



AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

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Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for the 39th Association for Interdisciplinary Studies annual conference in October 2017. The conference will be hosted by UMBC from Thursday, October 19 through Saturday, October 21. Please see the *Call for Proposals* included in the program and available through both the conference website (<http://ais2017.umbc.edu/>) and AIS website (<http://wwwp.oakland.edu/ais/>).

Home to one of the oldest, continuously operating [Interdisciplinary Studies](#) programs in the country, [UMBC](#) is a young, mid-sized, public university in the Baltimore-Washington D.C. metropolitan area with a growing national reputation for pedagogical innovation, diversity and inclusivity. Our university has been recognized by *US News and World Report* as the "#1 Up-and-Coming National University" for five years running. Our iconic university president [Freeman Hrabowski](#), who will be addressing the conference, was named by *TIME* magazine as one of America's *10 Best College Presidents in 2009*, and one of the "*100 Most Influential People in the World*" in 2012.

UMBC campus is located just seven miles from Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI). A further seven-mile trip takes visitors to Baltimore's city center, rich in cultural offerings of all kinds. The arts are present across a range from the "old world" glory of the [Walters Art Museum](#) and the [Meyerhoff Symphony Hall](#) to the contemporary [American Visionary Arts Museum](#) and three vibrant, [state-designated arts and entertainment districts](#). Science is served by the [National Aquarium](#), [Maryland Science Center](#) and [Port Discovery](#) children's museum. Historical landmarks include the birthplace and grave of [Edgar Allan Poe](#), the site of the naval battle that inspired our [national anthem](#) and a [variety of historical ships](#). Less formally, Baltimore offers a patchwork of distinct neighborhoods with bars, restaurants and entertainment to suit any taste.

The theme of the 2017 conference will be "*Beyond Talking Heads*" - an exploration of the broad and intricate relationship between interdisciplinarity and active learning. As part of this, we will be encouraging presenters to find ways in which to engage participants in activities and conversation that relay their work with minimal reliance on passive listening. Together with our conference planning team, we look forward to greeting you here at UMBC in October 2017!

Warm regards,

Stephen Freeland
Director, Interdisciplinary Studies Program (INDS)