

# NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2010

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### TRIENNIAL ACLALS CONFERENCE REPORT

'Strokes Across Cultures'

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, 6 – 11 June 2010

by Birte Heidemann (Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany)

This year's triennial conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) was held at the University of Cyprus in Nicosia, a place marked by fissures and fusions. Mainly due to its geographical location, the history of Cyprus has been characterized by cross-cultural encounters with peoples as diverse as the Romans, the Venetians, and the Ottomans shaping the culture of this Eastern Mediterranean island. Coinciding with the venue of this conference, Cyprus's post-colonial status as a former British colony culminates in this year's celebration of its 50th anniversary of independence. Yet, Nicosia's palimpsest-like cityscape is not only reminiscent of its heterogeneous cultural and historical heritage but also



Prof. Stephanos Stephanides opening the conference

reflects its rather recent past. The geo-political borderline dividing the island also separates the city into a Greek and a Turkish part. It is this nexus of disruption and conflation which had been taken up for the conference's theme.

Echoing the idea of 'Strokes Across Cultures', the conference brought together scholars from all ACLALS branches across the world. The diversity of this theme was also reflected in a variety of scholarly interests and backgrounds. The notion of both crossing and transforming cultural, political, imagined or gendered boundaries figured strongly and was addressed in conjunction with transgressive sexualities and cross-gendering, transcultural identities and re-imagined communities, as well as contested spaces in sports and food – just to mention a few among the rich range of the conference's foremost issues. Thus, we were offered an extensive programme of papers presented in distinct formats such as plenary roundtable discussions, a plenary lecture, panel sessions, and film screenings.

The conference opened with a roundtable plenary session by Bill Ashcroft, Lucienne Loh, Mark Mathuray and Frank Schulze-Engler. As each of the four speakers engaged with the general topic of 'Common Movements, Uncommon Resistance' from either a literary or a theoretical perspective, the following discussion was all the more enriching when opened for questions and comments from the audience. In his plenary session on 'What is a Translation?', Robert J.C. Young tried to find answers to this equally broad and complex question by presenting insights into the processual character of translations while, at the same time, paving a theoretical way for translating heterogeneous cultures. Before the conference closed with a concluding



Stavros Stavrou Karayanni hosting the Poetry Jam at the Pharos Arts Foundation



Plenary Opening Roundtable, titled "Common Movements, Uncommon Resistance"

plenary roundtable discussion critically commenting on 'The Commonwealth Today: Cultures in Counterpoint', the two morning sessions addressed the notion of remembrance. First, Geoffrey Davis, Harish Trivedi and Victor Ramraj remembered the life and work of three great scholars and prominent in ACLALS since its inception:-- Hena Maes-Jelinek, Meenakshi Mukherjee and Rowland Smith—respectively paying tribute to their pre-eminent contributions to the field of postcolonial studies. Drawing on the idea of a collective loss of memory, Ganesh Devy, in giving the Anna Rutherford Memorial Lecture on 'Amnesia, Aphasia and a New Literary Revolution in India' focused on the issues of literary and linguistic loss in today's India from the perspective of a cultural activist.

In addition to the packed panel sessions during the day, there were diverse cultural events in the evenings. The conference's opening reception, held in a beautiful patio on campus, introduced us to poetry and music from Cyprus, thereby setting the tone for what we could expect during the five days to follow. Next up, we were invited to a former shoe factory now converted into a living space, whose owner generously provides for special events. And, indeed, the artistic atmosphere of this private place served as an ideal setting for the poetry jam by both Cypriot as well as international writers.



The conference dinner at Olive Grove, before it disappeared...

