Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present

The University of Texas at Austin
October 16-17, 2009

In conjunction with a conference honoring Elizabeth Warnock Fernea
Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present

An Interdisciplinary Conference at The University of Texas at Austin

Organized by the Program in Comparative Literature; held in tandem with the Sixth Annual Graduate Comparative Literature Conference and a conference honoring Elizabeth Warnock Fernea

October 16-17, 2009

*All panels will be held in the Texas Union
Registration and Breakfast: Eastwood Room
Panels A: Governors’ Room
Panels B: Sinclair Room
Panels C: Lone Star Room

Plenary Address will be held in the Avaya Auditorium, with a reception following in the foyer of the Applied Computational Engineering & Sciences Building

Roundtable will be held in the Governor’s Room of the Texas Union
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The Program and its Graduate Students would like to thank the following departments and programs for their generous support:

Graduate Student Assembly

Dr. John Hoberman and Dr. Peter Hess and the Department of Germanic Studies

Dr. Dana Cloud and the Department of Communication Studies

Dr. Nicolas Shumway and Dr. Madeline Sutherland-Meier and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Dr. Daniela Bini and the Department of French and Italian

Dr. Sharon Strover and the Department of Radio, Television and Film

Dr. Alan Tully and the Department of History

Dr. Esther Raizen and the Department of Middle-Eastern Studies

Dr. Liz Cullingford and the Department of English

Dr. John Hartigan and the Americo Paredes Folklore and Public Cultures Center

Dr. Douglas Biow and the Center for European Studies

Dr. Itty Abraham and the South Asia Institute

Dr. Cynthia Buckley and Dr. Thomas J. Garza and the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies and CREEES
Special thanks to:

**Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza**  
Director, Program in Comparative Literature  
Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor, English Department

**Dr. César A. Salgado**  
Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese  
Graduate Adviser, Comparative Literature

**Victoria Rodriguez**  
Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Students

**Dean Randy Diehl, Senior Associate Dean Richard Flores**  
and the College of Liberal Arts

**Geneva Walton, Joseph Ackers**  
Administrative Assistants, College of Liberal Arts

**Billy Fatzinger**  
Graduate Coordinator, Comparative Literature

The organizers of the conference:  
**Chair**: Simone Sessolo

**Student Conference Committee**: Naminata Diabate, Francisca A. Folch-Couyoumdjian, Anna Marin, Lanie Millar, Michal Raizen-Colman, Frank Strong, Fatma Tarlaci, Bhavya Tiwari

**Graduate Student Hosts**: Christian Bancroft, Dana de Greff, Jennifer Lang, Rachel Mazique, Stephanie Odom, Jayita Prashant Sinha, Connie Steel

Program Layout and Design || Maryam Shariati and Julianna Leachman
A Welcome from the Program Director

The field of Comparative Literature has, from its inception, tracked international conflict at crucial junctures, offering an alternative path of intercultural and interlinguistic collaboration and exchange. Whether during the Napoleonic and imperial wars of the nineteenth century, or during more recent conflicts, our work has been to fashion a multiple, hybrid, and transnational frame for imagining the future through the comparative investigation of our cultural past. This year’s conference topic invites us, as we negotiate present global pressures, to focus on the postcolonial. We shall ask ourselves to what extent the defining discourse of the colonial past informs and causes our present. Beyond the purely discursive, however, we will also explore “postcolonial actualities,” which is to say those lived, individual, expressive and human events which embody the postcolonial, sometimes even before the actual empires end. Edward Saïd, along with others, challenged us to resist positing a vantage point outside of the actualities of the relations among cultures, to see liberation as an embedded, global and transnational project. This process of becoming free is what the remarkable array of papers to be delivered by our participants enables.

