

# **The Changing Contours of American Identity**

The 52nd International Conference organized by  
The American Studies Association of Korea (ASAK)  
Seoul, South Korea, September 22-23, 2017

The American Studies Association of Korea (ASAK) is pleased to announce an international conference on “The Changing Contours of American Identity,” to be held in Seoul, South Korea, from September 22 to 23, 2017.

The 2017 convention aims to explore the changing contours of American identity in the context of U.S. politics, history, culture, media, arts, and literature.

This conference is therefore dedicated to investigating the shifting definitions of the United States as a nation-state within various historical contexts. It invites, for instance, those scholars invested in illuminating the initial establishment of the national identity of the U.S. from the eighteenth to the nineteenth centuries through its transatlantic connections. We also encourage papers that attend to the changing complexion of the contemporary American identity as part of Asia Pacific.

In a similar vein, we seek papers that cast light on the fundamentally movable boundaries of Americans’ self-perceptions. We welcome presentations that attempt to define “American” as a mutable term where ever-shifting boundaries of race, ethnicity, region, and nation intersect and are renegotiated.

This symposium is interested not only in illuminating the changing contours of American identity from the transnational/global perspective, but also in foreseeing the future impact of Donald Trump’s presidency on American political and cultural identity. Therefore, this year’s conference hopes to tackle the following two questions: How can we critically/historically understand Trump’s America, and how do we respond to it productively? Any presentation that provides some insights as to how the contours of American identity will be redefined/confined in the age of Trump will be welcome.

Paper topics should be related to, but not limited to, the following areas and themes:

- Race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality
- Racism, xenophobia, and segregation
- Immigration
- Crossing borders vs. border walls
- Globalization
- Nation and nationality
- Citizenship
- Multiculturalism, transculturalism, and cosmopolitanism
- Memory, identity, and representation
- Democracy
- Political correctness
- Disaster or disorder of things
- Religion and ethics
- Social justice
- Activism, social networks, collective associations, and protest
- Cultures of television, new media, entertainment, and celebrity

- Media and politics
- Fashion and cuisine
- Civil rights movements and human rights movements
- Urban issues and rural issues
- Urban spaces and suburban spaces
- Regionalism
- Nature and the environment
- War, ethnic conflict, and racial conflict

Interdisciplinary perspectives and new research methodologies are especially welcome.

Proposals may be submitted as individual paper proposals or as session proposals.

- Individual proposals should include an abstract of no more than 250 words and a one-page abbreviated CV, along with a short bio.
- Session proposals should include a one-page proposal with a title and topics for a session of three to four presentation papers along with individual abstracts and bios.

Delivered in either Korean or English, each presentation will be limited to 20 minutes, followed by discussions and Q & A sessions.

Graduate students are also welcome to submit proposals and to participate in the conference. All proposals should be sent to the Organizing Committee at [asakconference2017@gmail.com](mailto:asakconference2017@gmail.com) by **April 15, 2017**.

Applicants will be notified of the acceptance of their proposals by May 10, 2017.

For further inquiry, please feel free to contact the Organizing Committee.

**Important Dates:**

- Deadline for submitting abstracts: **April 15, 2017**
- Notification of acceptance of papers: **May 10, 2017**
- Submission of papers for the conference proceedings: **July 31, 2017**

**Registration Fees:**

	Registration	Accommodations
Students	USD 75	USD 35 per night
Standard	USD 100	USD 50 per night

**Accommodations Include:**

- Accommodations for two nights (September 21-22, 2017)
- 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches (September 22-23, 2017)
- Reception and dinner banquet (September 22, 2017)
- Two daily refreshment/coffee/snack breaks
- Conference program and proceedings