Shifting from poetry to fiction, the next evening's event started out with readings by the Commonwealth Writers Prize winners (Canada and Caribbean Region 2010) Michael Crummey and Shandi Mitchell who also came to together on the following day for a plenary Commonwealth writers roundtable, at which they were joined by Sri Lankan-Australian author Chandani Lokuge. The second part of the evening followed a different track as the artists involved approached the conference's theme from a new perspective by staging it. Within the thematic frame of 'Stroking the Body: Bending Gender and Genre'

Canadian artists Ashok Mathur, David Bateman and David Roche presented 'striking' one-man performances. But the highlight was, without any doubt, our evening's host Stavros Stavrou Karayanni (European University Cyprus) who most impressively transformed the Melina Mercouri Hall into a dance floor, by staging the rare form of male belly dance – and completely won over the audience.

The only regrettable news was that Derek Walcott could not make it to Nicosia to receive his award of an honorary doctorate for health reasons. All the same, the ACLALS 2010 conference was a most inspiring five intense days of intriguing paper presentations and stimulating academic exchange, rounded up by a cultural program presenting both traditional and innovative performances. At this point, we would very much like to thank the organising committee, chaired by Stephanos Stephanides, and everyone involved for contributing to this warm and welcoming atmosphere we all experienced in Nicosia!

Coming back to the notion of cultural translations, the conference has definitely contributed to a fruitful fusion of fissures within the field of Commonwealth literature and language studies. By provoking strokes of thought on literature's powerful potential of conjoining cultures, this year's triennial ACLALS conference embraced a topic which is of particular relevance for the future of this divided island.

### CONFERENCE REPORTS

'What Postcolonial Theory Doesn't Say'

University of York, 3-5 July 2010

by Vincent van Bever Donker (University of Oxford)

This three day conference, held at the University of York, brought together scholars from around the world and across disciplines to consider the broad question of 'What Postcolonial Theory Doesn't Say'. Each day began with a Plenary Session, and the conference opened with Anne McClintock presenting a paper on the idea of 'Paranoid

Empire'. McClintock put forward an analysis of the excesses of violence and torture committed by the USA in its 'war against terror', looking particularly at the contradictory uses of photography in the scene of torture. She argued that torture exhibits the features of 'Paranoid Empire', by bringing together delusions of omnipotence with the perpetual fear of attack from enemies hidden everywhere. The second day was opened by Rob Nixon who presented a paper on the idea of 'Slow Violence' and the effects of environmental exploitation on the poor. In this address, Nixon analysed the media's preoccupation with what he termed 'spectacular time' and noted the consequence: that the visually unimpressive, slowly accumulating violence of environmental degradation against poor communities passes by unnoticed. The final day was opened by Neil Lazarus presenting a paper on '(Post-)Colonialism and Capitalist Modernity' which put forward the idea of 'world literature' as literature which engages the capitalist world system in its various, local manifestations. Lazarus presented a number of close readings of such engagements, through which he also advanced a critique of the 'postcolonial canon' as being narrowly restricted to novels which exhibit only a limited range of themes.

The diversity of these three Plenary Sessions is quite representative of the rest of the conference, which consisted of panel discussions ordered by either region or theme. The papers ranged across the globe touching almost every continent and picking up, among others, the themes of eco-criticism, human rights, postcolonial theory, aesthetics and terror. The papers of each panel and the lively discussions they evoked explored something of the limits of postcolonial theory's approach to these themes and regions. Of particular interest to me was the panel with Lucy Taylor, Nasheli Jimenez del Val, Lisa Shaw and Alison Fraunhar which reflected on the position of South America in postcolonial theory, its unsettling discontinuities with postcolonial theory as well as its continuities. I also found Simone Driche's discussion of ethics particularly engaging, while Paul Gready's discussion of Human

Rights within postcolonial theory injected the vitality of a different discipline (in this case, legal) into the discussion. Bringing what was for a me a particularly fresh subject for consideration were the reflections by Eva Bischoff and Serhat Karakayali on the discourses of colonialism and cannibalism within Germany, a country frequently considered to be free of a strong colonial heritage. The variety of papers and discussions, assisted by the space made available at the end of each day to engage with fellow attendees over a glass of wine, ensured that a lively and interesting time was enjoyed throughout the conference and that there was a sustained and thorough engagement with the limits and omissions of postcolonial theory, the central question which the conference addressed.

