

CFP | FESTIVAL CULTURES: IMAGINED PASTS, ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE CONVENED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT THE OPEN
UNIVERSITY | 8-9 SEPTEMBER 2020, MILTON KEYNES

This conference is concerned with the dynamic connections, relationships, intertextuality and interculturality of festivals, particularly in their constructions of imagined pasts and alternative futures. As an important type of cultural event, festivals provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue and critical engagement with contemporary and historical publics and places. The conference will address modern and historical festivals, their connections and disconnections with the state and counter publics, as well as themes such as ritual, community, spirituality, wellbeing and counterculture, and trends such as commercialization, secularization, globalization and cultural innovation.

*Festival intertextuality and intercultural connections | Imagination at festivals
Festivals, mainstream and counterculture | Festivals and modern cultures
Methodologies for investigating festival cultures | Festivals East and West
Protestival rituals and performances | Rural and urban themes at festivals
Pulverised and micro festivals | Showcasing innovation and alternative futures
Green futures and consumerism at festivals | Religion, rituals and spirituality*

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Dr Kinga Povedák (University College Cork) | Dr Sharif Gemie (University of South Wales) | Dr Amanda Lucia (University of California)

SUBMISSIONS

We invite proposals for papers and panels on any aspect of this theme. Submissions may range from 10, 15 and 20 minutes. We welcome panel submissions in alternative formats, including artistic performances.

Please send a 200-word abstract plus a short bio, in one file to festcultures@open.ac.uk

Deadline for submissions: **1st of May 2020.**

TINYURL.COM/FESTCULTURES