

Diasporas, Migration and Identities: Crossing Boundaries, New Directions

University of Surrey, 11-12 June 2009

'Diasporas, migration and identities' has been the subject of a major national research programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in the UK since 2005. Its central concerns have also been at the heart of the work of the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CRONEM). The aim of this collaborative and multi-disciplinary conference (CRONEM's 5th annual conference) is to examine the past and present impact of diasporas and migration on nation, community, identity and subjectivity, culture and the imagination, place and space, emotion, politics, law and values.

We invite abstracts that address the following themes:

1. Migration, settlement and diaspora; 2. Modes, stages and forms; 3. Representation, performance, discourse and language; 4. Subjectivity, emotion and identity; 5. Objects, practices and places; 6. Beliefs, values and laws; 7. The role of youth in relationship to diasporas, migration and identities; 8. Diasporic economics and labour markets; 9. The recognition of multiple origins and mixedness; 10. The politics of immigration and integration; 11. Public opinion and public policy; 12. Ethnic identity politics

Please send abstracts for papers and posters (not more than 200 words) and abstracts for convened symposia (in which the symposium abstract should consist of not more than 200 words, and the individual paper abstracts should consist of not more than 200 words each).

For registration queries, please contact
Mirela Dumic <m.dumic@surrey.ac.uk>

Conference Site: <<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/Arts/CRONEM/cronem-ahrc-conference-09/cfp09.htm>>

AMERICAN TROPICS: TOWARDS A LITERARY GEOGRAPHY

*International Conference
University of Essex, 4-7 July 2009*

Confirmed speakers include Barbara Ladd, Richard Price, Sally Price, Susan Castillo, Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Sharon Monteith, Gordon Brotherston, Neil Whitehead, Selwyn Cudjoe, Bill Schwarz, Luciana Martins, William Rowe, Margarita Zamora, María Cristina Rodríguez, Lowell Fiet, Ineke Phaf-Reinberger, Shalini Puri, Leah Rosenberg, Wendy Gaudin, Sue Thomas, Susan Gillman.

By American Tropics we understand an extended Caribbean, or what Edouard Glissant calls “the estuary of the Americas,” or what earlier scholars sometimes called “Plantation America”: an area including the southern USA, the Caribbean littoral of Central America, the Caribbean islands, and northern South America.

The American Tropics project at Essex seeks to understand the writing associated with this area through a study of particular places within it: cities, borders, regions, natural features. Each place is a zone of encounter, bringing together sets of writing in different languages and styles, from different literary and cultural backgrounds, all of which have in common that attention to the same place. The project therefore approaches literary history via literary geography.

Colleagues are encouraged to look
at the developing project at
[http://www.essex.ac.uk/literature/
American_Tropics/index.htm](http://www.essex.ac.uk/literature/American_Tropics/index.htm)

Informal enquiries to Peter Hulme
at <phulme@essex.ac.uk>

Worlds in Dialogue

A conference presented jointly by the Association of University English Teachers of Southern Africa (AUETSA), the South African Association for Commonwealth Language and Literature Studies (SAACLALS), the South African Society for General Literary Studies (SAVAL), the 4th Conference on South African Children's and Youth Literature and the South African Association for Language Teaching (SAALT).

Hosts: The School of Languages and the Research Unit:
Languages and Literature in the South African Context

Dates: 8–11 July 2009

Venue: North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus),
Potchefstroom, South Africa

Dialogue between the imagined worlds of languages, texts, authors and cultures is an important force in language and literature. The aim of this conference is to provide a forum for stimulating and enhancing such dialogue in the field of literary and linguistic discourse. *Dialogue* here means to enter into conversation with, to create community and new meaning, but also to contest (to discuss critically) or to dialogize (to expose to different points of view, to relativize).