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'Image, Identity, Reality (ELLSIIR)'

University of Belgrade, Serbia, 4-6 December 2009

by Aleksandra V. Jovanović (University of Belgrade)

The International Conference to mark the 80th Anniversary of the English Department, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, opened with the plenary lecture by Professor Ranko Bugarski of Belgrade University, who posed the question, 'Who are you?' More than one-hundred-and-fifty participants of the conference sought to answer this question in the next three days.

The conference program consisted of fifty parallel sessions and seven plenary lectures through which different aspects of identity were discussed. All the sessions were titled so as to suggest the main field of research and to hint possible topics of discussion. The session 'Shaping Identities through English' featured discussions about linguistic identity in the European linguistic context, as well as the English spoken at the periphery—i.e. is periphery the same as postcolonial? Participants in the discussion attempted to define English on the one hand as the nativized foreign language and on the other as an important constituent of visual and critical literacy in the global world. The session

'Mapping New Spaces' offered research on identity-shaping in various cultural, linguistic and literary contexts, such as army camps. It also welcomed discussions on female space in British and American literature. One paper in which education was identified as an imagined space mapped a new territory of globally shared identity. Postcolonial topics of history, gender, education, reconstruction, othering and reinventing as important processes in building individual and collective identities of both ex-colonized people and ex-colonizers inspired many of the conference papers. In the sessions themed as 'Voice and Silence and Behind the Mirror', presenters and participants explored literary images of various postcolonial identities on the cultural, social, historical and personal levels. Presented papers provoked discussions on national identities and postcolonial selves, tracing the border-line between self and other in the works of Toni Morrison, J. M. Coetzee, Aravind Adiga, Salman Rushdie and V. S. Naipaul, among others. The work of a young generation of postcolonial authors such as Zadie Smith inspired discussions on hybrid identities. A paper on Coetzee re-contextualized narrative self-consciousness as a feature of modern text as narrative 'uncertainty' mirroring the identity confusion of the fictional people in the works of Hanif Kureishi and J. M. Coetzee..

Various sessions tackled the issue of shaping identity in the face of the domination of stereotypes. Issues of masculinity and femininity, gender and gay identity along with the androgenous identity of Woolf's *Orlando*, were discussed in sessions grouped under the title 'Identity and Stereotype'. Papers like 'From the Mother-Care to the Father-Care' and 'Shaping Identity in Cartoons' added the inevitable humorous touch to this serious issue. Shaping identity through discourse underlined the power of discourse in public speaking. The discussion mostly referred to identity in politics, bringing to mind such techniques as 'persuasion' and 'evasiveness' and other narrative strategies. The issue of identity in a modern time in sessions like 'Myth and Ritual Revisited' dealt with the fictional identities of historical or pseudo-historical figures:

'King Arthur – the Leader, the Legend, the Myth', 'The Image, Identity and Reality of Queen Elizabeth'. Papers like 'The Feminine identity in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*', 'Images of Love in Victorian Poetry' and 'Identity, Isolation, and Images' along with the papers in the session 'Imag(in)ing Other' discussed literary representations of the shadowed identities. The session called 'Tracing Magic' featured the discussion on the White Wizard in *The Lord of the Rings*, the identity of the Witches in William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Morgan 'of the Thousand Faces'. Many papers were dedicated to the issues of identity in different contexts – visual arts, new technology, cyber space and popular music.

The plenary lectures explored the issue of identity in a modern and rapidly changing world. Samuel Thomas from the University of Durham, UK, viewed modern identity as a product of global social trends. Among these the fear of terrorism and the fragility of the global social system play an important role. Stephen Regan and Barbara Ravelhofer, also from Durham University, in their plenary lectures cited literary images in the context of a broader discussion of national mythologies. Stephen Regan talked about Ireland, while Barbara Ravelhofer analyzed literary migrations in early modern Europe. David Crystal, Honorary Professor of Linguistics at the University of Bangor, UK, intertwined linguistics and literary studies in his plenary lecture which traced the past through the original Shakespearean pronunciation in the sonnets.

