

**PROPOSAL FORM
FACULTY SHOWCASE
FALL 2014 FACULTY INSTITUTE**

PERE MARQUETTE LODGE
SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2014

NAME: Gad Guterman
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SCHOOL OR COLLEGE: Fine Arts
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TITLE OF PRESENTATION: At the Crossroads: An Excerpt from *Performance, Identity, and Immigration Law*

PRESENTATION LENGTH (times include Q&A from attendees): 20 minutes (thought I am happy to expand to a longer session, if that is helpful).

PREFERED DAY: Friday (again, I am happy to present on Saturday, if that is more convenient).

ABSTRACT/DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION OR POSTER:

My new book, *Performance, Identity, and Immigration Law: A Theatre of Undocumentedness* (Palgrave, 2014), investigates how US theatre has presented so-called undocumented immigrants. Juxtaposing the work of artists from diverse backgrounds, it highlights how attention to legal labels enriches our studies of identity and how live performance counteracts the violence inherent to “undocumentedness.” A short concluding chapter examines a phenomenon occurring outside theatre buildings: the proliferation of costumed performers in the streets of Times Square. At the Crossroads of the World, men and women daily perform the contradictions and disjunctures of immigration law. Dressed as globally recognized characters like Mickey and Minnie Mouse, they make themselves invisible under masks and full-body costumes to participate in an underground economy in plain sight. By considering these street performers, I explore how legal boundaries come undone yet are simultaneously reinforced when immigrant bodies, many of them donned illegal, become spectacularly present at an iconic location.

TECHNNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS: Projector for PowerPoint; microphone only if room is too large or if there is a competing session next door.