Call for Papers: 5th Biennial Graduate Student Conference in Germanic Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, Friday, March 21, 2014

“Packaging Meaning: Culture and Concepts in Words and Grammar”
Conference: Friday, March 21
Abstract Submission Deadline: January 15
Acceptance Notification: February 1

The question of meaning—where it resides, how it is created and transmitted between subjects—is what unifies the humanities. Whether we approach meaning from the perspective of linguistics or literary analysis, representation or cognition, such inquiry must always address the nexus of language and culture. The Department of Germanic Studies at The University of Texas at Austin invites submissions from all areas of Germanic Studies (linguistics, literature, cultural studies, second language studies, for any Germanic language) to share original contributions to the study and teaching of meaning at the intersection of language and culture.

We invite contributions from any of the following fields and subfields.

Theoretical Approaches to Meaning
• Semantics (semantic change, contrastive semantics, Frame Semantics)
• Meaning representations
• Construction Grammar, argument structure, verb classes
• Semiotics
• Metaphor and figurative language
• Cognitive Linguistics and Psycholinguistics
• Linguistic relativism
• Language in specific domains (humor, emotion)

Meaning in Interaction
• Sociolinguistics
• Intercultural communication (and miscommunication!)
• Embodied interaction
• Studies of meaning in language contact situations
• Discourse Analysis
• Conversation Analysis

Meaning in Literature and Culture
• Hermeneutics
• Linguistic analysis of literature
• Translation and adaptation
• Investigating language and meaning in cultural studies research (film/media studies, women and gender studies, queer studies, ethnic studies, etc.)
• Layered meaning in multilingual / multicultural literature and film
• Integrated teaching of foreign language and culture
Our keynote speaker will be Hans C. Boas, the Raymond Dickson, Alton C. Allen, and Dillon Anderson Centennial Professor of Germanic Studies and Linguistics at The University of Texas at Austin. Information about Dr. Boas and his work can be found at http://sites.la.utexas.edu/hcb/.

We welcome abstracts from various fields within or related to Germanic Studies. We encourage proposals for individual or co-authored presentations of 20 minutes. Abstracts of 250-500 words, including references and examples, should be e-mailed to germanicgradconf2014@gmail.com by January 15, 2014, along with a brief biographical statement (including name, institution, degree level, e-mail and phone number). Notifications of acceptance will be sent by February 1.

Please visit the UT-Austin Germanic Studies website at http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/germanic/ for more information about the conference and updates in the coming weeks!