

WORLD AS TEXT: TEXT AS WORLD

Conference Dates: March 9-10, 2012



David Rumsey Map Collection

Humphries' *Dissected Map of the World* (1840)

Third Annual Mid-America Humanities Conference in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAHC) at The University of Kansas

A Forum for Interdisciplinary Student Research

Second CALL FOR PAPERS Submissions: EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 20, 2011

This year's conference theme, "World as Text: Text as World," addresses the ways we apprehend the world by reading or writing: text, image, sound, performance, narrative—all represent modes and media of inscription used to transcribe the world from without or invent imagined worlds from within human experience. Read or inscribed as a configuration of geopolitical, cultural or ecological spaces such as civilized and barbaric, "new" and "old," East and West, religious and secular, polluted or pure, the *world as text* often reflects an act of ordering experience. As the creation of the poet, artist, philosopher, engineer or scientist, the *text as world* often proposes a new universe. What do we make of acts of inscription that claim to circumscribe the world? Is it folly or hubris to attempt it? This conference seeks to investigate historical and contemporary practices of reading and writing the world, broadly conceived. Possible topics may include:

- **Reading world spaces and trajectories** [cosmologies; oceans; continents; metropolises; ecosystems; cultural or political spaces; global routes of migration, commerce, disease, pilgrimage, war]
- **Modes and media of inscriptions** [plastic arts and architecture, photo and film, cartography, graffiti, tattoo or stencil street art; stone, scroll, palimpsest, parchment, screen, canvas, body]
- **World-Texts/Text-Worlds** [microcosms and macrocosms; compendia, encyclopedia, dictionaries, e-media (blogs, Facebook, wikis); epic, opera, theatre, body of works]

We encourage participation from students in the humanities, social sciences, and the arts; for example, from programs in anthropology, religious studies, art history, architecture, literatures and languages, history, American studies, women's studies, interdisciplinary programs, media studies, dance, film, theatre, visual culture, geography, and sociology.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD SUBMIT: a 250-word proposal by **Tuesday December 20, 2011** to Prof. Diane Fourny (dfourny@ku.edu), Humanities & Western Civilization Program, 308 Bailey Hall - 1440 Jawhawk Blvd, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7574. For further information please visit our website: http://www.hwc.ku.edu/~hwc/MA_Humanities/