

Newsletter Summer 2012

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Board Meeting in Malta

On 8th June EACLALS held a board meeting at Mellieha in Malta. Present for the meeting were Chair Geoff Davis, Treasurer Ulla Ratheiser, Secretary Stella Borg Barthet and Helga Ramsey Kurz as convener of the EACLALS triennial which is to take place in Innsbruck from 14 - 18 April 2014. Most of the morning was taken up with the day-to-day business of EACLALS whereas the focus of the long afternoon session was the Innsbruck conference, for which much work has already been done.

Zimbabwe Project

ACLALS is represented on the so-called “Culture Cluster” within the Commonwealth Organizations Committee (COCZ) on Zimbabwe, which was established some four years ago to examine ways of engaging with the country in areas such as health, education and local government and to identify needs which may be met with the aid of

organisations including Civil Society Organisations in Commonwealth countries.

Timothy Mason of the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) and Geoffrey Davis (ACLALS) accompanied by Chipso Chung (Britain Zimbabwe Society) visited Zimbabwe from 1st to 10th May. The trip was hectic, exhilarating and exhausting, but very well worthwhile. We were very impressed by the willingness of so many people in arts and culture to meet our delegation. We are also grateful to the Commonwealth Foundation which awarded us a special grant to enable us to undertake the trip.

During our visit we held some thirty meetings with people in the arts sector, attended numerous theatre and music performances and made a number of site visits to cultural institutions such as the National Museum, the National Gallery and the Harare City Library as well as to the University of Zimbabwe Theatre Department and to a youth project in the high-density area of Chitungwiza.

Overall we met some hundred people including artists, arts administrators, academics, crafts workers, publishers, writers, actors, gallery and museum curators, representatives of foreign cultural institutes, and diplomats.

We attended a three-day seminar on “Giving Voice to the Artist’: The Impact of Current Cultural Policy Discourse on Zimbabwean Arts” held at the Book Café cultural centre and hosted by Nhimbe Trust. This was addressed

by the Mayor of Harare, by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Integration and International Cooperation, and by numerous arts practitioners. It provided some very useful insight into the ongoing debate on cultural policy in the country.

Our visit was planned to coincide with the 13th Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA). This proved to be a hugely popular and successful event and provided the opportunity to meet numerous artists informally, to see a wide range of performances and to gain a glimpse of the potential of the arts to bring people together in Zimbabwe.

On the positive side a great many people in the arts have been getting on as best they could in extraordinary and often difficult circumstances and producing good work especially in literature, the visual arts and music. We greatly admired the activities of those institutions which have survived through economic downturn and political repression such as the Book Café, Gallery Delta, the Dance Trust of Zimbabwe and Weaver Press. In spite of many difficulties Zimbabwe continues to have a very lively cultural scene. This is indebted in part to the ongoing involvement of major European donor institutions particularly from Scandinavia, the Netherlands, and France which have maintained a long-standing commitment to the country. In the field of education especially Britain and Australia have been very supportive.

Many arts practitioners are nevertheless in need of help of all kinds. After years of international isolation there

is a general absence of training in arts management and administration, a lack of contact with arts institutions overseas such as museums, and widespread ignorance of contemporary developments in the arts elsewhere. Zimbabwean cultural practitioners need the opportunities to travel and to participate in exchanges of all kinds which in recent years the political situation has largely denied them.

Infrastructure in arts institutions is in a poor state. The roof of Harare City Library is leaking, the roof of the Dance Centre has collapsed. There is a need for basic technical equipment such as computers and for books to stock libraries whose holdings have not been kept remotely up to date.

The country suffers too from a lack of a cohesive cultural policy due not least to the fact that eleven different government ministries are involved to some extent in culture. We heard much protest against the bureaucratic and financial hurdles placed in the way of artists coming into the country from abroad and criticism of the poorly funded National Arts Council for focusing on what are perceived as traditional arts rather than on contemporary developments.

We have now submitted a 30-page report to the Commonwealth Foundation and to COCZ, which contains numerous recommendations on ways of re-engaging with the cultural sector in the country and of helping to meet their needs.

We are planning a report-back workshop with members of the Zimbabwean diaspora in the UK possibly in conjunction with the Britain Zimbabwe Society, which will be held soon and will hopefully be exploring ways of enabling Zimbabwean artists in all sectors to re-engage internationally and of supplying some of the outstanding needs, especially in areas such as arts administration.

The full report and recommendations for action will be distributed more widely after the report-back session. There will also be a full report at the forthcoming ACLALS Triennial.

