
EACLALS

*European Association for
Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies*

EACLALS Newsletter March 2007

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Bénédicte Ledent, University of Liège (Treasurer)

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1. New Rates (2007)

Please find enclosed our new membership rates for 2007. We apologise for having had to implement a small fee increase, which is due mainly to the rising costs incurred by *Kunapipi*. We hope that this will be no obstacle to your renewing your membership in good time for the Triennial Conference in Vancouver (see below). Please note that the first issue of *Kunapipi* for 2006 is due off the press about this time and should reach EACLALS members very soon. Also, we take this opportunity to remind our members that

EACLALS' journal membership implies significant discounts (30% off in the case of the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*) on the price of subscriptions to *JCL*, *Wasafiri*, and *Moving Worlds*.

2. How to Contact Us

Please note that we are happy to receive material for inclusion in the newsletter or for posting on our website. Our contact details are as follows:

Geoffrey V. Davis: Institut für Anglistik, RWTH Aachen, 52056 Aachen, Germany. Tel. +49 241 8096105 (office); +49 241 37977 (home). E-mail: davis@anglistik.rwth-aachen.de

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All enquiries welcome.

3. Recent Publications

Lurdos, Michèle, & Judith Misrahi-Barak (ed.), 'Transport(s) in the British Empire and the Commonwealth', *Les Carnets du Cerpac 4*, Publications de l'Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, 2007. ISBN: 978-2-84269-767-9

Maes-Jelinek, Hena, *The Labyrinth of Universality: Wilson Harris's Visionary Art of Fiction*. Amsterdam & New York: Rodopi (Cross/Cultures series), 2006.

Postcolonial Text has now published Vol. 2, Nr. 4 (2006) at <http://postcolonial.org>

You are invited to visit the journal's web site and click 'Current' to have a look at this issue's line-up

of articles, book reviews, and interviews – all freely available on an open access basis.

4. Calls for Papers and Conferences

EnterText Vol. 7, Nr. 2

'Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Slavery and Freedoms Today'

Academic papers and creative submissions are invited by 1 May 2007 for this special second issue to mark the bicentenary in 2007 of Britain's Abolition of the Slave Trade. *EnterText* is a free-access peer-reviewed online interdisciplinary journal published by Brunel University, London, now in its seventh year. It can be viewed at www.brunel.ac.uk/entertext where advice on submissions is also available.

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Postcolonial Studies Conference

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany, in cooperation with University BW Munich
10-12 May, 2007

'Hybrid Cultures, Nervous States: Insecurity & Anxiety in Britain & Germany in a (Post)Colonial World'

Website: <http://hybrid-cultures.eu/>

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Two-Day Seminar on Australian and New Zealand Literatures and Cultures

University of Innsbruck, Austria
22-23 June, 2007

'Antipodean Childhoods: Growing Up in Australia and New Zealand'

Submission of abstracts by 31 March

E-mail: Helga Ramsey-Kurtz
helga.ramsey-kurz@uibk.ac.at

Or: Ulla Ratheiser

Ulla.Ratheiser@uibk.ac.at

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University of Vienna, Austria
13-15 September, 2007

‘Stories of Empire: Narratological Directions in
Postcolonial Theory and Practice’

Send 300-word abstracts to Christa Knellwolf
(christa.knellwolf@univie.ac.at) or Margarete Rubik
(margarete.rubik@univie.ac.at)
Deadline: 15 April, 2007

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Queen’s Postcolonial Research Forum
International Conference

Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland
21-23 September, 2007

‘Postcolonial Islands: Geographic, Theoretical and
Human’

Website: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/qprf>

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9th Biennial EASA Conference
Universities of Roskilde and Copenhagen
26-30 September 2007

‘Translating Cultures: Australia, New Zealand and
the Pacific’

Contact: Lars Jensen, hopeless@ruc.dk
EASA website:

[http://www.ruc.dk/cuid/Konferencer_og_seminarer/
Biennial EASA Conference/](http://www.ruc.dk/cuid/Konferencer_og_seminarer/Biennial_EASA_Conference/)

5. Commonwealth Literature Conference in Eastern Europe

Over the last two years we have kept informing our members about our wish to help towards the organisation of an EACLALS-sponsored event in Eastern Europe, the aim of which would be to bridge the gap between two scientific communities which sometimes tend to work in parallel rather than together. The planned event is now getting off the ground and will take the form of a conference organised by Jaroslav Kusnir, University of Presov, Slovakia, from 8 to 9 June 2007, on the following theme: ‘Post-

Colonial Transformations in the New Literatures in English’.

This conference seeks contributions on authors associated with the new literatures in English which will deal with but are not limited to:

- 1) the symbolic expression of post-colonial transformation as manifested in literature (including drama);
- 2) the volatile nature of post-colonial cultural identity;
- 3) the opposition between traditional (oral and mimetic literature) and new and experimental forms of representation (written, modern, postmodern, media) as the expression of a tension or conflict between tradition and innovation, colonialism and resistance, traditional and modern life;
- 4) ‘the translation among cultures’ and the linguistic and literary expression of different kinds of cultural identities within post-colonial societies;
- 5) postmodern, metafictional and hypertextual narrative techniques, postmodern parody, play, irony, generic and stylistic hybridity as literary, aesthetic and cultural alternatives to the dominant literary, cultural and national(istic) discourse as manifested in post-colonial literary texts;
- 6) essentialist versus non-essentialist concepts of cultural identity (Stuart Hall, Homi Bhabha) as expressed in literary works written by post-colonial authors;
- 7) local and regional, versus national and global, relationships as the expression of specificity on the one hand, and universality and generalization on the other.

One of the aims of the conference is to attract doctorate scholars from Central and Eastern Europe to exchange their views on the discipline of post-colonial studies and to discuss further co-operation. The conference programme will include a post-graduate students seminar which will be run by Professor David Callahan, University of Aveiro, Portugal. This seminar will be based on lecturing and the

discussion of set literary texts. These doctorate scholars from Central and Eastern Europe may be sponsored by means of an EACLALS grant. Doctoral students are encouraged to present their papers at the conference as well.

Contributions are not restricted to the themes outlined above. We prefer papers which deal with the aesthetic, artistic and literary aspects of individual works, rather than those tackling ideological, political and social aspects. The conference is organized by the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences, University of Prešov, Slovakia, and will take place on the University of Prešov’s main campus. The city of Prešov is easily accessible by train, bus, and car from neighbouring countries and by air from other countries (Košice airport is only 40 kilometres from Prešov). Short abstracts of no more than 200 words should be sent by electronic mail to Jaroslav Kušnir at this address: jkusnir@fhpv.unipo.sk or by mail to:

Jaroslav Kušnir
Katedra anglického jazyka a literatúry FHPV
Prešovskej univerzity, 17. novembra 1
081 16 Prešov, Slovakia

no later than April 30, 2007. A selection of papers will be published in the conference proceedings. The conference fee is 900 Sk (or equivalent in Euro, which is 30 Euros).

6. The Next EACLALS Conference

As announced previously, the next EACLALS Conference will be held in Venice from 25 to 29 March 2008. The theme will be ‘Try Freedom: Rewriting Rights in/through Postcolonial Cultures’. The call for papers is now ready and can be consulted on the conference website at :

<http://www.maldura.unipd.it/eaclals2008/>

7. The Next ACLALS Conference

ACLALS' 14th Triennial Conference will convene in Vancouver, British Columbia, from 17 to 22 August, 2007. The Conference, entitled 'Literature for our Times', will address the role and function of literature in the twenty-first century. Information available at: <http://ocs.sfu.ca/aclals/index.php>

8. Call for Papers: CHOTRO

In association with IACLALS, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, and the National Manuscript Mission of India, EACLALS is intending to lend its support to a conference organised by the Bhasha Research and Publications Centre, Vadodara, India, which will focus on the following topic: 'Indigenous Peoples in the Post-Colonial World: Language – Literature – Culture – History'. This event will be held January 2nd – January 5th 2008 at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Delhi, India.

