CALL FOR PAPERS: MEDUSA 2021 — Rupture

Medusa: University of Toronto Anthropology Graduate Student Union Conference
Deadline: February 3, 2021
Contact: medusaconference@gmail.com
Website: www.utorontoagsu.com/medusa

The Anthropology Graduate Student Union (AGSU) at the University of Toronto invites proposals for the 8th annual Medusa Graduate Conference. The conference will take place online over three days between the 24th and 26th of March, 2021.

The theme of the 2021 conference is rupture. The idea of rupture in social science is often associated with revolutionary politics, which invites contemplations of its destructive and regenerative potentials. The past year has had harbingers of revolution on multiple stages, such as climate justice movements holding mass actions in city streets, the toppling and beheading of statues immortalizing infamous heroes of colonial violence, and worldwide protests against police brutality and the state surveillance complex. Meanwhile, a global pandemic has exposed the precariousness of many current systems, from healthcare to labour markets to avenues for social connection. Rupture, desired or uninvited, creates temporal suspension and liminality. As an ethnographic object, rupture generates capacious analytical potential to account for phenomena ranging from historical collapse of ancient states or civilizations, to the violence of colonial and settler-colonial projects and their legacies, and to the global rise of right-wing populism. For Medusa 2021, we invite students working across all subdisciplines of anthropology and related fields to think of rupture at this moment of extreme stasis and turmoil, in the middle of terrible isolation and massive mobilizations. What forms of affective engagement are available to deal with rupture beyond the sense of incipient doom and yearning for a return to normalcy? How does one inhabit rupture so that reparation and repair can be activated? Our committee gratefully receives all submissions, including but not limited to works addressing the following themes:

- Disturbances and revelations brought by historical and ongoing pandemics
- Repair, resilience, and resurgence: politics of hope and care
- Catastrophic times and apocalyptic imaginations
- Disruptive technologies and fragmentations of sociality
- Transformation and reimagining futurities

Conference Format:
Paper presentations will be 15 minutes in length, followed by discussions. We also encourage the submission of media works related to your research and fieldwork, including photography, auditory media, or other compositions. This year, we are also seeking submissions for workshops that relate to the conceptualization of rupture in academic research and fieldwork.
Submission Instructions:

For individual papers and posters, please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words to medusaconference@gmail.com by **Wednesday, February 3, 2021**. For panel submissions, please submit a proposal as well as the abstracts for each paper on the panel (maximum 4 papers). For workshop submissions, please submit a brief statement less than 300 words describing the topic, objective, and format of the workshop. Submissions should include the presenter’s level and year of study (Undergraduate, MA/MSc, PhD), departmental and university affiliation, complete address, telephone number, email address, title of paper, and audio-visual requirements. On behalf of the Medusa 2021 organizing committee and the AGSU, we thank you kindly for your interest and look forward to your submission.