In the less formal part of the Belgrade Conference students of the English Department explored the theme of Identity through different media including dancing, drama and singing. Their 'field' of research included images of various national traditions along with classical literary motifs. Their own presentations enriched the Conference with scenes from Shakespearian plays, called Students' Shakespeare, and several national songs and dances. The range of identity issues discussed in the Conference only indicated the vastness of the field yet to be explored. The illuminating papers and the fruitful discussions during the Conference

will pave the way for further academic research.

### POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES IN ITALY: A RENEWED ASSOCIATION

by Annalisa Oboe (AISCLI Chair)

AISCLI (Associazione italiana di studi culturali e letterari in inglese) was founded in Venice in 1999 – under the name AISLI – and it celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. Some of its current members were there from the very beginning – at a first meeting around a (large) table in Turin which preceded the Venice agreement by a few months – when a number of Italian scholars working in the field of Anglophone literatures signified their interest in setting up an Italian association that would promote studies and intellectual work in this increasingly important field of research, involving universities, schools and a variety of cultural settings in the country.

Since then AISLI has become a reference point for many scholars in postcolonial studies and for young researchers in doctoral courses and post-doctoral positions. It has also provided a significant network of exchanges among various Italian universities by organizing seminars and conferences every year, contributing to the life of the journal *Il Tolomeo*, and disseminating useful information.

The new board of directors that was elected at the beginning of January 2010 has willingly accepted the challenge of taking up the legacy of the past ten years and of leading the association forward. A number of questions concerning its role in the changing cultural climate, its organization, activities and prospects were immediately posed as we took our first steps, and we have tried to work on and answer them in the past few months. Our efforts so far can be summarized as follows:

- we have defined roles for the board of directors, identified current memberships, organized accounts and financial planning and transparency in all activities;
- a new constitution has been laid out and approved, that will help us to run the association more effectively and

which includes a change of name – from AISLI to AISCLI – better representing the disciplinary and intellectual face we have developed over time;

- a set of cultural events has been planned – seminars and conferences, but also the participation in literary festivals – that may give us visibility;
- a yearly prize for the best postgraduate essay produced by our young members has been set up, which signifies our interest in the future both of our field of study and of promising intellectuals;
- a brand new website is already available at [www.aiscli.it](http://www.aiscli.it), which will hopefully grow with the help of all members, and a new e-mail address, [info@aiscli.it](mailto:info@aiscli.it), has also been created;
- closer links with the international community and other postcolonial organizations are being promoted. For instance, as of 2011, paid-up members of AISCLI will receive a €5 discount when joining EACLALS (or renewing their EACLALS membership); paid-up members of EACLALS joining AISCLI (or renewing their AISCLI membership) will receive the same discount.

In the light of renewed energies and hope, and despite the bleak context we are living through in our Italian universities and in society at large, we look forward to more fruitful and exciting work together.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

‘Postcolonialism, Economies, Crises:  
Interdisciplinary Perspectives’  
2nd Biennial Conference of the Postcolonial  
Studies Association  
University of Birmingham  
7-8 July 2011

At a time when the current global financial crisis is prompting profound reassessments of economic models, practices and transnational relationships, how can postcolonial studies inform our understanding of relations between

local cultures and global capital? This interdisciplinary conference aims to explore the relationships between postcolonialism and economic structures, historicising crisis as well as engaging with contemporary concerns. How might we situate present economic relations within longer (post)colonial histories of capitalism, deprivation, debt and dependency? How do moments of crisis interrelate with ongoing economic struggles outside the west? To what extent are economic relations a central feature of postcolonial cultural representation? What are the relationships between economic crisis and the content, marketing and consumption of postcolonial artistic and cultural productions?