This conference, as the Bhili tribal term 'chotro' implies, aims to 'bring together' writers, artists and scholars from all over the world interested in the languages and literatures, the cultures and histories of the indigenous peoples of the post-colonial world. It is being hosted by an international group of sponsors and will be held at a prestigious venue in Delhi's government quarter. A number of eminent Indian writers will address the conference.

The Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, established by Professor Ganesh Devy, has since its inception worked specifically with and on behalf of the Adivasi or tribal people of India, who have long been neglected in India itself and whose cultural expression remains little known both in India and abroad. Bhasha has undertaken to document the linguistic, literary and artistic heritage of tribal communities in India; it has collaborated with national academies of art and literature and research institutes to encourage research in tribal art and literature; it has pioneered the publication of literary and educa-

tional materials in tribal languages; and it has set up the Adivasi Academi at Tejgadh (Gujarat) for the promotion of tribal languages, literature, arts and culture and as an institute of formal education. In the process its work has taken it much beyond the confines of linguistic and literary studies.

Together with its co-sponsors Bhasha now seeks to initiate discussion of the experience of indigenous peoples on a global scale and in a comparative, cross-cultural perspective.

The proposed conference will provide an opportunity for an international exchange of ideas between indigenous peoples and those interested in their cultural expression, for there are indeed many parallels between, for example, the Aborigines of Australia, the First Nations of Canada and the Adivasi of India. It is hoped that the conference will for the first time situate the experience of the Adivasi in the wider context of the post-colonial world. In drawing attention to the cultural traditions and the response of indigenous people to their dispossession the world over, the conference will at the same time provide new orientation and inspiration for post-colonial studies.

Contributions are sought on the following topics:

orature; stories of origin / creation myths; cosmology / knowledge systems; life histories; storytelling / folk tales; poetry; drama and performance; aesthetics / interculturality; threatened languages/ language death; language development / scripts; subaltern history; cultural and human rights; publishing in aboriginal / tribal languages; translation from aboriginal / tribal languages; marginalization of aboriginal / tribal cultural expression

The registration form can be downloaded from <http://www.bhasharesearch.org.in> or

<http://www.eaclals.org> and should be returned as an attachment by email to Sonal Baxi (Bhasha) at: sonal.bhasha@gmail.com

There will be a conference fee of EUR 50 / US \$ 60, payable on arrival (this is for scholars from outside India only; it does not apply to scholars from within India.) Accommodation, food and local transport will be provided free of charge.

Abstracts of approx. 100 words should be sent by email before the 31st July 2007 to Professor Geoffrey V. Davis (University of Aachen, Germany). Email address: davis@anglistik.rwth-aachen.de Notification of acceptance of papers together with a formal invitation to attend will be sent out from Bhasha by 15th August 2007.

Foreign nationals requiring visas can download Indian visa forms from the website of the Indian embassy in their country of residence.

The conference proceedings will be published jointly by Rodopi, Amsterdam & New York in their Cross/Cultures: Readings in the Post/Colonial Literatures in English series and by an Indian publisher.

9. 21st Commonwealth Writers' Prize

The winner of the 21st Commonwealth Writers' Prize will be announced on 27 May 2007 at the Calabash International Literary Festival in Jamaica. Further information can be obtained at this address:

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/>

10. Call for Proposals (ACLALS Triennial)

Preliminary investigations are now already underway in order to determine where the 15th ACLALS Triennial Conference will be held in 2010. There is no certainty at present that a European venue will be selected, but if anybody among our members is interested in setting up such an event, this is the moment to make it known. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Board who will relay your bid(s).