

# Otelia Cromwell Day 2008

*Dialogues Across Difference*  
Thursday, November 6, 2008

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

In 2008, the Otelia Cromwell Day events will take up the question of race and its intersections with differences of identity, experience, values, and political perspectives.

The Otelia Cromwell Day Committee invites Smith College faculty, students and staff to offer presentations, discussions, interactive workshops (or other creative formats) that will engage the community in an inquiry about "Dialogues Across Difference."

We hope that the workshop sessions will wrestle with the tensions and questions that differences, particularly those of race and ethnicity, present. As Otelia Cromwell Day is only two days after the U.S. presidential election, the committee expects that some proposals will engage the whole Smith community with the possibilities, obstacles, and changes the election may bring -- whatever the outcome -- and the systemic nature of 21<sup>st</sup> century racism. What questions are asked but not honestly addressed? Why do some encounters with difference create a productive tension and why do some result in unproductive conflict? How does a dialogue differ from a conversation or a debate? What role does a women's college have in addressing systemic injustice?

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to submit proposals (250 – 300 words) to the Otelia Cromwell Day Committee ([mvallejo@email.smith.edu](mailto:mvallejo@email.smith.edu)) to present workshops of 1 to 2 hours length on the afternoon of Thursday, November 6, 2008 following the Otelia Cromwell Day keynote lecture. Collaborative, Innovative proposals will be most favorably considered.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

Use the Smith archives to compare a Smith education in Otelia Cromwell's time to our current course offerings. What would a Smithie have learned about race?

Present work in progress from a senior thesis, a research project, or a current book project.

How has your discipline changed in the way racial and ethnic differences are understood?

Offer an interactive intergroup dialogue on a topic.

Offer a panel discussion of faculty, staff, and students talking about . . . .

Show how your student organization, house, or department has worked to change confrontations into conversations or dialogues about differences.

Produce a video about a study-abroad experience that has changed how you think about dialogue across differences.

**Interested presenters are encouraged (but not required) to attend one information session.**

**Two are scheduled:  
April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Neilson Browsing Room  
and  
and April 16<sup>th</sup> at noon in Neilson Browsing Room.**

**Proposal to Offer a Workshop on  
Otelia Cromwell Day  
November 6, 2008**

Name(s):

Email(s):

Organization(s) or departmental affiliation(s) (if applicable):

Title or subject of proposed workshop:

Workshop objectives (no more than 250 – 300 words): (attach sheet) Briefly describe what you hope participants in your workshop session will gain or learn.

Briefly describe the format of your session: (e.g., panel discussion, video, arts performance, intergroup dialogue, interactive workshop, etc.)

What kind of space would be ideal for your session (e.g., classroom, theatre, museum gallery, laboratory, house living room, chapel, Chapin lawn, etc.)?

Workshop sessions are scheduled to be offered from 3 – 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2008 and can range from 1 hour to 2 hours. What session length are you requesting?

Please send your proposal to Maria Vallejo in the Office of Institutional Diversity in College Hall or at [mvallejo@email.smith.edu](mailto:mvallejo@email.smith.edu).

Proposals will be reviewed by the Otelia Cromwell Committee. Spring deadline for the first round of workshop proposals is April 25, 2008. There will be a fall deadline to be announced in September 2008. If you have any questions, please contact Naomi Miller at [njmiller@email.smith.edu](mailto:njmiller@email.smith.edu).