

Union for Democratic Communications
Call for Papers
An International Conference of the UDC
May 28–31, 2009 / Buffalo

Aftermath and Renewal: Reclaiming the Critical Ideal

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Union for Democratic Communications is renewing its unique founding commitment to the application of critical paradigms at a convergence of scholarship, pedagogy, and media activism.

A renewed commitment to “the critical” as well as “the convergence” is all the more appropriate at a moment in time when a range of ‘Aftermaths’ appear to be in play:

- Aftermath of an age in which a neo-conservative ideology dominated many aspects of social, political, and professional life – lately much reduced by the contradictions in its own attempts at reproduction.
- Aftermath of an age when unrestrained market speculation resulted in global crisis and extreme economic injustices.
- Aftermath of an age of environmentally unsustainable political economies.
- Aftermath of an age of monolithic mainstream media dominance where multiple resistances on a plethora of digital platforms are in play and ripe for critical discussion.
- Aftermath of a regional decline. The international space of Buffalo/Niagara offer an example of urban areas laid most low by the neo-conservative agenda that have, ironically, offered spaces for a new flowering of media alternatives and critical social justice pedagogies.

We seek submissions from critical perspectives that interrogate media institutions and technologies, economic structures, cultural processes, media practices, and audiences; offer case studies in critical pedagogy; and examine and demonstrate media activism.

For panel and paper abstract submissions or other conference inquiries, please contact UDC2009@gmail.com. Final Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2009. Earlier submissions will be reviewed as they arrive.

