

“CULTURAL CAROLINA” – First Annual LLC Graduate Student Conference at USC
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
University of South Carolina

Silence
October 10, 2015

Call for Papers – Deadline: August 1, 2015 – **EXTENDED: NEW DEADLINE: September 1st, 2015**

Considering Audre Lorde’s quote, “Silence will not protect you,” and the minute of silence observed in France as an expression of national solidarity and protest after the attack on Charlie Hebdo, silence appears to be a highly ambiguous and multifaceted object. Naively associated with *lack* of meaning—and therefore with disempowerment—in fact, silence is *at the very heart* of meaning by the series of scansions, retentions and accentuations that it creates in discourse. Recently, critics have stressed the logics of power in silencing the voice of the other. However, less attention has been brought to those who would wield the opportunities of resistance that silence offers. If, on one hand, our cultural productions are infiltrated by discourse and power relationships that depend on silence’s liminality—on its “outsideness” in relation to discourse—on the other, it appears to be the stance from which a radical protest against subjectifying powers can be formulated.

With this inaugural conference, we hope to offer a forum in which scholars come together and benefit from different perspectives regardless of their own language of study. Accordingly, panels will be organized thematically rather than by language. We encourage applicants organizing their own panels to please follow this approach.

This conference invites participants to:

- analyze the presence and representations of silence in different media (literature, cinema, the graphic novel, visual art, etc.) and across different cultural and historical contexts;
- think through not only the ways in which silence is strategically handled to sustain power relationships and hierarchies, but also how it can undo and challenge power structures;
- and define the different textures of silence: its various functions, topologic distributions, intensities and levels of apparition.

Papers presented at the conference will be considered for subsequent publication on the first Graduate Student Journal from the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of South Carolina.

Please send a 250-word abstract (as a PDF or Word document attached) by August 1st, 2015 to culturalcarolina.uofsc@gmail.com. For panels, please submit a 250-word abstract for the panel and an abstract for each paper in the panel. Abstract will be accepted in English only.

In the body of your email, please include the following:

- Full name
- Academic title
- University affiliation
- Email
- Keywords