

Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference
12-15 June 2006, Dundee University, Scotland

Call for papers for special panels at the Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference: the best papers from which will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*; Guest Editor Professor Charles E. Gannon, St. Bonaventure University
Papers will be published along with contributions from Professors Emory Elliott and John C. Rowe

Deadline: 15 March 2006

Application has been made to NATO to help fund participation

"Unveiling What the Iron Curtain Hid:
Sharing the Experience(s) of the Cold War"

The Northern Atlantic community spent most of the second half of the Twentieth Century living on the same planet, but in two radically different worlds. East and West, Communist and Capitalist, Warsaw Pact and NATO, the Iron Curtain divided more than polities and peoples; it served as a screen behind which each half of the Northern Atlantic community dwelt in mystery and remove from the other.

The most tangible, and yet unstudied, of the consequences of this artificial division is the difference in daily human reality. Pop culture, film, art, daily political and social discourse, and above all, curiosities about (and misperceptions of) the "other side" are just a few of the many domains in which individuals of the East and West had distinctive, even profoundly divergent, experiences of the Cold War World.

These panels will endeavor to desegregate some of the separate experience(s) of the Cold War, to bus each group of those experiences out of their zones of origin and deliver them into the opposite community. In particular, sharing the tangible differences of non-esoteric discourse and experience--art, books, films, culture, news, political opinions--holds the promise of creating a sense of "life as it was lived" on the other side of the Iron Curtain. The easy assumption that, because the Cold War was a "joint experience" it was also a "shared experience," will be disassembled and dissected in its particulars. The following is a very non-exhaustive (and non-directive) list of promising topics:

- * public opinion, imagery, narratives, and general media representations of the threats, possibility, and long-term consequences of nuclear war

- * beliefs regarding the degree and types of political dissidence/dissensus that existed in the lands on the other side of the Iron Curtain
- * the differences (if any) between the public (claimed/promulgated) political intents of one's own national leadership and its actual intents (particularly as pertains to Cold War rivalries and conflicts). Also, the special/concealed/subversive means in which discussion about the divergence between these two discursive threads was conducted.
- * the reception, appropriation, reconfiguration, and redeployment of "styles" from the "other" side, particularly as experienced in art, film, fiction, poetry, dress, pop culture iconography, music, etc.

Submissions should be suitable for a broad spectrum of academic and learned readers, whose fields of expertise range from the plastic and performing arts to theoretical economics and sociology. Accordingly, submissions focusing on the arts should also give some consideration to the practical political and economic consequences of their theses; conversely, papers concentrating on political and economic phenomenon should also explore the impact on the arts and popular culture/opinion.

Please submit topic proposals by 15 March 2006 to: cgannon@sbu.edu and copy to Chair of Transatlantic Studies Association and Editor of *Journal of Transatlantic Studies* a.p.dobson@dundee.ac.uk