The field can broadly be organized as conversations (or breaks in the conversations) between five “scapes” that characterize the postmodern, global “landscape”, according to Arjun Appadurai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” (*Modernity at Large – Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*.) These “scapes” are ideoscapes, technoscapes, ethnocapes, mediascapes, financescapes and (can one add) landscapes.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Prof. Hein Viljoen, Betsie van der Westhuizen, Franci Greyling, Ms Dolly Davane, chairs of other societies (programme committee), Ms Stefanie Dose (conference secretary), Dr Phil van Schalkwyk (catering and entertainment), Mrs Elsa van Tonder (finance and logistics), Ms Karien Hattingh (customer relations), Mr Alwyn Roux (marketing and advertising).

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Ms Stefanie Dose

Mrs Elsa van Tonder <Elsa.VanTonder@nwu.ac.za>

Mr Alwyn Roux <Alwyn.Roux@nwu.ac.za>

Tel. +27-18-299-1485

Fax +27-18-299-1562

The New Exotic?
POSTCOLONIALISM AND GLOBALIZATION
CONFERENCE, 24–26 June 2009

Keynote speakers:

Professor Robert J.C.Young (New York University)

Professor Graham Huggan (University of Leeds)

Associate Professor Susie O'Brien (McMaster University)

Postcolonial theory and criticism have consistently pointed to the exploitative and oppressive effects of exoticism in relation to the (post)colonised world: where Edward Said's account of orientalism as a mode of perception facilitated extensive postcolonial critiques of colonial as well as more recent constructions of 'the exotic,' contemporary work also takes account of the global late-capitalist system in which these exoticist discourses circulate. However, while the notion of the exotic has been subjected to rigorous postcolonial critique, it persists in both popular and institutional constructions of culture and cultural difference. Is this the persistence of old exoticisms, or are there new forms, objects, modes of circulation?

This conference seeks to investigate the various ways exoticism functions across a wide range of social, political, cultural and ecological domains. We ask such questions as: Why do exoticist practices and discourses persist in the face of postcolonial critique? Are these discourses sustained and circulated through old or new mechanisms? Is there, perhaps, anything enabling or agential for the (post) colonised in mobilising discourses of the exotic? How can places, foods, fashion and experiences continue to be marketed as 'exotic,' or through appeal to 'the exotic,' despite a growing awareness of the dangers of such marketing? What politics underlie the embrace or proscription of exotic plants and animals; how do nostalgia, aesthetics, ecology, environmentalism and bio-security inflect these stances? Who, what or where are the new objects of exoticist discourses? How has exoticism inflected discourses of sexuality? How does exoticism signify differently through trans-national communications circuits and flows of images and products, and at nation-state borders? How does globalisation point to both total access and knowability, and the allure of exotic otherness? What other forms of otherness remain possible within this politico-semiotic economy? How does exoticism relate to the increasing hybridity of populations and cultures, as well as plant and animal biological forms? After colonial discourses of degeneration with transplantation of 'exotics', what discourses pertain today relating to 'transplantation', to subjects of migration and diaspora? Have practices in postcolonial studies theory and research overcome the complicity of that field with notions of exoticism, or do they continue to underlie or haunt the field?

For more information, contact:

Dr Chris Prentice <chris.prentice@stonebow.otago.ac.nz>

Paris and London in Postcolonial Imaginary

French Institute, London, 18-19 June 2009

Keynote speakers:

John C. Ball

“Two Simultaneous Centuries”:

Eighteenth-Century London in the Postcolonial Imaginary

Odile Cazenave

Écrire depuis Paris: subversion et réinvention
des ‘lieux communs’ dans l’imaginaire postcolonial

Michel Laronde

Représentation du Sujet postcolonial et effets d’Institution:
Les silences de l’Immigré

Public evening session with writers

Bernardine Evaristo and **Abdourahman Waberi**

Paris and London were once the world’s largest cities and they still remain metropolises of global reach. Following the decolonization, the international citizenry of the former empires converged in both cities in a phenomenon called the “reinvansion of the centre” (Ball, 2004). As immigrants started to occupy the centre and thus changed its demographic and cultural constitution, Paris and London came to include a transnational ‘world’, which is increasingly taking over. This conference proposes to examine the diverse ways in which contemporary Paris and London are experienced and portrayed by exogenous, first or second generation writers from the 1980s until today. Adopting a comparative approach, it proposes to bring together theorists and practitioners of the contemporary French and English literature with the aim of addressing the postcolonial urban imaginary in which Paris and London prominently feature.