Geoff Davis

Conference Reports

A Report on the conference of the Association for the Study of New English Literatures (ASNEL, or GNEL in its German acronymic existence)

Theme: “ Post-Empire Imaginaries? Anglophone Literature, History and the Demise of Empire”

May, 2012. Berne, Switzerland. Around 150 attendees, from 20 different countries, 68 presentations. 3 Keynote lectures, over 20 panels (of various designations), 8 posters presentations. 4 poet performances, 3 student awards. Chocolate, cake, coffee, tea. Sustenance enough for scholars and students of post-colonial inclinations.

The Association for the Study of New English Literatures (ASNEL, or GNEL in its German acronymic existence) was

taken for the first time beyond the borders of Germany: Prof. Dr. Barbara Buchenau and Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter invited members, friends and interested scholars to the picturesque location of Berne, Switzerland. The theme of the conference bespoke a journey into history but also into the present: The question mark featured so prominently in the title of the conference quickly proved to be apt, stimulating debates that sought to critique and unfold that other prominent aspect of the title, empire (featured twice: as Post-Empire and Demise of Empire).

Scholarly conversations, I have to say, rather than debates. The fourteen ‘regular’ panels addressed Empire in a number of forms, as “History and the Wonder of Empire”, “Selling Empire”, “Interpreting Empire” and “Figures of (Post-)Empire”; critiques of terminology formed the focus of others, as panels on “Cosmopolitanism, Diaspora, Displacement” and “Liquid Modernity? Constructions of Space and Time” attest; “The Sounds of Empire”, “Creatures at the Margins” and “Sites of Struggle: Political Inscriptions of Empire” foregrounded approaches that draw on various disciplines to critique notions of Empire. The by now established inclusion of ‘Under Construction’ panels provided a platform for the discussion of emerging projects, primarily but by no means exclusively presented by PhD candidates, attesting to ongoing engagements with Empire and its aftermath at numerous institutions throughout the German-speaking world and beyond. The importance ASNEL places on emerging scholars was underlined at the evening event, where three M.A. or equivalent theses were awarded with prizes: Regina Anna Petra Schulz is to be commended for her by all accounts

outstanding thesis which won the ASNEL Graduate Award 2012, as are Christina Neumann and Friederika Hahn for their complimentary prizes.

The keynote lectures, as well as one or two broadly conceived ‘panel debates’, were scheduled such that touchstones for conversation were established—in the q&a sessions following, in references in other papers, and often continuing into the breaks for continuation in smaller groups. Donna Landry, Alfred Hiatt and Ann Stoler’s contributions in the form of keynote lectures provided initial scholarly nourishment for each of the three days. Landry’s contribution sparked dialogues on the spatialised understanding of Empire in post-colonial studies by drawing attention to the Ottoman Empire—an empire with margin and centre on the same soil—as well as the temporal dynamics of empire and a probing of ideas of melancholia with the Turkish conception of *kuzum*. Hiatt turned to cartographic practices, placing the *mappa mundi* at the centre of his lecture, and in doing so, demonstrated how we might think through practices of representation, reading visual texts and forms of ‘painting back’. Stoler, finally, spoke of and to the archive, elucidating questions we might ask of the smudges at the edges of paper, of students and ourselves, suggesting rather elegantly that ruins are not what is left, but what we are left with.

At the other end of the scholarly day, the conference brought its members together in several different formats to discuss the ongoing ‘name debate’ and concomitant issues of studies of Anglophone literatures and cultures:

A plenary panel addressing the ‘Name Debate’ was scheduled on the first day, followed on the second day by a panel entitled “Academic Post-Empire Imaginaries” which drew attention to the discipline both in research and in the classroom. These issues also were central to discussion in the AGM, scheduled before the conference dinner on the second day. Whether the GNEL/ASNEL might be known as GAPS (Gesellschaft für anglophone postkoloniale Studien/Association for Anglophone postcolonial studies) in the future will, in the end, depend on decisions made at AGMs over the next two years: Chemnitz and Potsdam.

The first day was followed by the award ceremony mentioned above and a delectable tasting of poetry performed by Chirikure Chirikure, Jurczok 1001, Meena Kandasamy and Lebogang Mashile in the evening. The juxtaposition of Chirikure Chirikure’s smattering of Shona amongst his English poems with Jurczok 1001’s *Schwizerdütsch* performance highlighted how ‘close to home’ many of the concerns of language, literature, identity, empire and history can be. Must be. I feel the inclusion of literary works – indeed of performed poetry – brings a sense of vitality to the academic work done at GNEL conferences, and this year was no different.

The final plenary panel “New Directions in the Study of Literature and Culture after the Demise of Empires” was scheduled just before we left on our various ways: The overall impression I took away with me from this panel as well as the conference as a whole was one that stressed “New Directions” rather than dwelling on the issues of

“Demise”. The conversations had, and those imagined between the unique constellations of panels visited and papers heard, were invigorating. A smorgasbord—not simply sustenance.