**Keynote Speakers:** Elleke Boehmer, Sarah Brouillette, Suman Gupta

We welcome proposals from academics working in disciplines including Cultural Studies, Economics, Film, Geography, History, Literature, International Development, Politics and related fields. Interdisciplinary papers are welcome.

Topics for papers or panels may include, but are not limited to:

- Responses to the current global economic crisis from postcolonial writers, critics and theorists
- Alternative financial and economic models (e.g. shariah-compliant banking)
- Recessions, depressions and crashes: economic crisis points in (post)colonial histories, texts and cultures
- Situating economics: postcolonial marketplaces and exchanges
- The textual representation of postcolonial economic relations
- Contesting regimes of value and worth across postcolonial cultures
- Postcolonialism and economic migrancy
- Development economics in the postcolony: poverty, debt, aid and relief
- Neoliberalism and global finance (the World Bank, IMF, etc)

- The economics of environmental crisis
  - ‘Economy’ as metaphor for social, interpersonal and psychoanalytic process
  - The postcolonial studies industry: marketing and commoditising the postcolonial intellectual
  - Economies and the academy: funding postcolonial research in the current HE climate
- Individual papers should be no longer than 20 minutes. Please send a 300-word abstract and a biographical sketch of no more than 150 words to Clare Barker and Dave Gunning at [psaconference2011@gmail.com](mailto:psaconference2011@gmail.com) by 30 November 2010.

Proposals for panels (3 speakers) and roundtable discussions are also welcome: please include a 200 word rationale for the panel/roundtable and a brief summary of each paper/ contributor.

[postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk](http://postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk)

### BOOKS PUBLISHED

*South Asian Partition Fiction in English: From Khushwant Singh to Amitav Ghosh*  
By Rituparna Roy  
IIAS Publications Series, Amsterdam University Press, June 2010  
ISBN 978 90 8964 245 5  
Paperback, 180 pages, €27.50

This monograph explores a significant cross-section of South-Asian fiction in English written on the theme of Partition from the mid-1950s to the late 1980s, and shows how the Partition novel in English traverses a very interesting trajectory during this time, with writers from different generations offering a wide array of perspectives on this defining event of modern South-Asian history – from just ‘reporting’ the cataclysmic event to theorizing about it.

The six novels selected for study (Khushwant Singh’s *Train to Pakistan*, Manohar Malgonkar’s *A Bend in the Ganges*,

Pakistani author Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice-Candy-Man*, Anita Desai's *Clear Light of Day*, Sir Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, and Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*, show that, essentially, three factors shape the contours and determine the thrust of the narratives – the time in which the novelists are writing (whether close to or distant from the event); the value they attach to women as subjects of this traumatic history; and the way they perceive the concept of the nation.

'The representation of the traumatic event of Partition in Indian Literature in English is both an enduring theme in Indian writing as well as, paradoxically, an under-researched topic. By a fresh reading of six novels as representative of the various perspectives on the event, and placing them in a larger historical and literary context, Dr. Roy's book thus fills an important lacuna in current criticism, and does it convincingly.' -- Peter Liebrechts, Professor of Modern Literatures in English, Leiden University

**The author:** Rituparna Roy taught English Literature for several years at Basantidevi College, affiliated under the University of Calcutta. She is currently a Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) at Amsterdam, where she is working on an independent post-doctoral project.

For more information or a review copy please contact Laura Claud at l.claud@aup.nl

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*Postcolonial Ghosts / Fantômes post-coloniaux*

By Mélanie Joseph-Vilain and Judith Misrahi-Barak, eds.

