

# GASC 2015 Call for Papers



9<sup>th</sup> Annual Generative Anthropology Summer Conference 2015

High Point University, High Point, North Carolina  
June 4-7, 2015

## *Models and the Human, Analog and Digital*

This Generative Anthropology conference will take cognizance of the Digital Humanities, which replace the “text” (already a digital distancing of orality) with the “database search” as the basic unit of analysis. In doing so, though, do the digital humanities betray the traditional humanistic concern with the question, *what is the human?* Or, on the contrary, do they deepen and clarify that concern, given that language is always already differential and, to that extent, “computational” (that is, the individual speaker—and listener—draws, for each utterance, upon what we can now call a vast database of possible utterances). This tension between the analog and digital can be framed as the undecidability between hypothetical *models* (of the human, the social, the political, and so on) and *modeling* as a theoretical practice that implicitly challenges the ontological status of models and replaces truth with simulation as the object of thought. The conference will take that tension, and that undecidability, as an occasion to test and enlarge the theoretical scope of Eric Gans’s originary hypothesis. Gans’s originary hypothesis posits a model of the human: a scene/event constituted by what Gans calls an “aborted gesture of appropriation” before a central (sacred) object. All subsequent events refer back to that center/periphery model. At the same time, the center is sustained by the “modeling” carried out by the participants in the scene. Generative Anthropology (the mode of thought based on the originary hypothesis) has already shown, and will continue to show, its power in providing new models for understanding the sacred, culture, social relations, and art. In this conference we hope to show its centrality to emergent debates in the human sciences.

We welcome papers that take any position within these intersecting discourses and questions in dialogue with Gans’s originary hypothesis and the field of Generative Anthropology dedicated to exploring it over the past several decades. As always, we aim for our conference to be both an occasion for others to learn about Generative Anthropology, and for those working within GA to engage, in a focused way, with a wide range of contemporary debates.

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## Some possible topics:

- Where is the human in the digital humanities?
- Pedagogy in the digital humanities
- Thinking through and about models
- Models and anti-models
- Disciplinary transformations in the human sciences
- The relation/ tension between events and models
- Digital humanities and post-humanism
- Studies on individual thinkers or writers associated with shifts in the humanities or the status of models: Giorgio Agamben, Hannah Arendt, Gilles Deleuze, Jacques Derrida, Johanna Drucker, N. Katherine Hayles, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Francois Lyotard, Paul Virilio, and others.

## Contact Information and Deadline:

A brief introduction to Generative Anthropology, the online journal *Anthropoetics*, and a bibliography are available at our website: <http://www.anthropoetics.ucla.edu>  
Proposals for papers of 20 minutes should be sent by attachment in MS-Word to: [mschneid@highpoint.edu](mailto:mschneid@highpoint.edu).

**Deadline:** April 1, 2014

## GASC Student Award:

Students are invited to apply for the annual GASC Student Award (value, approx. \$500). For details, contact Professor Ian Dennis, Secretary-Treasurer of the Generative Anthropology Society & Conference, at <[idennis@uottawa.ca](mailto:idennis@uottawa.ca)>. Deadline: March 1, 2015.