

Engendering Change Graduate Student Conference 2016
University of Illinois at Chicago
April 23, 2016

CALL FOR PAPERS

Engendering Change is an annual graduate student organized conference focused on issues of gender and sexuality. This year the theme of the conference is **Racial and Gender Justice**. Recently, social justice movements working to end police brutality against people of color have gained momentum and pushed issues of racial justice into the spotlight. [Black Lives Matter](#) has transformed into an international anti-violence movement and attracted the attention of current presidential candidates and [#SayHerName](#) has called for particular attention to police violence against black women, including black transwomen. These movements are part of a long history of social justice organizing, nationally, internationally, and here in Chicago that focuses on violence against women, including queer, trans, and cisgender women of color.

Police brutality and other forms of violence disproportionately affecting people of color cannot be understood without attending to the intersections of race and gender. The [murder rate of transwomen of color](#) is hugely disproportionate. Attributions of aggressiveness, violence, and hypersexuality to black masculinity inform interactions with the police. Black women are [incarcerated at a rate](#) that is four times to rate of incarceration of white women. Undocumented women of color have been impacted by the intensification of [raids and deportation](#) under the Obama administration and the [myth of the “anchor baby”](#) has stigmatized Latina and Asian immigrant women, making them the target of anti-immigrant politicians. Gender-based violence is a racial justice issue.

With this in mind, the organizing committee for Engendering Change 2016 issues a call for papers. The theme of the conference is meant to highlight and further encourage academic work on racial and gender justice, however all submissions related to gender and sexuality will be considered.

Paper topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Social movements for racial and gender justice
- Criminalization of LGBTQ people
- Immigration and motherhood
- Themes of violence and resistance in literature, film, or art made by women of color
- Criminalization of sex work
- “Post-race” and “post closet” discourses
- Gender-based violence
- Racialized masculinities
- Gender, sexuality and race in political rhetoric
- Carceral feminism
- Social media use in organizing for social justice
- Sexual violence
- Domestic violence
- Queer of color critique
- Race, gender, and sexuality in the medicalization and criminalization of disability

- Reproductive rights and the history of forced sterilization
- Race, gender, sexuality and public space
- Feminism, comedy and popular culture

Email an abstract to engenderingchange2016@gmail.com by FEBRUARY 1st for consideration.
Full papers will be due APRIL 1st.