

High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology

Fall Retreat 2020: “Working from Home; Dreaming of Homecoming”

October 2nd- 4th, 2020

Deadline for Abstracts: Sept 1st, 2020

Virtual Videoconference

Working from Home and dreaming of homecoming: historically, our fall retreat—affectionately called Ghost Ranch in honor of the area outside of Abiquiu, New Mexico, where the event has found a home— has become marked indelibly as a locus of communal nostalgia; it has become part of a ritual of distant homecoming. As the first yellow begins painting the tree tops, and a restless wind rustles field notes and unfinished manuscripts, the members of the High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology begin to drift into a prospective reminiscence which irrepressibly builds until October when they set out accompanied incredulously by any kin and colleagues who are willing to attend an indescribable conference surrounded by an indescribably beautiful landscape to “present a paper”. This year the fall retreat has been superseded by the necessity to hold-the-line. Anthropologists, Sociologists, Educators, and Activist Academics have a heartfelt responsibility to apply their craft and critique during periods of social struggle, cultural upheaval, and of course to the support and care of our families, communities and ideals. Needless to say, we will not be meeting in Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, but we will be meeting. To find a type of solace in our community of practice we will assemble virtually as the times demand it, and we will highlight what our members have been doing to endure, engage, and help to elucidate these complex and historic times.

The fall virtual retreat is a time to bring what you have, what you have been working on, and to share. Within the epochal shifts which our world and local communities have been wracked with, we are all seeing things with new perspectives, priorities and passions. For this reason, we are calling for papers addressing the question “What have you been doing or thinking about?”. We hope to check in at the most basic human level, but also in the academic sense. We also invite you to share about the things that have been helping you to get through uncertain times— whether that is art, work, reading, writing, a hobby or interest, new ways of connecting with other people, etc. Additionally, we invite reflections on the times themselves.

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL:

Contact:

Please send proposals via email to Josef Garrett at garret@msudenver.edu

Your proposal must include the following:

Personal Information:

Please include your name, contact information, and any relevant academic or professional affiliations.

Title and Abstract:

Please provide your paper or presentation title and a 100-200 word abstract.

Presentation Type:

Our standard presentation time slots are 45 minutes, including time for questions and discussion following your presentation. Please indicate if you are interested in a longer (or shorter) time slot, and if you will have any particular technology needs for your presentation.

Additionally, we will be happy to work with you on alternative approaches to presenting your material. For example, you may propose a virtual panel, roundtable discussion, a debate, a workshop, an activity of some sort, a session featuring film or music, or a performance.

Scholarships for Conference Registration

In lieu of our annual Student Travel Awards and in recognition of the financial difficulties that many people are facing at this time, we will be offering a limited number of scholarships for individuals who are unable to pay for conference registration. If you are in need of a scholarship to cover registration costs, please email Josef Garrett at garret@msudenver.edu by September 1st. Please include a brief description of why attending the HPSfAA fall retreat is important to you personally or professionally.

Finally, in the interests of community solidarity, we will be donating 50% of the proceeds from the fall retreat to organizations in northern New Mexico, to reflect our appreciation for all that the Abiquiu area has meant to us as a society over the years. This donation will be split evenly between Ghost Ranch and The Food Depot (Northern New Mexico's Food Bank).

Thank you,

High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology Planning Committee
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