Kylie Crane (Mainz-Germersheim)

A Report on the African Studies Association UK Conference, 6-8 September 2012, University of Leeds

This multidisciplinary biennial conference was organised jointly by the African Studies Association UK (ASAUUK) and the Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS). It brought together about 500 established academics and postgraduate students from around the world and provided a full and stimulating programme.

There were up to 16 panels in each scheduled period, and, as expected, they covered a wide range of disciplines - literature, history, regional studies, media, art, performance, heritage, human rights, politics, education, sociology, health, economics, and land economy. Switching panels in each period was more difficult than at smaller conferences, partly because the panels were spread out across several buildings but also because the number of papers given on each panel ranged from two to six. This may have been frustrating for participants who wanted to hear particular speakers on different panels but it had the positive effect of keeping people together so that they could identify common themes across papers

and interrogate them further in the discussion period. In addition to the thematic and subject panels, the conference offered sessions in which participants could receive expert advice. These included a Researchers' Question Time on research resources led by SCOLMA, the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa, and a session in which editors explained the submission, selection and publishing processes for their journals.

Many of the literature papers were presented in the "New Articulations in African Literatures and Cultures" stream which included panels devoted to contemporary writing,

Ngugi wa Thiong'o giving his talk at Leeds University on 6 September 2012.



production and reception; re-reading the popular; new cosmopolitanisms; law and literature; and several sessions on cultural, historical and literary re-orientations of Indian Ocean Africa. There were other non-thematic literature panels, and literature and linguistic papers were offered on some of the regional studies panels. Among the broad themes which emerged in the literature papers, and which could be related to papers given on media and arts, were: ethics, transnationalism and globalisation; international marketplaces and modes of transmission; and popular cultural forms and new media.

On the first evening of the conference, Ngugi wa Thiong'o gave the keynote address, "Africa in the Language of Scholarship." This was a "homecoming" for Ngugi who had been a graduate student at Leeds University in the 1960s. Ngugi revealed that he had fond memories of his time at Leeds but he also remembered that as a young scholar attending an international forum, he had heard derogatory references to languages with limited vocabularies which were deemed to be unsuitable for scholarly work. As his lecture title suggests, on this occasion, Ngugi drew on this experience to question why, so many years later, African

scholars present their work in European languages. A show of hands revealed that, although many members of the audience had written books in African studies, hardly any of these works were in an African language. Despite this, the mood of the keynote was celebratory. This was reflected in the papers on Ngugi's work given in conference panels: Djiman Kasimi on Ngugi and the English language; Brendon Nicholls on history, intertextuality and gender in *Petals of Blood* and James Currey on Ngugi, Leeds and the establishment of African literature. Jane Plastow in her discussion of Ngugi's collaborative plays and their productions issued an impassioned challenge to critics to take a more inclusive approach to Ngugi's life and work by writing on his plays as well as the novels.

The second plenary was given by the younger Kenyan writer Binyavanga Wainaina, a past Caine Prize winner and founder editor of the magazine *Kwani?* Wainaina's address, rather like his memoir, *One Day I Will Write About This Place* was eclectic, idiosyncratic and, in its non-linear fashion, not always easy to follow. Wainaina sees the future as digital, allowing a network of writers – whether based in Johannesburg, Lagos or Nairobi – to disseminate popular culture worldwide through the internet, creating what, in another context, Wainaina has called "an immediate world." The novels produced in this way may be in series with episodes that build up drama and plot.

Following the conference dinner, Professor Megan Vaughan gave her ASAUK presidential address and the

winners of the Distinguished Africanist Awards and the Audrey Richards thesis prize were announced. A wine reception was held to celebrate the 50th volume of the Journal of Modern African Studies and the African Affairs 2012 African Author Prize. Those of us who attend major literature conferences are used to more cultural events such as performances and readings but, given that the keynotes, academic papers and networking had to be crammed into two and a half days, there was little time for anything else. There was a film screening - Caroline Kanya's Imani, portraying the lives of three people in Uganda - but it was perhaps screened too late in the day and attracted only a small, though appreciative, audience.

ASAUK and LUCAS should be complimented on the smooth running of such a large and diverse conference and thanked for the warmth and collegiality of the environment they created.

