

Call for Papers

American Becoming

American Studies Graduate Student Conference

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

February 9, 2024

“American Becoming” is a graduate student conference sponsored by the University of Alabama Department of American Studies. We invite graduate students in American Studies and related fields to submit abstracts.

While “What does it mean to be American?” is an oft-asked question, what it means to *become* American can lead to an even more fascinating discussion. Who can claim the label “American,” and what does it take to keep this designation? We encourage papers which tease out nuances and explore what it means not only to *be*, but to *become* American. Abstracts submitted can (and should!) be as diverse as the nation this conference seeks to explore.

Some examples of American Becoming may include the following:

- America “becoming” a nation after overthrowing British rule
- Rights of American citizenship denied to African Americans from the 1600s–1900s
- The United States attempting to force Indigenous cultures to become more “American”
- Foreigners “becoming” American through immigration to the United States
- Changing conceptions of American social and cultural identity, including gender, sexuality, race, legal citizenship, and so on.
- Depicting Americanization or the evolution of American identity in popular culture
- Expanding the frontiers of American identity, envisioning a new American culture, embracing the multiplicity of American being... and more!

Please submit your 250-300 word paper abstracts and a 100 word bio to the Graduate Student Conference Committee at uaamsconference@gmail.com. Deadline to receive abstracts is November 30, 2023.