

Association for the Study of New Literature in English Conference

University of Bern, Switzerland, May 18-20, 2012

Post-Empire Imaginaries? Anglophone Literature, History and the Demise of Empires

Conveners: Barbara Buchenau and Virginia Richter

Although decades of postcolonial scholarship and theorizing have uncovered imperial mechanisms of marginalization and exploitation, empire retains a key role in European and North American consumer culture. Whether heritage film, colonial style in interior decoration, fashion and architecture, Indian cuisine, or nostalgic journeys of Western travelers to the famous sites of the British Empire – imperial nostalgia continues to be an important factor in practices of self-fashioning as well as in marketing strategies across various arts and industries. The 23rd annual conference of the Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English will approach this paradox, exploring the tensions between the established postcolonial paradigm and recent theories of 'post-empire', by promoting a dialogue between literary and cultural studies on the one hand, and history and the social sciences on the other. While the term 'post-empire' delimitates our field of inquiry it also encourages research on a wide range of historical and contemporary 'imperial' formations and resonances. Concretely, 'post-empire' denotes a crossroads between the historiography of empire and literary postcolonial studies, which opens up into three main areas of investigation:

- the theory of empire and post-empire in the context of economic globalization
- the material foundations on which empire is constituted and marketed
- conceptualizations of the imperial past, in-between nostalgia and transgression.

For further information and the call for papers please visit our website.

<http://www.gnel2012.ens.unibe.ch>

email: gnel2012@ens.unibe.ch

Call for papers closes January 31, 2012

Interrogating Cosmopolitan Conviviality: New Dimensions of the European in Literature



University of Bamberg, 24 – 25 May 2012

Call for Papers

Possible topics may consider, among others, the following aspects:

- refashioning Europe as a postcolonial region of literary, historical, artistic and cultural analysis;
- negotiations of colonial memory from a wider European – rather than national – perspective;
- migration to and travelling across Europe as a postcolonial operation of historical recovery;
- debating the need for convivial approaches to national or cosmopolitan canon(s) in Europe;
- defining the concept of the “European” in literature, particularly in connection with issues of cosmopolitanism and the individual;
- convivial boredom as complementary to racial/ethnic/religious fear and their relation to representations of colonial and postcolonial European violence in literature and popular culture;
- how the notion of “intercultural dialogue” in social and political sciences is synergized across different generations, particularly with respect to European literature and the “politics of recognition” (Taylor 1994);
- the Mediterranean as the topical site where European stories of conviviality and violence meet;
- new and forgotten “isms”: Eastern European cosmopolitan “provincialism” and Irish postcolonialism.

We welcome proposals for individual papers of 20 minutes. The official language of the conference is English. Selected contributions will be submitted for publication in an essay collection. Postgraduate students are also welcome to present their proposals for a special postgraduate panel to host up to five papers, each to last 15 minutes in length.

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words to conviviality@englit.de. Include your name, affiliation, email address and a brief biography (max 100 words). You will receive an email of confirmation shortly after your submission. The deadline for abstracts is: **17 October 2011**.

If you have any questions concerning either the application process or the conference itself, please get in touch with the conference organizers via email or at the following address:

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Caribbean Poetry Project



Patron: Carol Ann Duffy

The Power of Caribbean Poetry – Word and Sound

A conference on Caribbean poetry will be held at Homerton College/
Cambridge Faculty of Education 20 – 22 Sept 2012

Speakers / performers include John Agard, Beverley Bryan, Kei Miller, Mervyn Morris, Grace Nichols, Velma Pollard, Olive Senior, Dorothea Smartt

The first two days of this international gathering will take the form of an academic conference, the final day having a more educational focus and therefore likely to appeal to teachers as well as scholars. Members of the Caribbean Poetry Project from Cambridge University Faculty of Education and the University of West Indies will be hosting the conference and disseminating its outcomes. Marilyn Brocklehurst's bookshop will be available throughout the conference and some project partners, such as the online Poetry Archive and Peepal Tree Press, will be represented.

CALL FOR PAPERS

- Caribbean poetry and the word
- Origins and histories of Caribbean poetry
- Particular poets e.g. appreciation of the work of Derek Walcott / Kamau Brathwaite
- Re-reading Caribbean poetry
- Caribbean poetry and music
- Ecocriticism and Caribbean poetry
- Caribbean landscapes
- Poetry as emancipation
- Caribbean British poetry
- Approaches to learning and teaching Caribbean poetry
- Migration and location in Caribbean poetry
- Gender in Caribbean poetry
- Caribbean poetry and postcolonial theory
- Caribbean poetry and the curriculum

Abstracts (300 words approx.) should be sent to Bryony Horsley Heather (bsjh2@cam.ac.uk) **by the end of January 2012.**

Conference fees including lunch, dinner, tea & coffee will be £200. Day rate £75 for 20th, £100 for 21st and £70 for 22nd for bookings before May 1st 2012. Accommodation available at Homerton College at £60 per night.

For further information, contact Morag Styles (ms104@cam.ac.uk) or Bryony Horsley Heather (bsjh2@cam.ac.uk) or visit <http://caribbeanpoetry.educ.cam.ac.uk>

Notes on Contributors

Lisa Grekul is an Associate Professor in the Department of Critical Studies at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus. She is the author of one novel, *Kalynda's Song* (2003), and *Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada's Ukrainians* (2005). Her research and teaching focuses on Canadian and diasporic literatures.

J. Roger Kurtz is Department Chair and Professor of English at Brockport State University of New York, USA. His teaching and research interests include African and Caribbean literatures, magical realism, language, literature and culture identity.

Harveen Mann is Associate Professor of English at Loyola University, Chicago. She has published on topics ranging from third world feminism to postcolonial pedagogy including a variety of South Asian writers.

Katie Mullins is a second-year PhD candidate at the University of Toronto. Her research interests include feminist and gender theory, theories of the body, contemporary Canadian literature, animal studies, and the interaction between text and images. She has published articles on children's literature and Canadian graphic narrative.

Shyamala A. Narayan is professor and Head of the Department of English at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

André Narbonne received his PhD from the University of Western Ontario. His teaching and research interests include Victorian and Edwardian Canadian humour. He has recently published on L.M. Montgomery and Don Harron, and an article on Thomas Carlyle's inverse sublime is forthcoming in *Nineteenth-Century Studies*. (Biography corrected from original print version April 2012.)

Miriam Novick is a PhD Candidate in English at the University of Toronto working in contemporary transnational literature and critical theory. Her dissertation examines instances of deception in recent memoirs and autobiographical fictions via a synthesis of historical, psychoanalytic, philosophical and ethical approaches to the nature of representation and subjectivity.

Contributors

Hsin-yun Ou is Assistant Professor with the Department of Western Languages and Literature at the National University of Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She is presently researching eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British and American theatre in relation to Orientalism and gender.

Asha Sen is a Professor with the Department of English at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She specializes in postcolonial literature and theory with a specific focus on South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, especially interested in South Asian women's literatures.

Harleen Singh is Helaine and Alvin Allen Assistant Professor of South Asian Literature and Women's and Gender Studies at Brandeis University, USA.

Dr. P. Suneetha, Assistant Professor of English at Bangalore University, India, has conducted research for her doctoral dissertation on the novels of Ngugi wa Thiong'o, and she has more than ten years of teaching and research experience in institutions of higher learning. She has published extensively in the area of Commonwealth Literature including her most recent article, entitled "The Whiteman's Power and Magic," which appeared in *Aspects of Contemporary World Literature*, New Delhi.