Pauline Dodgson-Katiyo

Forthcoming Conferences

Diasporas, Cultures of Mobilities, "Race" conference series

"Diaspora and 'Race'"

October 25-27, 2012

Wake Forest University (North Carolina, USA)

Partners for the conference at Wake Forest University:

CAAR (Collegium for African American Research)

Department for Continuing Education (University of Oxford, UK)

IRIEC (Institut de Recherche Intersite Etudes Culturelles, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, France)

EMMA (Etudes Montpelliéraines du Monde Anglophone, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, France)

MIGRINTER (CNRS, Université de Poitiers, France)

Wake Forest University (North Carolina, USA)

This is the second meeting in the conference series entitled Diasporas, Cultures of Mobilities, "Race" organized by Pr Sally Barbour (Wake Forest University, USA), Dr David Howard (University of Oxford, UK), Dr Thomas Lacroix (IMI, Univ. of Oxford, UK; MIGRINTER, Université de Poitiers, France), Dr Judith Misrahi-Barak (EMMA, Université Paul-Valéry - Montpellier 3, France), and Pr Claudine Raynaud (EMMA, Université Paul-Valéry - Montpellier 3, France) in partnership with such institutions as :

- CAAR (Collegium for African-American Research);
- the Centre de Recherches Littéraires et Historiques de l'Océan Indien (CRLHOI, University of La Réunion);
- the Centre of South Asian Studies (CSAS, University of Edinburgh, UK);
- the Department for Continuing Education (University of Oxford);
- the Institut de Recherche Intersite Etudes Culturelles (IRIEC, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3);
- the International Institute of Migration (IMI, University of Oxford);
- the MSH-Montpellier (Maison des Sciences de l'Homme-Montpellier);
- Wake Forest University (North Carolina, USA);

• Wesleyan University (USA).

1. Preparatory Symposium: 'Diasporas and Cultures of Migrations', June 20-23, 2011, Université Paul-Valéry - Montpellier 3

2. International conference: 'Diasporas and "Race"', October 25-27, 2012, Wake Forest University (North Carolina, USA)

3. International conference: 'African-Americans, "Race" and Diaspora', June 13-15, 2013, University Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3

4. Concluding symposium: June 30-July 2, 2013, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, UK

Co-convenors:

Pr Sally Barbour (Wake Forest University, USA)

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“African Americans, ‘Race’ and Diaspora”

June 13-15, 2013

University Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, France

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF ABSTRACTS:

November 15, 2012

Specifically dedicated to the interlocking issues of “race” and the Black Diaspora, this event is the third in the “Diasporas, Cultures of Mobilities, ‘Race’” Conference series, organized by the research center EMMA (University Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, France) in partnership with CAAR, CRLHOI (Université de la Réunion), MIGRINTER (Université de Poitiers) Department for Continuing Education (Oxford University, UK) Wake Forest University (NC, USA)

http://pays-anglophones.upv.univ-montp3.fr/?page_id=285

We seek contributions (theoretical interventions as well as case studies) in the fields of African American Studies and African Diaspora Studies in the disciplines of the social sciences and the humanities that address the following issues:

Identities. The diverse uses of “diaspora” (Hall, Gilroy, Edwards) have redefined the field of “African American Studies”. Should we rethink African American “identity” in relation to a subject more broadly and complexly understood as racialized and diasporic? More specifically,

is the concept of “intersectionality” (Crenshaw) a useful tool in the current effort to draw on Black Feminist Studies, Gender Studies, Queer theory and GLBT Studies? In what ways do the notions of super-diversity (Vertovec), multi-ethnicity and multi-raciality reconfigure the “black subject”?

Diaspora, race and oppression. The notion of “race,” has been historically articulated with that of black/African diaspora. Should the paradigmatic position of the black diaspora be rethought and/or reaffirmed since slavery and postcoloniality as well as race consciousness are at the core of its often contested exceptionalism? Are trauma, oppression, forced migration still coterminous with black diaspora?

Plural, global diaspora(s). Current research on Blacks in Europe, Blacks in Latin America and in the Indian Ocean has opened new ways of conceptualizing race and black consciousness as well as the relation to time and place, heritage and territory, history and memory. How are we to envision the links, the breaking points and the articulations between the two notions in light of critical race theory, race formation theory, new racism, and the conception of black diasporas as rhizomatic, in motion, and plural? Can transnationalism, creolization, cosmopolitanism be substituted to or complement black diaspora? How are we to think of a “global” black diaspora in the context of intercultural and interracial exchanges?

Migrations and Black Diasporas. A comparison between African Americans, new African migrants to the US and diasporas that have settled in other countries (Caribbean, Argentina, Brazil, other Latin America Countries) can help us confront longue durée social process of diaspora sedimentation and short durée new migration flows. In what ways have the new South-to-South migration routes from and within Africa questioned, historical sedimented diasporic and racial identities? Is there a Black Diaspora within Africa and what light does it shed on the diaspora/race nexus?

Post-race? The terms “post-race” and “post-black” stand at the core of heated debates among scholars. Have the different disciplinary fields vested interests in preserving one concept over another through certain combinations? What are the ideological implications of these choices? What is the place of new African immigrants with regard to the building of post racial societies in the US, Europe, Brazil, Argentina and other Latin American/Caribbean countries?

