

## Call for papers for the 2013 special issue of RSQ

We are seeking papers to be included in a proposal for the 2013 RSQ Special Issue. Guest editors are: Alan Finlayson (Swansea University, UK), Ying Yuan (Soochow University, China), and Lisa S. Villadsen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark).

The study, critique, and theoretical development of rhetoric as a modern academic field in its own right all have a longer tradition in the US than in any other part of the world. This is evident in the number of institutions, journals, and other publications in the field. One effect of this is that US based theory and criticism makes up a significant and valuable part of rhetorical scholarship in many other parts of the world where rhetoric has reappeared as an academic discipline in recent decades. However, relatively little of the rhetorical research done outside of the US ever reaches a North American audience. This one-way traffic of academic readership is arguably to the detriment of scholars everywhere in the world.

The 2013 special issue of RSQ is one attempt to break a path of familiarity and recognition on an international level and may as such be seen as a continuation of the theme of the 2012 special issue on “Regional Rhetorics” where place and setting presumably also will be central issues, but with the significant difference that in this issue, we feature authors from academic institutions around the world.

The proposed special issue of RSQ will be devoted to the matter of mutual introduction of national/regional scholarly communities among rhetoric scholars around the world, an academic encounter organized around the contextual nature of rhetorical scholarship. The editorial principle is thus to provide a frame suitable to open up, explore and/or demonstrate how local context affects rhetorical practice (and its study) and to reflect upon what implications that has for our understanding of rhetoric as a theory.

The organizing principle for this special issue of *RSQ* will be the situated nature of rhetoric and rhetorical scholarship; how national and sub-national contexts inflect both the problems rhetorical scholarship must address and how it does so; and how this might in turn inform our understanding of rhetoric as such. The special issue thus thematizes the ways in which place and local conditions affect the choice of artifacts, methods and theories in academic work. Hence, the organizing principle for this special issue of *RSQ* will be to highlight how *rhetoric and rhetorical scholarship is part and parcel of its setting*.

Contributors are asked to present a rhetorical critique of some kind of contemporary rhetorical practice and to consider how their case illuminates and enables them to reflect upon the locality and context and its affect on theoretical angle, methodological choices, etc. This way, we hope to present scholarship that speaks to what are considered pressing or dominant issues in various respective geographic, political, historical, social, cultural, or academic settings.

The purpose is to present a collection of articles that by virtue of reflecting differences in

critical approach, theoretical concerns and methodological discussions, all speak to the common theme of how rhetorical scholarship is often intimately connected with its geographic, historical, cultural, and political context.

Contributors are asked to present an instance of rhetorical scholarship that in some way (through choice of text/material of analysis or theoretical/methodological approach) reflects questions deemed pressing or dominant in their particular national or regional context. The main focus of each article is thus to provide *a rhetorical critique of an instance of contemporary rhetorical practice in its respective cultural, political or geographic setting*. Authors are also asked to reflect on what their national/regional experience of rhetoric indicates about the nature of rhetoric as such - that is, to link their specific study to some general questions relating to the 'state of the field' in their area and what they think the specifics of that situation imply for rhetoric in general.

A secondary aim is for each article to offer a 'reading guide' for an international readership interested in expanding their understanding of the study of rhetoric as it is manifested in academic contexts different from their own. This might be done by discussing how the author's theoretical and methodological approach speaks to or diverts from rhetorical scholarship in general. That might include how it speaks to recent American scholarship but also how it draws from or departs from the classical traditions, or embodies more specifically regional conceptions of rhetoric, or it might take the form of a brief literature review of relevant regional scholarship.

Please submit abstracts of up to 500 words by January 15, 2012 to [lisas@hum.ku.dk](mailto:lisas@hum.ku.dk).