For further information, contact

Dr Christina Horvath <christina.horvath@gmail.com> or
<christina.horvath@brookes.ac.uk>

The Revisiting Modernization Conference

27th - 31st July 2009 at

University of Ghana, Legon

Conference Theme

Revisiting Modernization is an interdisciplinary array of activities that features an academic conference, art exhibition, creative writing competition, film screenings, and two keynote addresses to be held at the University of Ghana, Legon, from 27th - 31st July 2009. These activities, a collaboration between the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon and the African Studies Multi-Campus Research Group at the University of California, inaugurate an inclusive approach to thinking about the resonance of modernization in relation to the contemporary lexicon of globalization and the shifting parameters of development. This event is conceived as a forum with pre-circulated papers and contributions from a wide range of academics, policymakers, and artists from the African continent, North America, Europe, and beyond.

Current interactions on the African continent with the “Asian Miracle,” along with the Brazilian and Indian, among other modernities, and the vitality of an emerging decentered world economy—once relegated to the anonymity of the Third World—must be grounded in an examination of modernization, and the will towards a new political and social future. This emerging future not only engages with the past, through the evocation of ancestors and rites of passage, such as funerals, but also provides a discontinuous view of historical and social transformations. It is the reexamination of this developmental notion of modernization into a new future that we seek to open up through the activities organized around this conference.

This conference will be the first of three conferences to be held over a five-year period on the African continent (Ghana 2009, Senegal 2011, South Africa 2013) that include academic and public events, initiated by the African Studies Multi-Campus Research Group at the University of California.

Conference Conveners

Peter J. Bloom, UC-Santa Barbara
Takiywaa Manuh, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon
Stephan F. Miescher, UC-Santa Barbara
For further inquires, please contact: africanstudiesmrg@ihc.ucsb.edu

Literature, Geography, Translation: The New Comparative Horizons

Uppsala University, Sweden, 11-13 June 2009

Comparative literature is currently undergoing critical changes. Transnational and global paradigms of study are emerging to supplant the discipline's earlier Eurocentric framework; circulation, translation, postcolonialism and "world literature" have become the focus of overlapping debates which expand the horizon of literary studies. The complexity of these theoretical and methodological developments should not be underestimated, however. While "the globe" may be an enticing frame of reference, no one, as Gayatri Spivak reminds us, actually lives there. Or, as Franco Moretti argues, the concept of "world literature" may have been with us for two centuries, but we still don't know what it is. The warp and weft of literature as it is written, read, distributed and translated remains the historically dense and often discordant experiences of language, places, intellectual networks, and economic and political inequities. It is, perhaps, only by continually engaging this tangle of specificities that the call for "global" literary studies will prevail.

The Departments of Literature and English at Uppsala University, in collaboration with the University of Oslo, will host a conference in Uppsala, Sweden, on 11-13 June 2009 on this theme.

Confirmed keynote speakers at the conference will be Susan Bassnett (Warwick), Wai Chee Dimock (Yale), Isabel Hofmeyr (Witwatersrand) and Peter Hulme (Essex).

A conference website is under construction. More information on this will be circulated presently. Queries concerning practical matters should be directed to litgeo09@adm.slu.se

Enquiries should be directed to one of the following addresses:

cecilia.alvstad@ilos.uio.no

stefan.helgesson@littvet.uu.se

david.watson@engelska.uu.se