Re-presentations. The arts (literature, the visual arts, popular culture, the Internet) are privileged markers of these evolutions: notions of avant-garde, of globalization, utopias. The current controversy around African American literature (Warren, Gates) and presence of writers who reject race identification (cf. Everett, Whitehead) and of an American literature from the African diaspora (cf. Mengestu, Adichie) is a case in point.

Deadline for submission of abstracts (maximum 250 words): November 15, 2012

Please submit a short bio-bibliographical notice as well (maximum 200 words) and copy the five co-convenors of the conference in your email (see addresses below).

International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE)

**Post-doctoral summer school on “Englishes in a Multilingual World: New Dynamics of Variation, Contact and Change”
Freiburg, Germany, 15 – 19 Apr. 2013**

For the first 30 years after its establishment as a new sub-field of English linguistics, the study of ‘English as a World Language’ (EWL) was largely conceived of as a monolingual enterprise, the research priority being to come to terms with the linguistic and sociolinguistic legacy of colonialism. Less attention was paid to Englishes in multilingual settings outside the colonial ambit and to non-traditional avenues for the spread of standard and vernacular varieties of English, such as the global entertainment industry or recent waves of migration related to globalization rather than colonialism. With the emergence of the research paradigm of the ‘sociolinguistics of globalization’, it is now possible to extend the scope of EWL studies to include precisely these phenomena both in empirical description and in new theoretical models. In sponsoring the (post-)doctoral spring school, ISLE aims to provide a forum for doctoral students and early career

researchers. Participants are expected to present their own research projects and develop them further through constructively critical dialogue with each other and with a faculty comprising leaders in the field.

Submission of proposals:

Applications are invited from doctoral students and early-career researchers working in the fields of World Englishes and language and globalization. Applicants should submit (email or hard copy):

(a) a brief (one page) CV and, where applicable, a list of publications

(b) an abstract (of no more than 2 pages) detailing the ongoing research project to be presented at the school.

Applications should be submitted to:

Prof. Christian Mair (Chair of English Linguistics),
Englisches Seminar, Universität Freiburg, Postfach, D
79085 Freiburg i. Br., Germany

Email: christian.mair@anglistik.uni-freiburg.de

The deadline for submissions is 31 October 2012.

Further Information:

For further information and regular updates refer to the ISLE homepage at:

<http://www.isle-linguistics.org/>.

3rd International Conference of Young Researchers on Anglophone Studies

“The Significance of the Insignificant in Anglophone Studies”

Hosts: ASYRAS (Association of Young Researchers

**on Anglophone Studies) and the Department of English Philology - University of Oviedo
5 - 7 June 2013 in Gijón**

ASYRAS (Association of Young Researchers on Anglophone Studies), together with the Department of English Philology of the University of Oviedo, is pleased to announce the 3rd International Conference of Young Researchers on Anglophone Studies that will be held in Gijón, 5-7 June 2013. This follows on from the two successful ASYRAS conferences which were organised at the University of Salamanca in 2009 and 2011. Again, it is our aim to promote, disseminate and favour the exchange of research done by young scholars on the different fields of Anglophone Studies (Culture, Linguistics, Literature and Translation Studies).

Call for papers

The conference will welcome contributions (papers, posters and round tables) on any field related to Anglophone Studies. The theme of the conference will be “The Significance of the Insignificant in Anglophone Studies”. Roland Barthes questions in *The Rustle of Language* (1986: 143) if everything in narrative is significant and, if not, “what is ultimately, so to speak, the significance of this insignificance?”

Possible topics might include (but are not limited to):

Cultural Studies

• Arts and Media

• Cyborgs, Cybercultures and the Posthuman

• Gender Studies

- Identity Politics
- Queer Studies
- Spatial Studies

Linguistic Studies

- Applied Linguistics
- Cognitive Linguistics
- Contrastive and Corpus Linguistics
- Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics
- EFL, ESL, Language Acquisition
- Language Change and Historical Linguistics
- Lexicology and Semantics
- Phonetics and Phonology
- Psycholinguistics
- Sociolinguistics
- Syntax and Morphology

Literary Studies

- Comparative Literature
- Critical Theory
- Modern and Contemporary Literature
- New Literatures
- Non-fiction Studies
- Old English and Medieval Studies
- Postcolonial Studies
- Renaissance and Early Modern Studies

Translation Studies

- Audiovisual Translation
- Genre Translation
- Translation and Technology
- Translation Didactics and Training

- Translation History
- Translation Theory

Participants, who should be postgraduate students or in the initial stages of their research career, are invited to submit their proposals in the submission form to asyras2013@espora.es

- Oral presentations will be 20 min. long followed by 10 min. discussion. Oral presentation abstracts should not exceed 250 words.
- Round tables should include three or four brief presentations (approx. 10 min. each) followed by an open discussion (approx. 20-30 min.). A round table should not consist of a succession of papers; participants are expected to engage in lively discussions. Round table abstracts should not exceed 500 words.
- Posters should be A1. Posters will be displayed for informal browsing with scheduled sessions for individual discussion with authors. Poster abstracts should not exceed 250 words.