Dr. Elizabeth M. Richmond-Garza
Director, Program in Comparative Literature
Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor, English Department
Secretary-Treasurer, ACLA
Friday, 16 October

8:00 am – 8:30 am
Continental Breakfast, catered by the Texas Union

8:30 am – 10:00 am
Session 1 Panels

A1: Literature and American Roots
Moderator: Dr. Matt Cohen

Nancy El-Gendy (U of Oklahoma):
“From Separateness to Inclusiveness: Appropriation as a Mode of Healing in Silko’s Ceremony and Hakki’s The Lamp of Umm Hashim”

Courtney Shultz (Ohio U):
“Leslie Marmon Silko’s Re-Appropriation of Indigenous Cultural Identity through Hybrid Cultural Texts in Almanac of the Dead”

Claire Cothren (Texas A&M U):
“Erna Brodber’s Louisiana and the Queering of Diasporic Identity Construction”

B1: The Embodiment of Shifting Spaces: The Convulsive Landscape in Latin America
Moderator: Dr. César Salgado

Maria Zambrano (UT Austin):
“A New Imperial Design? Juan León Mera and José de Alencar”

Rocio del Aguila (UT Austin):
“Bodies and Borders: Re-shaping the Space and the Subjects of the Nation”

Karla Gonzalez (UT Austin):
“Drifting Frontiers, Migrations and New Identities in Early Mexican-American Literature”
C1: Urban City-Scapes
Moderator: Dr. Karen Grumberg

Nancy Demerdash (Princeton U):
“Mapping Myths of the Medina: Repackaged Colonial Legacies, Oriental Brandscapes, and the Politics of Tourism in Marrakech”

Phillip Webb (DePaul U):
“From Colonial City to Metropole: Forming the Postcolonial Metropolis”

Frank Eckardt (Bauhaus U Weimar):
“Postcolonial Urbanism: German Cities Entering a New Phase of Recognition”

10:10 am – 12:00 pm
Session 2 Panels

A2: Africa: Memory and New Media
Moderator: Dr. Fehintola Mosadomi

Okuyade Ogaga (College of Education, Warri):
“The Globality of God or Western Triumphalism? Filmic Battles and the (Re)colonisation of Africa”

Agatha Ukata (U of the Witwatersrand):
“Breaking the Ice of National Ties Beyond the Boundaries of the Postcolonial Cities through Film: Nollywood Videos Speak”

Kristen Anthony (UC Irvine):
“Abyssinian Chronicles: Isegawa’s Call to Re-Imagine the Nation”

B2: Literary Horizons
Moderator: Dr. Karen Pagani

Kate Caccavaio (Michigan State U):
“Creating the English: Race and Class in Caryl Phillips’ A Distant Shore”
Cheryl Duffus (Gardner-Webb U):
“The Sister Who Immigrates and the Sister Who Stays: Negotiating Cultural and Gender Identity in Monica Ali’s Brick Lane”

Anna Morlan (Pace U New York):
“I Think of You: A Eulogy for Cultural Identity Lost in the Process of Self-translation”

Célia Sadai (U Paris IV):
“Focus on the New Generation of African Writers. The Global Citizen’s Emergence: Figure, Myth or Concept?”

C2: Theoretical Investigations
Moderator: Dr. Michael Johnson

Paul Nadal (UC Berkeley):

Jason Mohaghegh (Northeastern Illinois U):
“Postcoloniality and Posthumanism: Explorations of the Outsider Identity”

Deniz Daser (Koç U):
“Ideology in Diasporic Identity Formation: The Case of Turkish and Kurdish Political Refugees in Switzerland”

Szu-Ping Huang: (Independent Scholar)
“Where Have All the Human Clones Gone? Empire and the Multitude in Never Let Me Go”

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Lunch Break

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Session 3 Panels
A3: European Hybridity
Moderator: Dr. Alexandra Wettlaufer

Ashfaque Hossain (U of Nottingham):
“The Counter Flow of Globalization and the ‘Sylheti (Bengali) Diaspora’ in Britain”

Elsa Peralta (Lisbon Technical U):
“Postcolonial Aesthetics in the Heart of the Empire: Or, Translating Colonial Legacies into Cosmopolitan Multiculturalism”

