identities create solidarity and often-fruitful dissonance. Thanks to Prentice Hall, we have four meeting rooms supplied with internet access. In addition, you'll find two sessions designed specifically for a constituency crucial to the continued good health of our membership: graduate students. Gail Hawisher and Jack Selzer have put together "A Conversation with and for Graduate Students," a two-part session, with Friday's session devoted to "Developing Professionally While in Grad School" and Saturday's session to "The Job Market."

The featured speakers and featured sessions will also "Represent Identities" (see below for biographical and session details). **Dorothy Allison, Joy Harjo, and Lee Marmon**—all award-winning artists and influential intellectuals—are this year's featured speakers. They will launch our convention with their Thursday presentations. A prolific writer and tireless activist, the gifted Allison will speak directly to our convention theme with a talk entitled "Who I Am, and Who I Think I Am." Harjo and Marmon, a special event sponsored by Bedford/St. Martin's, will deliver a joint multimedia presentation of their writings, photographs, and music, making for a session that will be sure to enrich anyone's idea of identities.

Over the course of three days, our convention will also showcase the intellectual work of CCCC members, with featured sessions of our own internationally known rhetoricians, dedicated mentors, insightful researchers, and long-admired teacher-scholars. Two featured sessions, however, include guests. Distinguished Chair in Rhetoric and Humane Letters at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, Philippe-Joseph Salazar will speak to us on "False Ethos and the Lost Honour of Rhetoric," and Lambda award-winning poet Robin Becker, Professor of English at The Pennsylvania State University, will read from her work in a session entitled, "Jewish? Lesbian? Poet? Professor?" (Below is a description of all of the featured sessions.)

And, of course, we have New York City itself, which you'll be able to enjoy to the fullest thanks to the work of the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by the indefatigable Paul Puccio. Paul's letter to you all (below) will provide even more details.

Stacey Sheriff, conference assistant, and I have worked hard to put this convention together. We've done it—but not without a good deal of help. The proposal reviewers, the NCTE staff, Stacey, and I have planned and organized the convention, that's



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for sure. But all of you *make* the convention. Every one of your proposals helped me to give shape to what is our 58th annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Thanks for all your help.

I cannot wait to greet you and to join you in shaping and celebrating the identities of our organization!

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2007 CCCC Program Chair