Deadline for submission of proposals: 1st November 2012
Acceptance of proposals will be confirmed by 15th December 2012

Proposals will be peer-reviewed and a selection of papers will be published.

15th EACLALS Triennial
'Uncommon Wealths: Riches and Realities'
Innsbruck, Austria,
14-18 April 2014

Confirmed keynote speakers:

Shirley Chew (Singapore)

John McLeod (Leeds)

Stephen Slemon (Edmonton)

In light of the natural disasters and political and fiscal crises marking the new millennium, it seems more than timely that EACLALS should use its 15th triennial to retrace its conceptual roots in the Commonwealth and reconsider the notions of commonality and wealth.

Postcolonial discourse has preferred to utilize poverty, subalternity and disadvantage as theoretical categories and rarely examined what Foucault calls the "abuses and arrogance of wealth" or refined wealth as a measure of advantage and disadvantage. Yet the production of wealth has been both a motivation behind and a justification for colonial expansion.

These demand our attention though, especially as the discrepancies between the wealthy and the poor are being reinforced by the global financial crisis and protest movements against corruption and economic injustice are drawing hitherto unimagined constituencies. The Arab Spring and the Occupation of Wall Street are cases in point, demonstrating the urgent need for a critical reassessment of such concepts as "general good" and "public welfare" and a careful appraisal of resources that still give currency to the idea of a commonly shared wealth. Such resources include also more uncommon wealths: riches not necessarily perceived as such if only because of their inherent resistance to commodification.

The organizers would like to encourage papers that look at Commonwealth literatures and languages, as embodying such riches and, at the same time re-presenting other cultural wealths threatened by monetization, consumerism and affluenza.

The full call for papers will be advertised in the EACLALS Newsletter in Winter 2013. Questions or suggestions concerning the conference can be sent to Convener Helga Ramsey-Kurz (helga.ramsey-kurz@uibk.ac.at).

New Books on Postcolonial Studies

Postcolonial Memoir in the Middle East: Rethinking the Liminal in Mashriqi Writing
by Norbert Bugeja
Research in Postcolonial Literatures Series,
Routledge, August 2012

The book reconsiders the notion of liminality in postcolonial critical discourse today. By visiting Mashriqi writers of memoir, Bugeja offers a unique intervention in the understanding of ‘in-between’ and ‘threshold’ states in present-day postcolonialist thought. His analysis situates liminal space as a fraught form of consciousness that mediates between conditions of historical contingency and the memorializing present. Within the present Mashriqi memoir form, liminal spaces may be read as articulations of ‘representational spaces’ — narrative spaces that, based as they are within the histories of local communities, are nonetheless redolent with memorial and imaginary

elements. Liminal consciousness today, Bugeja argues, is a direct consequence of the impact of volatile present-day memories on the re-conception of the open wounds of history.

Incisive readings of life-writings by Mourid Barghouti, Amin Maalouf, Orhan Pamuk, Amos Oz, and Wadad Makdisi Cortas demonstrate the double-edged representational chasm that opens up when present acts of memorializing are brought to bear upon the elusive histories of the early-twentieth-century Mashriq. Sifting through the wide-ranging theoretical literature on liminality and challenging received views of the concept, this book proposes a nuanced, materialist, and original rethinking of the liminal as a more vigilant outlook onto the political, literary and historical predicaments of the contemporary Middle East.

Dr Bugeja is Lecturer in Postcolonial Literature at the University of Kent, UK. More details and information about the book can be accessed at: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415509138/>

Moving Spirit: The Legacy of Dambudzo Marechera in the 21st Century
Edited by Julie Cairnie and Dobrota Pucherova
LIT Verlag, Berlin, May 2012

ISBN: 978-3-643-90215-3
 UK orders: www.centralbooks.co.uk
 Europe orders: www.litwebshop.de

North America orders: orders@transactionpub.com
 Southern Africa orders: www.clarkesbooks.co.za

This multimedia collection inspired by the life and work of the Zimbabwean cult writer Dambudzo Marechera (1952-1987) demonstrates the growing influence of this author among writers, artists and scholars worldwide and invites the reassessment of his oeuvre and of categories of literary theory such as modernism, postmodernism and postcolonialism. Including a DVD with audio-visual creative contributions and rare archival material, this volume will be of interest to scholars and students of African, postcolonial and postmodernist literature and culture, as well as audio-visual artists, writers and biographers.

