



EBSN 2021

Beat Studies -Present and Future European Beat Studies Network VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021

We invite proposals for the Tenth Anniversary Conference of the EBSN, which will take place via Zoom, 29-31 October 2021.

Beat Studies is a vibrant field of academic and creative inquiry, growing scholarship recognizes this fact, but pressing questions remain. What is Beat? The transnational turn shows the Beat project exceeded just Kerouac-Ginsberg-Burroughs. While the Beat Generation seems predominantly an American phenomenon, might we speak of the emergence of a wider cross-cultural Beat-bohemian poetics? Some definitions of the "Beat Generation" appear too all encompassing; and one can question whether Beat scholars are choosing breadth at the expense of depth. What might more serious and sustained transatlantic and transnational discussions tell us about the present state of Beat Studies, and potential ways forward? Beat Studies is often overlooked in relation to other current fields of cultural analysis, in that case where do, or should, the Beats 'fit'? The Beats were largely dismissive of academia, so should Beat Studies even exist as an established academic field, or should it exist outside the academy? Might scholars make more efforts to engage with non-institutional and creative/artistic approaches?

While the direction of Beat Studies is the source of passionate discussion and debate, it is clear that the Beats still matter, given climate crises, Covid-19, and the rise of populism. Therefore, to mark ten years of successful conferences, discussion, and creative and academic research, the EBSN welcomes papers on the present and future of Beat Studies.

The formal session format will be moderated seminars, where presenters have 10 minutes to present their work, followed by a group discussion between presenters and attendees. We welcome not only individual papers and full seminar/panel proposals but also alternative suggestions to the standard conference panel format that take into account the possibilities of the online format, including but not limited to panels, seminars, workshops, informal talks, discussion groups and/or other semi- or fully creative individual or group contributions. We strongly encourage creative submissions of all kinds that relate to the larger Beat phenomenon, and are open to discussions from prospective performers regarding what is possible online.

Organizers: Estíbaliz Encarnación-Pinedo, Benjamin J. Heal, Chad Weidner

Deadline for abstracts: 15 February 2021. Notifications by 15 April 2021. Please submit abstracts to Conference Administrator Raven See at rsee11@elmira.edu

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Aesthetic practices
- Beats and other Bohemian movements
- The Beat canon
- Beat culture as a global phenomenon
- Beat ownership
- The Beat project
- Biographical encounters
- Cinematic ventures
- Civil disobedience and free expression
- Culture and power
- Cultural confrontations and appropriations
- Cultural mythology
- Decolonial deliberations
- Documentaries and interviews
- Environmental considerations
- Europe as a Beat location
- Feminisms
- Gender and identity
- Geography and movement
- The gritty underground
- International Beats
- Life-writing and the Beats
- Limits in Beat studies
- Linguistic discoveries
- Marginalization
- Material questions
- Migration
- Musical connections
- Post-Beats
- Publication histories
- Re-defining the Beats
- Teaching the Beats
- Theatre and media
- Theory and criticism
- Transcultural Beats
- Transnational aspects of Beat culture
- Translations
- Travel and the Flâneur
- Uncovered histories
- Women of the Beat Generation