**The Annual Roots of Contemporary Issues Conference FAQs**

Sponsored by the History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) and the Roots of Contemporary Issues (RCI) Program

**Q: What is an academic conference?**

**A:** In academia, professionals in each discipline hold conferences where they get together to present their research and cutting-edge approaches to important questions in their field. Conferences are a convenient way to network with other professionals and get feedback about your own work. They can also be a lot of fun!

**Q: What is unique about the RCI Conference?**

**A:** The RCI conference is tailored towards showcasing undergraduate research. The conference will consist of five panels, each dedicated to one of RCI’s five organizing themes (Humans and the Environment, Globalization, the Roots of Inequality, Diverse Ways of Thinking, and the Roots of Contemporary Conflicts). Each panel will consist of three student presentations, with each student speaking for 10-15 minutes about how they are approaching the theme. Each panel will also have a graduate student or faculty moderator that will tie the presentations together.

**Q: What should I expect to produce?**

**A:** Accepted applicants will work with a faculty or graduate student mentor to develop a 10-15 minute conference presentation on their topic. Students should not expect to read a conference paper word-for-word (although they are welcome to produce one!), but instead they should develop a creative and engaging oral and visual presentation about their topic that maintains the academic rigor one expects of a conference.

**Q: When and where is it?**

**A:** The date, time, and location for the conference will vary each year. Please refer to <https://history.wsu.edu/rci/undergraduateresearchconference>/ for specifics on deadlines, times, and locations.

**Q: What is the application process?**

**A:** To apply, please complete and submit an RCI Conference Application (available at <https://history.wsu.edu/rci/undergraduateresearchconference/>). The application includes a 200-250 word abstract. Send your application, along with a curriculum vitae (academic resume) to wsuhgsa@gmail.com.

If you have questions about how to create an academic abstract or CV, see “Helpful Links” at <https://history.wsu.edu/rci/undergraduateresearchconference/>

**Q: What is the timeline going forward?**

**A:** We will announce accepted projects approximately six weeks before the date of the conference. If your proposal is accepted, we will assign you a mentor who will help you transform your initial research into a professional presentation or poster appropriate for an academic conference over the course of several weeks. Alternately, you might approach your History 105 or 305 professor about serving as your mentor for the project.

On the day of the conference, you will present to an audience of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and interested WSU and Pullman community members, along with several judges from the History Department. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the best presentations from each panel and to the best overall presentation.