Contributors: Elleke Boehmer, Comrade Fatso, Jane Bryce, Robert Fraser, Flora Veit-Wild, Chris Austin, heeten bhagat, Nana Oforiatta-Ayim, Ery Nzaramba, Nhamo Mhiripiri, Norman Vance, James Currey, Jennifer Armstrong, Memory Chirere, Anna Leena Toivanen, Tinashe Mushakavanhu, Carolyn Hart, Katja Kellerer, Gerald Gaylard, Julie Cairnie, Dobrota Pucherova, Alle Lansu, Ilpo Jauhianinen, Fiona Lloyd, Olley Maruma

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AFTERWORD

Me and Dambudzo: A Personal Essay by Flora Veit-Wild

Remembering Roy Campbell: The Memoirs of his Daughters, Anna and Tess

by Judith Lutge Coullie,

Winged Lion Press (Hamden, CT: 2011).

Judith Lutge Coullie, professor of English at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, has edited the memoirs of the daughters of the South African poet, Roy Campbell (1901-1957).

The book carries an introduction by the editor and a

preface by Joseph Pearce.

The Campbells experienced first-hand the political and social upheavals of post-World War I Europe, the cementing of white power in South Africa, the rise of communism and the Spanish Civil War, and World War II. Their lives intersected with profound artistic and philosophical changes and they mixed with some of the key figures in European, South African and American artistic circles, including Virginia Woolf, Wyndham Lewis, the Sitwells, Augustus John, Bernard Meninsky, Jacob Epstein, Laurie Lee, Tristram Hillier, Dylan Thomas, Laurens van der Post, William Plomer, Uys Krige, Hart Crane....

New Perspectives on The Black Atlantic Definitions, Readings, Practices, Dialogues

Edited by Ledent, Bénédicte / Cuder-Domínguez, Pilar

Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2012. 316 pp.

ISBN 978-3-03911-801-4 pb.

ISBN 978-3-0351-0422-6 (eBook)

This collection of essays attempts to expand the notion of the «Black Atlantic» beyond its original racial, geographical, linguistic and cultural borders while acknowledging its remarkable ability to disturb established historical truths and to go beyond traditional dichotomies, thereby providing an essential tool for cross-cultural understanding.

The book is divided into four sections, each of them dealing with a different approach to the question of the “Black Atlantic”. “Definitions” touches on the various limitations of Gilroy’s original concept. “Readings” focuses on how the “Black Atlantic” can be productively used in certain readings of literary texts. “Practices” shifts towards the practical applications of the concept in order to explore the impact it has had on academic disciplines and examine to what extent it may have altered their epistemology and working procedures. Finally, “Dialogues” engages with the “Black Atlantic” from the perspectives of two creative writers whose work includes transatlantic themes and characters.

Contents: Bénédicte Ledent / Pilar Cuder-Domínguez: Introduction - Laura Chrisman: Black Whose World Is This Anyway? Black Atlantic and Transnational Studies after The Black Atlantic - Kathleen Gyssels: The ‘barque ouverte’ (Glissant) or The Black Atlantic (Gilroy): Erasure and Errantry - Christabelle Peters: Crossing the Black Atlantic to Africa: Research on Race in ‘Race less’ Cuba - Daria Tunca: Away from a Definition of African Literature (s) - Gary Younge: Drawing a line between Europe and the ‘Other’ - John McLeod: Taking Shortcuts: Literary Perspectives of the ‘Black Atlantic’ - Imen Najjar: Carnival and the Carnavalesque in Robert Antoni’s Carnival - Wumi Raji: Tornadoes Full of Dreams : Paul Gilroy’s Black Atlantic and African Literature of the Transatlantic Imagination - Eva Ulrike Pirker: A Black Atlantic Agenda: Artistic / Narrative Strategies in Caryl Phillips’s The Atlantic Sound and Isaac Julien’s Paradise

Omeros - Kathleen Chater: Mapping the Black Presence in England and Wales - Mar Gallego: Teaching the Black Atlantic in Spain: Institution lateralization and European Convergence - Judith Misrahi-Barak: Teaching Caribbean and Black Atlantic Studies in France: A Few Elements of Understanding - Emad Mirmotahari: Paul Gilroy’s Black Atlantic Diaspora in Africa’s Other - Caryl Phillips / John McLeod: - Lawrence Hill / Pilar Cuder-Domínguez, “Who are you calling a foreigner?": “A Person of Many Places.”

Bénédicte Ledent is Professor at the University of Liège (Belgium), where she teaches English language and postcolonial literature. Pilar Cuder-Domínguez is Professor of English at the University Huelva (Spain), where she teaches British and English-Canadian Literature and Feminist Theory.