Coll. Les Carnets du Cerpac n° 8

Presses universitaires de la Méditerranée, Montpellier 3,  
2009

ISBN 978-2-84269-885-0

484 pp., 32 €

<http://www.pulm.fr>

As liminal beings, ghosts seem particularly appropriate to

define, question or challenge hybrid cultures where several, seemingly irreconcilable, identities coexist. The present volume wonders how they manifest themselves in the English-speaking world, and whether there is a specifically postcolonial kind of haunting. The 22 articles deal with textual, translational or historical ghosts, and take us to Canada, Australia, Zimbabwe, India, 19th century Bengal or the Caribbean. Poems by Gerry Turcotte literally haunt the volume, which thus juxtaposes theory and practice in a dynamic and fruitful way. Authors discussed include Salman Rushdie, J. M. Coetzee, Kamau Brathwaite, Jackie Kay, Pauline Melville, Nalo Hopkinson, Derek Walcott, Margaret Laurence, Thomas King, David Malouf, Amitav Ghosh, Ben Okri, Wilson Harris, Arundhati Roy, and Amos Tutuola.

**Keywords:** ghosts – spectrality – postcolonial literature – translation – mythology – intertextuality – Commonwealth – politics

**List of Contributors:** Ashraf H. A. Rushdy, Mélanie Torrent, Virginie Barrier-Roiron, Gerry Turcotte, John Potts, Sheila Collingwood-Whittick, Tithi Bhattacharya, Anthony Carrigan, John McLeod, Maurizio Calbi, Martine Hennard Dutheil De La Rochere, Eleonora Sasso, Teresa Gibert, Colette Selles, Michela Vanon Alliata, Dave Gunning, Esther Peeren, Prudence Layne, Timothy Weiss, Kerry-Jane Wallart, Elsa Sacksick, Myriam Suchet.

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*Kaleidoscope: An Anthology of Sri Lankan English Literature, Volume 2*

By D.C.R.A Goonetilleke (ed.)

Colombo: Vijitha Yapa Publications, 2010

ISBN: 978-955-665-107-2. \$6.00.

Available online: [www.vijithayapa.com](http://www.vijithayapa.com)

The anthology mirrors the concerns, political or domestic, individual or social, of a historical and literary period stretching from the 1950s to the present.

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*Wildes Licht : Gedichte aus Aotearoa Neuseeland, Poems / Gedichte englisch-deutsch.*

By Dieter Riemenschneider (ed. & transl.).

Christchurch & Kronberg: Tranzlit, 2010.

177 pp. € 21.00 (within Germany) € 23.00 (other European countries)

[tranzlit@iconz.co.nz](mailto:tranzlit@iconz.co.nz)

This anthology of 55 poems by 51 contemporary New Zealand poets is the first bilingual edition of New Zealand poems in German translation. It is a poetic introduction to the varied landscapes of the country, its history and stories, its people and changes. An introduction, both in English and German, a glossary of New Zealand names and cultural terms and a bio-bibliography of the poets included help present *Wildes Licht* as an interesting and useful book for students of postcolonial literature as well as of poetry and culture contact through translation.

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*Rising Anthills: African and African American Writing on Female Genital Excision, 1960–2000*

Elisabeth Bekers

August 2010

360 pp. Paper \$34.95 s e-book \$19.95 s

'A major contribution to African literary scholarship.'—Obioma Nnaemeka, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Female genital excision, or the ritual of cutting the external genitals of girls and women, is undoubtedly one of the most heavily and widely debated cultural traditions of our time. By looking at how writers of African descent have presented the practice in their literary work, Elisabeth Bekers shows how the debate on female genital excision evolved over the last four decades of the twentieth century, in response to changing attitudes about ethnicity, nationalism, colonialism, feminism, and human rights. *Rising Anthills* (the title refers to a Dogon myth) analyzes works in English, French, and Arabic by African and African

American writers, both women and men, from different parts of the African continent and the diaspora. Attending closely to the nuances of language and the complexities of the issue, Bekers explores lesser-known writers side by side with such recognizable names as Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Flora Nwapa, Nawal El Saadawi, Ahmadou Kourouma, Calixthe Beyala, Alice Walker, and Gloria Naylor. Following their literary discussions of female genital excision, she discerns a gradual evolution—from the 1960s, when writers mindful of its communal significance carefully 'wrote around' the physical operation, through the 1970s and 1980s, when they began to speak out against the practice and their societies' gender politics, to the late 1990s, when they situated their denunciations of female genital excision in a much broader, international context of women's oppression and the struggle for women's rights.

