

Call For Papers
Area: Car Culture and the Road

Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Association 33rd Annual Conference

February 8-11, 2012

Albuquerque, New Mexico

<http://www.swtxpca.org>

Conference Hotel:

Hyatt Regency Hotel & Conference Center, downtown Albuquerque

Conference Theme: Celebrating Foods & Culture(s) in a Global Context

Call for Papers Deadline: December 1, 2011

Registration Deadline for Presenters: December 31, 2011

Car Culture and the Road is a growing area of cultural significance in our rapidly transforming global world. Both the car and the road conjure up ideas about freedom, mobility, geography, consumption, and the triumph of technology over nature. Images of car culture and/or the road evoke a powerful and potentially tense inquiry into the role of the car and the road in terms of nostalgia for an idyllic, and perhaps lost pastime, as well as a renewed excitement about the future of motorized transport (cars, motorcycles, scooters, etc.). In either case, we find both the car and the road as prominent figures in the construction of identity formation in a variety of media formats (film, TV, videogames, graphic novels, fiction). Join us just steps away from Route 66 for engaging, interdisciplinary investigations of the increasingly popular narratives of autonomy (perhaps even rebellion) and mobility. Our goal is to leave the conference with a broader understanding of the past, current, and future potentialities of car culture(s) and the road, emerging pedagogy in this area, new methodologies for studying car culture and the road, as well as the impact of digital tools on both. SWTX welcomes scholars at all levels. Graduate students are encouraged to submit proposals. Topics might include, but are not limited to:

- road movies, videogames, graphic novels, fiction
- lowriders, hot rods, custom cars and racial or ethnic identity
- car or biker clubs
- car shows
- 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
- remapping the road in post-apocalyptic landscapes / “The road to nowhere”
- environment, “Going Green”
- urbanization, globalization

Paper or panel proposals are due by 12/1/11, submitted to the SWTXPCA database (<http://conference2012.swtxpca.org>).

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