Reading Transcultural Cities

Edited by Isabel Carrera Suárez, Emilia Durán Almarza and Alicia Menéndez Tarrazo.

Universitat de les Illes Balears, 2011. Col·lecció Estudis Anglesos, 2012. ISBN 978-84-8384-203-4

City literature is a vital part of contemporary writing but has only recently begun to escape academic confinement to certain periods and (sub)genres. This volume brings together, in the work of twelve international academics, theoretical and critical reflections on recent urban texts, with a special focus on transcultural exchanges. The global city, as site of transnational fluxes and internal exclusions, is shown here to intersect with regional,

national and postcolonial dimensions. While many of the essays focus on European and North Atlantic geographies, all settings are inextricably linked with other geopolitical axes, neo/colonial routes or international displacements. City literature exposes the range of human experience behind these configurations, and critical approaches differ accordingly. The result is a dynamic interface of voices, texts and contexts, a portrait of cities as ambiguous places of belonging, desire, escape, memory, solidarity and (sometimes) enabling transcultural encounters: a record of shifting urban experiences, lived and expressed in dialogical contiguity.

Contents

1. Introduction: Transcultural Urban Imaginaries.
Isabel Carrera Suárez.
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8. From Embodied Spaces to Disembodied Places: Manjula Padmanabhan's Harvest and Escape.

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12. A Woman's Journey of Transgression from Santiago to Havana.

Gloria Alicia Caballero Roca.

Isabel Carrera Suárez is Professor in English at the University of Oviedo. Her research focuses on contemporary writing and the intersections between postcoloniality and gender. Recent publications include chapters in *Tropes and Territories* (2007), *Reading(s) from a Distance* (2008), *Metaphor and Diaspora* (2012) and the co-editing of *Post/Imperial Encounters* (2005) and *Nación, diversidad y género* (2010). Her current work is centred on urban representation, with a monograph forthcoming with Routledge.

Emilia Durán Almarza is Associate Lecturer in English at

the University of Oviedo. Her research and publications focus on literary and performative works by Caribbean diasporic authors. She has been visiting scholar at Columbia University and University of Leeds, and taught at the University of Chicago and Wisconsin-Green Bay. Recent publications include *Performerías del Dominicanyork* (2010).

Alicia Menéndez Tarrazo holds a PhD (Doctor Europeus) from the University of Oviedo, where she is currently a Lecturer in English. Her research and publications focus on urban representation in contemporary literature, with special attention to Canadian writing and postcolonial, gendered perspectives. She is the author of *Teoría urbana postcolonial y de género* (2010).

Palestine in Israeli School Books: Ideology and Propaganda in Education
by Nurit Peled-Elhanan

**IB Tauris publishers www.ibtauris.com
ISBN: 9781780765051 August 2012**

Each year, Israel's young men and women are drafted into compulsory military service and are required to engage directly in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This conflict is by its nature intensely complex and is played out under the full glare of international security. So, how does Israel's education system prepare its young people for this? How is Palestine, and the Palestinians against whom these young Israelis will potentially be required to use force, portrayed in the school system? Nurit Peled-Elhanan argues that the

textbooks used in the school system are laced with a pro-Israel ideology, and that they play a part in priming Israeli children for military service. She analyzes the presentation of images, maps, layouts and use of language in History, Geography and Civic Studies textbooks, and reveals how the books might be seen to marginalize Palestinians, legitimize Israeli military action and reinforce Jewish-Israeli territorial identity. This book provides a fresh scholarly contribution to the Israeli-Palestinian debate, and will be relevant to the fields of Middle East Studies and Politics more widely.

Nurit Peled-Elhanan is Lecturer in Language Education in the Faculty of Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A co-recipient of the 2001 Sakharov Prize for Human Rights and the Freedom of Thought, awarded by the European Parliament, she has written extensively on Israeli education, and is a regular speaker and writer both in Europe and in the USA on matters concerning the Israeli occupation and its effects on both Israelis and Palestinians. She is a member of the Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Parents for Peace, and one of the founders of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine 2009.

Obituary

It is our sad duty to inform you that Sue Ryan-Fazilleau, whom many will remember for her remarkable humane qualities, died of lung cancer earlier this month at the untimely age of 57.

Sue had been teaching Australian and New Zealand studies at the University of La Rochelle, France, where she was a well-loved teacher and a very active academic, specializing in the work of Peter Carey and contemporary Australian (crime) fiction. She was the author of *Peter Carey et la quête postcoloniale d'une identité australienne* (2007), and editor of *New Zealand & Australia: History, Narrative, Representation* (2008). She organized her last conference as recently as September 2011, in spite of the private struggle she was bravely fighting unknown to most delegates.

She will be sorely missed by all who were lucky enough to cross paths with her.