Aliza Wong (Texas Tech):
“Making (the New) Italians: Race, Diaspora, and the New Southern Question”

B3: Genre and Political Thought
Moderator: Dr. Tarek El-Ariss

Mahyar Entezari (UT Austin):
“Gholamhoseyn Sa`edi’s Postcolonial Dramas: Shi`i and Socialist Syncretism in Pre-Revolutionary Iran”

Jennifer Rickel (Rice U):
“Once Upon a Global City: Neoliberal Fantasies and Literary Reflections”

Lauren Shababb (George Washington U):
“Colonizing Poetry: History, Poetry, and Imperialism in Ahmed Ali’s Twilight in Delhi”

C3: Poetry Reading: Postcolonial Issues
Moderator: Dr. Marjorie C. Woods

K. Gandhar Chakravarty will be reading and discussing some poems out of his recent publication Kolkata Dreams

Roger Reeves (Michener Center) will read some of his poems dealing with postcolonial issues.
2:40 pm – 4:30 pm
Session 4 Panels

A4: Global Citizenship in the Wake of Neoliberalism
Moderator: Dr. Dana Cloud

Dana Cloud (UT Austin):
“Global Capitalism and Its Expression in Postcolonial Culture and Politics”

Kathleen E. Feyh (UT Austin):
“Race, Oppression, and Authenticity in Russian Hip Hop Culture”

Diana Martinez (UT Austin):
“Imaging Postcolonialism: A Comparison of Anzaldua’s Archive and Iconic Images of Immigration”

Tiara Naputi (UT Austin):
“Guerra del Gas: Subaltern Counterpublics and Bolivian Responses to Neoliberalism”

B4: Mafarka at 100
Moderator: Christopher Micklethwait

Carlos Amador (UT Austin):
“Mafarka’s Ethics”

Christopher Micklethwait (UT Austin):
“Marinetti’s Orientalist Modernism”

Dafydd Wood (UT Austin):
“Mafarkan Poetics”

Martino Lovato (UT Austin):
“Mafarka’s Dynamic Epic”
C4: India: Literary Partitions
Moderator: Dr. Snehal Shingavi

Ammar Naji (U of Wisconsin Madison):
“I Am Like the Catholicized Cordoba Mosque, I Experimented: The Postcolonial Hybrid and Rushdie’s Visual Aesthetics in The Moor’s Last Sigh”

Joy Barber (Western Washington U):
“Imagining Ourselves in the Cage: Critiques of Positivist Cosmopolitanism in Aravind Adiga’s The White Tiger”

Debjani Chakravarty (Arizona State U):
“Phantasmagoric Kolkata and Bona Fide Boston: The Urban Imaginary in Jhumpa Lahiri’s Fiction”

Natasha Raheja (UT Austin):
“Creating Difference: Language Manipulation as Identity Building in the Sindhi Diaspora”

5:00 pm
Plenary Address by Dr. Emily Apter (NYU)
Reception to follow, catered by O’s Cafe
8:00 am – 8:30 am
Continental Breakfast, catered by the Texas Union

8:30 am – 10:00 am
Session 5 Panels

A5: Women Studies and India
Moderator: Dr. Hélène Tissières

Bhavya Tiwari (UT Austin):
“Gender and Nationalism in Dalit Writings”

Rituparna Mitra (Michigan State U):
“River Churning: The (Il)Legibility of Gendered Violence and Belonging in the Postcolonial City”

Debra Veira (York U):
“Cross-Border Penetration: The Female Body, Nation, and Acculturation in Londonstani and The Reluctant Fundamentalist”

B5: Literary Contagions
Moderator: Dr. Hannah Wojciehowski

Robert Weeks (UT Austin):
“Migration des textes: Canonical Counter-Discourse and Emigration in Jamaica Kincaid’s Lucy (1990)”

Sarah Townsend (UC Berkeley):
“The Playboy of the Western World (2007) and the Politics of Recognition”

