

*“Architects are needed. Architects of beauty who fashion jouissance—a very subtle material. Letting it be and building with it, while respecting the approach, the threshold, the intensity” (Luce Irigaray, *An Ethics of Sexual Difference*, 214).*

Call for Papers and Creative Works for the  
11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Luce Irigaray Circle:

**Thresholds of Difference**

May 20-22, 2022  
Mercer University, Cecil B. Day Campus  
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

**COVID-19 Notification:** *Conference organizers are mindful of the health and safety of our members and our communities, and we are well aware of the restrictions on funding and travel that may continue through next year. To serve our membership and our mission, the conference organizers are considering a hybrid or fully virtual format for this conference. We ask that participants indicate briefly in the header of their proposals whether they would prefer to participate virtually or face-to-face. A final decision on format will be made by January 1, 2022.*

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**Keynote Speakers**

Lynne Huffer, Emory University, USA  
Kristin Sampson, University of Bergen, NOR  
George Yancy, Emory University, USA

**Book Panel:** Fanny Söderbäck, DePaul University, USA: *Revolutionary Time: On Time and Difference in Irigaray and Kristeva* (SUNY 2019)

**Special Symposium on Pedagogy**

**Mentoring Lunch and Workshop for Graduate Students and Early Career Academics**

**Irigaray Circle Banquet (TBD)**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS:**

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Luce Irigaray Circle is a three-day interdisciplinary conference devoted to the scholarship and creative work on, or inspired by, the thought of Luce Irigaray. Luce Irigaray's work has influenced scholarship across multiple fields including Philosophy, Gender Studies, Queer Theory, Trans Studies, Literary Studies, Indigenous Studies, Classics, Religious Studies, Political Theory, Linguistics, Art, Architecture, Music, Performance Studies, and Legal Theory, etc. The Circle cultivates a space for honoring and interrogating the question of sexual difference by supporting the multiple research trajectories, methods, and projects inspired by Irigaray's thought.

This year's conference draws its theme from Irigaray's invocations of the *threshold*, evoking notions of limits, boundaries, intervals, crossings, and expansions, that constitute and are constitutive of differences. The theme of thresholds gestures to the materiality and porosity of borders in Irigaray's work and is meant to encourage consideration of Irigaray's work in relation to the contestation of bodies as sites of the production and reproduction of knowledges. While the Circle welcomes all submissions that explore the work of Luce Irigaray, the theme of thresholds of difference solicits perspectives from crip, critical race, decolonizing, feminist, queer, and trans thought on Irigaray's work in relation to the following topics:

- Climate crisis
- Coloniality, war
- Ethics
- Fugitivity, precarity, resistance
- Immigration, migration
- Indigeneity
- Mass incarceration, prison-industrial complex
- Pandemics, Sickness, Health
- Place, relations, and the inhabitation of difference
- Placental economies, maternity, the sensible transcendental
- Politics, political movements, political recognition
- Posthuman ecologies and sexual difference
- Ontology, ontological insecurity, onto-ethics
- Race, racism, and racialization
- Social, environmental, and reproductive justice, rights and the law
- Teachers, Students, and Pedagogies of Sexual Difference
- Temporalities

Papers should be delivered in 20 minutes to leave 10 minutes each for discussion. Please note that the IC conference organizers are planning an edited volume based on the conference and request the right of first review on all accepted papers.

If you would like to submit a proposal, please send the following information to [TheIrigarayCircle@irigaray.org](mailto:TheIrigarayCircle@irigaray.org) by **February 01, 2022**:

- **For individual papers:** the title of your paper, an abstract (500 words maximum); 5 keywords; a list of no more than six references (not to be included in the word count); a brief statement, in the header section, indicating whether you prefer to participate face-to-face, virtually, or have no preference.
- **For complete panels (3 papers per panel):** the title of the panel; an abstract explaining the theme of the panel (300 words maximum); 5 keywords for the panel; titles and individual abstracts for each paper (300 words each maximum, plus a list of up to six references for each paper); a brief statement, in the header section, indicating whether you prefer to participate face-to-face, virtually, or have no preference.

In addition to academic presentations, the Circle invites proposals for creative work related to the work of Luce Irigaray. Past events have included theatrical and musical performances, poetry readings, art installations, and more. Submissions should include an abstract describing the work, materials that represent it (for example, poetry excerpts or photos) and an explanation of the technical needs related to presenting the work.

**\*Papers, panels, performances, and other presentations previously accepted for the 2020 meeting that was postponed are automatically accepted for this conference. The program review committee will be contacting 2020 scheduled presenters directly to confirm participation in the 2022 meeting.**

**Karen Burke Memorial Prize:** The Irigaray Circle will sponsor the 8th Annual Karen Burke Memorial Prize, awarded to the best paper submitted by a graduate student or recent PhD (PhD awarded in 2016 or later). The winner of the competition will give the Karen Burke Memorial Prize Lecture at a keynote session of the 2020 conference. Submission instructions:

- complete papers of no more than 4000 words should be submitted to [TheIrigarayCircle@irigaray.org](mailto:TheIrigarayCircle@irigaray.org) in an email with the subject line: 'Burke Prize'.
- papers should be prepared for anonymous review and submitted in \*.doc or \*.rtf format.
- accompanying email should list the paper title and the applicant's name, affiliation, and email address.
- Deadline for submissions to the Burke Prize: **January 15, 2022**

## **ABOUT US**

The Luce Irigaray Circle is an interdisciplinary society dedicated to stimulating and supporting scholarly and creative endeavors that are inspired by or informed by the philosophy of Luce Irigaray. The Circle was established at Stony Brook University in 2006 by the philosophers Sabrina L. Hom, Serene J. Khader, and Mary C. Rawlinson with support from the Office of the President. Scholars and artists from all disciplines who are interested in the Circle's activities and research are invited to join the Circle. For more information, see the Luce Irigaray Circle website: <http://www.irigaray.org>

Special thanks to Mercer University's Office of the Provost for their generous support in hosting the 11th meeting of the Irigaray Circle. Additional thanks to Emory University's Department of Philosophy for their gift to the Circle.

Please contact Wesley Barker, Conference Director, at [barker\\_wn@mercer.edu](mailto:barker_wn@mercer.edu) with any questions or concerns.