Women’s and Gender Studies at Minnesota State University Moorhead is pleased to host this year’s gathering of the 15th Annual Red River Women’s Studies Conference. This year’s theme Precarities and Securities: Exploring the Contemporary and Historic Effects of Systemic Violences invites scholars and activists from within the region and beyond to contend with the ways that power operates within institutional settings, how this power often results in violence or the perpetuation of oppression and what we can do as feminists to challenge harmful institutional structures to cultivate spaces for equity. Drawing on the National Women’s Studies Association theme focusing on precarity, our conference hopes to ground ideas related to empowering conversations informed by the realities of disparities brought on by the diffusion of power embedded in institutional operations and the persistent systemic inequalities affecting certain groups of people in our structured spaces. Additionally, as part of a discipline rooted in activism, often at its core challenging the historical and contemporary formation of the academic institution itself, we seek engagement with solutions to address and change systems of power for more equitable purposes.

We invite scholar-activists, scholars and activists to submit proposals for panels, individual papers, workshops and creative presentations (film, media, art, technology, installation) from intersectional and/or transnational feminist frameworks for the following themes.

- Theorizing feminist understandings of specific or widespread state or institutional violences – not limited to the academy, non-profits, education, media, political structures, policing institutions, and/or capitalist structures
- Perspectives on sexual and/or physical violence in institutional spaces
- Feminist action in Minnesota, North Dakota, or the Midwest related to combatting violence and/or promoting healing
- The role of the body in relation to systemic/institutional violences
- Explorations of representation in popular culture related to a broad understanding of violence, trauma or healing
- Interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary cooperative approaches to address issues within communities including, but not limited to, areas and issues of oppression, awareness, and/or education in effort to more deeply understand efforts to eliminate violence
- Are all spaces equal? Exploring the cultivation, support, and maintenance of “safe spaces”
- Feminist/anti-oppressive pedagogies of activism, vulnerability, and strength
- Precarity of Women’s Centers, cultural centers, WGS, LGBTQ+, and/or Ethnic Studies programs/staff/faculty within higher education
- Understandings of violence in private and/or public spheres and blurring or linkages of harm in both sites
- State sanctioned violences and the role of feminist praxis in confronting trauma and harm

MSUM Women’s and Gender Studies Program invites scholars and community activists to submit proposals for panels, papers, and workshops addressing any of the key areas above. We invite pre-formed panels of three–four scholars, roundtable discussions, workshops, individual papers, or creative presentations, to be submitted on the key areas above. For consideration please email a 300 word abstract of individual papers OR a 250 word description of panel/workshop/roundtable/creative presentation with 100 word information on each presenter’s topic of discussion plus contact information and brief bio of all proposed presenters to kandace.creel@mnstate.edu no later than 5:00pm Wednesday September 16, 2015. Presenters will be notified of acceptance no later than September 25, 2015. Questions? Contact Kandace Creel Falcon through email above or by phone 218.477.4075.

If you have a disability requiring accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Missy Howard, History, Languages, Critical Race, and Women’s Studies at 218.477.2812 or melissa.howard@mnstate.edu to make necessary arrangements 14 days prior to the event.