

Call for Papers
2008 Virginia Humanities Conference
Voices and Visions:
Humanities in the Third World

Radford University April 4-5, 2008

third world (*tiers monde*): 1. a phrase coined by the French demographer Alfred Sauvy in 1952 to designate those countries that aligned themselves with neither the capitalist West nor the Soviet Bloc during the Cold War. 2. the economically less developed countries of Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Latin America, considered as an entity with common characteristics, such as widespread poverty, high population growth, and economic dependence on the industrialized countries. 3. an expression designating specific geopolitical regions as well as the imaginary economic, political and geographic space occupied by black, Latino, Asian, and indigenous peoples in the U.S., Europe, and Australia. **-Syn.** Global South, the South, non-industrialized countries, underdeveloped countries, developing countries, emerging nations.

Post-colonial literature, liberation theology, people's history, indigenous culture studies, native wisdoms -- much of the energy and innovation in the Humanities disciplines over the past half century has originated in or focused on the nations and cultures referred to collectively as the Third World or the Global South. Perhaps better designated the "two-thirds world," this realm is inhabited by some 80% of the earth's population. Third World nations now constitute the majority of the member states in the United Nations and are the homeland of the majority of recipients of the Nobel peace and literature prizes over the past two decades. This diverse geographical and cultural space is the birthplace of many new genres of music and literature, modes of spirituality and knowledge, conceptions of history, society, and culture.

This conference is devoted to hearing the voices and exploring the visions of the poets, philosophers, historians, novelists, linguists, anthropologists, artists, theorists . . . who have contributed to the vitality and new directions in the Humanities in recent decades.

Scholars, teachers, artists, and students of the Humanities, broadly conceived, are invited to propose papers, panel discussions, or multi-media presentations on any topic related to this year's conference theme.

Please submit a 500-word abstract or session proposal by email to kkipling@radford.edu or by mail to Kim Kipling, President, Virginia Humanities Conference, Box 6943, Radford University, Radford VA 24142. Proposals for panel sessions should identify all participants and include both an overview and a brief abstract of each presentation.

Deadline for receipt of all proposals: February 10, 2008

For more information, please visit <http://www.radford.edu/vhc>