**ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE: PERFORMANCE AND THE PUBLIC STAGE**

SAGES Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Student Conference

The University of Akron

Student Union

March 15, 2018

**The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars** is pleased to announce a call for papers for its upcoming conference on March 15, 2018. We welcome creative writers and scholars from various disciplines to discuss the theme, “All the World’s A Stage: Performance and the Public.” This free conference is open to both undergraduate, graduate students, and independent scholars. This year’s Keynote Speaker is Kent State University Professor Mwatabu Okantah. He is the Poet-in-Residence in the Department of Pan-African Studies. He is highly recognized as a poet and motivational speaker and has performed throughout the US and West Africa. He was also included in the International Who’s Who in Poetry and selected in Outstanding Writers of the 20th Century by the International Biographical Centre.

The need to perform “correctly” has introduced a toxic anxiety to act according to evolving norms and the potential to condemn those who transgress these norms. The inescapable reminder to perform also pervades literature, art and other media.

This year we are seeking a variety of interpretations of performance and the public stage, and the impact that gender, class, and other factors have on our perceptions of public roles. We are open to all academic disciplines and seek to explore connections between dissimilar fields and cultural spaces.

**Possible topics that can be explored but are not restricted to:**

* Toxic masculinity
* Anxieties surrounding current cultural movements
* Performance subverted
* Historical representations of performance
* Performance and Post-colonialism
* Women and the assumption of certain cultural roles
* Literary depictions of performance and/or anxieties surrounding performance
* The silencing of dissension and performance
* The reshaping of classical literature for specific political landscapes
* Questions of gender, race, class etc.

*The above list is simply a loose guideline of suggested topics. Please, feel free to explore your own interpretations of performance and the public sphere.*

**Submissions**

We seek submissions from all disciplines. **Submit individual abstracts (no more than 400 words) directly to SAGES by February 16, 2018 via email (****sagessubmission@gmail.com)**. Those abstracts that are selected will be organized into specific panels to be presented at the conference. Expect responses in mid-February 2018. All creative writing manuscripts need to be submitted in their entirety.