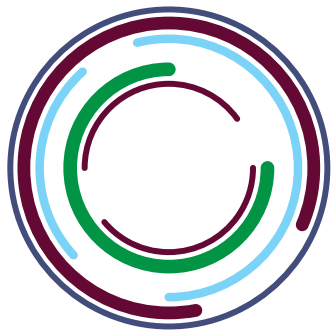


OCTOBER 16–19, 2025



GLOBAL FUSION | 2025

SIU CARBONDALE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Critical Path In Disorienting Times

Explorations, Practices, and Solidarities

The Critical Path in Disorienting Times will center R. Buckminster Fuller's notion of Critical Path as its starting point, focusing on Fuller's understanding of the concept as means of achieving social, ecological, economic, and technological unity. The conference will promote scholarship and enhance practice in media, arts, and design by investigating the current manifestations of this notion of the *critical path*, its historiography, and its use as a conceptual framework integrating social, spatial, technological, ecological disciplines and discourses.

What are today's critical paths? Where do they intersect to synthesize new understandings, form new questions, and open new areas of discourse? With what methods do media, arts, and design disciplines deploy critical paths in research and practice to address the social, ecological, economic, and technological needs and crises?

Fuller, who taught at SIU Carbondale from 1961 to 1973, presents Critical Path as a kind of global fusion, what we might also call an intersection, which he saw as a dynamic synthesis, a critique, a manifesto, a statement of a problem and the presentation of a solution. Critical Path for Fuller was multi-dimensional, networked, and nonlinear. The dimensions of Fuller's Critical Path entailed broad historical and global reach. There is also

an introspective and deeply sensitive dimension to Fuller's work and use of the Critical Path. His advocacy for a sustainable balance of natural resources represents a dimension that is nothing but prescient.

We invite original, non-published research, exhibition, and performance submissions. Global Fusion particularly encourages graduate students and junior scholars and artists to submit their work to continue the conference's commitment to fostering connections between new scholars and more established ones.

Possible areas of focus could include the struggle against mis/dis/mal-information in our communications landscapes, journalism under authoritarianism, the rise of Artificial Intelligence, various forms of contemporary resistance, cyber-terrorism, how contemporary hardware and software undermine or sustain cultures and environments, social justice, new technologies and communities, social movements, media representations of global or transnational issues, communication rights, media and the arts, ecological art, eco-feminist art, design for population displacement due to war and climate change, and realignment of public spaces as modes of political discourse, historiographies of Buckminster Fuller, and the critique of technocratic idealism. We welcome paper proposals on these and associated topics.

Papers/Exhibitions/Performances

Proposals for papers, exhibitions, and performances may be submitted in the form of abstracts of 300-400 words. Please include the paper/presentation title, the names of all authors/participants, and contact information for the submitter. For exhibitions and performance proposals, please indicate any technological and/or site needs.

Panels

Please submit a panel abstract of 200-300 words and 50-100-word abstracts for all included papers. Also provide the names of all authors, along with their paper titles, and contact information. Panels should be composed of no more than 5 panelists.

Submissions for in-person presentations will be prioritized. However, limited arrangements for virtual participation can be made by request for participants needing accommodation.

Awards

The Global Fusion conference offers a graduate student competition. Papers submitted for the competition should be full length (about 25 pages in APA style) and clearly marked on the title page as submissions for the competition. The deadline for the graduate student paper competition is August 31, 2025. *Paper abstracts should still be submitted by March 31, 2025.*

The purpose of the Global Fusion conference series is to promote academic excellence in global media and international communication studies. Since 2000, these conferences have brought together scholars and professionals interested in media and communication in global contexts. The conference series is sponsored by a consortium of academic units at Ohio University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Temple University, Texas Tech University, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Virginia.

Extended Submission Deadline: April 20, 2025

Submission Website: globalfusion2025.siu.edu/abstracts.php

The organizing committee co-chairs for the Global Fusion 2025 conference are Lisa Brooten, Karla Berry, and Robert Lopez.

Conference contact email: global.fusion.2025@siu.edu
Conference website: globalfusion2025.siu.edu



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
**COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND MEDIA**

