

## Call For Papers

### Area: Motor Culture and the Road

Southwest Popular / American Culture Association 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

February 11-14, 2015

Albuquerque, New Mexico

<http://southwestpca.org/>

Conference Hotel:

Hyatt Regency Hotel & Conference Center, downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico

Conference Theme:

“Many Faces, Many Voices: Intersecting Borders in Popular and American Culture”

**Submission Deadline: November 1, 2014**

Motor Culture and the Road spans across a variety of different disciplines. More often than not, we associate “motor” with automobile culture; but the term “motor” can also simply describe any type of movement at a steady pace. In addition, the concept of “road” can remind of us freedom or escape; but it can also be an obstruction, such as “the road to nowhere” or “the end of the road.” Regardless of how one interprets these constructions of *motor* and the *road*, it is clear that we are all impacted by their presence in everyday life. Join us for the 36<sup>th</sup> annual conference just steps away from Route 66 for an engaging, interdisciplinary investigation of the increasingly popular and diverse representations of mobility and our culture(s). Our goal is to leave the conference with a broader understanding of the past, current, and future potentialities of motor culture and the road, the emerging pedagogy in this area, new methodologies for studying motor culture and the road, and our roles as citizens in this culture. SWPACA welcomes scholars at all levels. Graduate students are encouraged to submit proposals. SWPACA awards a number of monetary awards for the best graduate student papers in a variety of categories, which can be viewed at: <http://southwestpca.org/conference/graduate-student-awards/>. Additionally, please visit <http://journaldialogue.org> for information about the organization’s new, peer-reviewed journal, *Dialogue: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Popular Culture and Pedagogy*.

Proposal topics for Motor Culture and the Road might include, but are not limited to:

- Nostalgia (1950s, 1980s, etc.)
- Car Culture and the Pin-up Model
- Cruising (History, traditions, rituals)
- Cars and Music (“Little Deuce Coupe” – The Beach Boys, “Drive my Car” – The Beatles, “Little Red Corvette” – Prince...)

- TV and Car Shows (Discovery Channel's *Loud and Fast* and *Jesse James : Outlaw Garage ...*)
- Economic and/or Industrial Future of Car Manufacturing
- "Auto-pilot" vs. Self-Driving – Driving Experiences in the Future
- Famous Film Cars
- Fashion – Motorcycle / Car Inspired Apparel
- The road movie
- Famous vehicles such as the semi-truck from *Maximum Overdrive* (1986), "Christine" from Stephen King's film, or Dragula from the TV Series *The Munsters*
- documentaries and/or travelogues
- videogames, graphic novels, fiction, radio, art
- car or motorcycle commercials
- car or motorcycle history (models and styles, classic and modern, the industry)
- lowriders, hot rods, custom cars/choppers and racial/ethnic, class, or gender identity
- car / biker shows: Sturgis, South Dakota (local) or Yokohama Mooneyes, Japan (global)
- histories of roads, routes, highways, traffic
- GPS, Google Maps, automobility
- Route 66 and roadside architecture
- Nation and/ or citizenship, region, locality
- advertising, symbols, propaganda
- borders, real and imagined
- The road and post-apocalyptic landscapes / "The road to nowhere"
- Environmental impacts and ecological issues
- Popular automobile robots like the Transformers or the Jaegers (*Pacific Rim*)
- Representations of the motorized robot in anime or manga

Paper or panel proposals are due by 11/1/ 2014, submitted to the Southwest PCA/ACA database:  
<http://conference2015.southwestpca.org/>

Questions? Contact: Stacy Rusnak, Area Chair, Motor Culture and the Road  
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