**The author:** Elisabeth Bekers is lecturer in British and postcolonial literatures at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and research affiliate at the University of Antwerp.

For more information regarding publicity and reviews contact our publicity manager, Chris Caldwell, phone: (608) 263-0734, email: publicity@uwpress.wisc.edu

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*Transcultural Modernities: Narrating Africa in Europe*

By Elisabeth Bekers, Sissy Helff, and Daniela Merola (Eds.)

Amsterdam/New York, NY, 2009, 442 pp.

ISBN: 978-90-420-2538-7

€ 92 / US\$ 124

Series: Matatu - Journal for African Culture and Society 36  
The swelling flows of migration from Africa towards Europe have aroused interest not only in the socio-political consequences of the migrants' insistent appeals to 'fortress Europe' but also in the artistic integration of African migrants into the cultural world of Europe. While in recent years the creative output of Africans living in Europe has received attention from the media and in academia, little

critical consideration has been given to African migrants' modes of narration and the manner in which these modes give expression to, or are an expression of, their creators' transcultural realities. *Transcultural Modernities: Narrating Africa in Europe* responds to this need for reflection by examining the manner in which migrants compose and negotiate their Euro-African affiliations in their narratives. The book brings together scholars in the fields of literary and art criticism, cultural studies, and anthropology for an extensive interdisciplinary exchange on the specific modes of narration displayed in Euro-African literatures, the visual arts, and cinema, as well as offering ethnographic case studies. The result is a wide range of reflections on how African artists, writers, and ordinary people living in Europe (including Spain, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Finland, Sweden, France and Britain) experience and explore their transcultural and/or postcolonial environments, and how their experiences and explorations in turn contribute to the construction of modern Euro-African life-worlds. Authors discussed include Leila Aboulela, Femi Oyebo, Kossi Komla-Ebri, Simon Njami, Gbenga Agbenugba, Ousmane Sembène and S. Pierre Yameogo. Visual artists discussed include Ibrahim El Salahi and Mohamed Bushara, Myriam Mihindou, José Zeka Laplaine. The book includes creative contributions by Fouad Laroui and Chika Unigwe.

**Contributors:** Susan Arndt, Elisabeth Bekers, Katrin Berndt, Sabrina Brancato, Nadia Butt, Jacobia Dahm, Elisa Diallo, Susanne Gehrmann, Marie-Hélène Gutberlet, Sissy Helff, Bettina Horn-Udeze, Graham Huggan, Fouad Laroui, Annika McPherson, Christine Matzke, Daniela Merolla, Obododimma Oha, Peter Pedroni, Daphne Pappers, Marie-Christine Press, Eila Rantonen, Alex Rotas, Frank Schulze-Engler, Daria Tunca, Nwachukwu Frank Ukadike

**The editors:** Elisabeth Bekers is Lecturer in British and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Brussels (VUB) and also teaches Literatures in English at the University of Antwerp. Sissy Helff is a senior lecturer in English literary and

cultural studies in the Department for the New Literatures in English at the University of Frankfurt. Daniela Merolla is a senior lecturer in African literatures in the Department of Languages and Cultures of Africa, Leiden University.

**POSTCOLONIAL ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH STUDIES (ABES)**  
(ROUTLEDGE)

The "Annotated Bibliography of English Studies" (ABES) is an online research tool published by Routledge that also includes annotations on publications (books and journal articles) in the field of postcolonial studies. As the new Section Editor I would like to give this field more profile and invite potential contributors to contact me.

Contributors are assigned articles or books for annotation -- a summary and a brief comment not exceeding 300 words -- complemented by key words from a list made available. The material is sent to the Section Editor for submission to ABES. It is Routledge policy to permit contributors to keep the article or book they have annotated.

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