Shadi Neimneh (U of Oklahoma):
“Transgressive Texts/Bodies: J. M. Coetzee’s ‘Postmodern’ Corpus”
C5: Caribbean Connections  
Moderator: Dr. Jennifer M. Wilks

Christopher Garland (U of Florida):  

Emmett McKenna (Saint Louis U):  
“Postcolonial Harlem: The Postcolonial Identities of Afro-Caribbean Radicals”

Senayon Olaoluwa (Osun State U):  
“Mother Country: or Contested Space? Empire and the Anxiety of Colored Cosmopolitanism in Andrea Levy’s Small Island”

10:10 am– 12:00 pm
Session 6 Panels

A6: Domesticity and Women  
Moderator: Dr. Pascale Bos

Gaelle Raphael (UC Irvine):  
“Subversive Submission: Patriarchy, Neocolonialism, and the Domestic Space in Three Postcolonial African Novels”

Jennifer Cho (George Washington U):  
“Come almost home’: Post/Neo-colonial Memory and Displacement in Chang-rae Lee's A Gesture Life”

Cynthia Francica (UT Austin):  
“Queer Female Sexuality and Opacity in Jean Rhys’ Wide Sargasso Sea”

Christina McCoy (UT Austin):  
“Writing the Nation: Memory and Gender in Maldito Amor by Rosario Ferré”
B6: Social Practices
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Harlow

Christine James (Valdosta State U):
“Revisiting Mark Twain in the Age of Bioinformatics: From Dawson’s Landing to New Halliburton”

K. Gandhar Chakravarty (U de Montréal):
“Ibandla lamaNazaretha: Liminal-Hybridic and Symbolic-Spiritual Resistance in Colonial South Africa”

Jackie Zahn (UT Austin):
“‘Re-Lusifying’ Brazil: The First Congress of the Portuguese in Brazil (1931)”

Aimee Roundtree (U of Houston Downtown):
“‘Urgent Response’: Cyberscam Emails as a Virtual Construction of Postcolonial Identity”

C6: Citizenship, Art, and Media
Moderator: Dr. Janet K. Swaffar

Ariel Evans: (Independent Scholar)
“The Amrita Project: Modern India, Curatorial Practice, and the Past in the Present”

Meheli Sen (DePaul U):
“The Dandy in Bombay City: Dev Anand, Masculinity and Stardom in Nehru’s India”

Jairo Salazar (U of North Texas):
“Fragments of Colombia Brought to the Tate Modern: Doris Salcedo’s Shibboleth and the Buried Memories of Catastrophe”

Benzi Zhang (Chinese U of Hong Kong):
“The Actuality of Citizenship in Chinese Diaspora Literature: A Postcolonial Perspective”
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Lunch Break

1:00 pm – 2:50 pm
Session 7 Panels

A7: Mapping Materialism: Materialist Paradigms and Postcolonial Understandings of Empire in Popular Culture
Moderator: Dr. Thomas Garza

Megan Sibbett (UT San Antonio):
“Disidentifying Materiality in Humor, Rage and Terror: Wanda Sykes and the 20th Hijacker”

Patricia Portales (UT San Antonio):
“She’s Shifted Her Position: Chicana Women’s Changing Agency in WWII”

Lawrence Schwegler (UT San Antonio):
“Towards Subsistence Materialism: Explaining Exotic Spice from Solomon to Spice Girls”

Nicole Provencher (UT San Antonio):
“To Prove A Point: Woman as an Object and Fetish in The Killing Joke”

B7: Instances of Eco-Criticism
Moderator: Naminata Diabate

Sola Ogunbayo (Redeemer’s U):
“‘Nature Methodized’: Hybridized Reality in Tanure Ojaide’s ‘The Activist’”

Crystal Boson: (Independent Scholar)
“We Can Drown Here Too: Houston, Hurricanes and Black Dystopic Migration”

Michael Velarde: (Independent Scholar)
“Can the Segundo Barrio Speak? Coloniality and Urban ‘Redevelopment’ in El Paso, TX”
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
Roundtable on Professionalization and the Job Market

4:15 pm
End of Conference

4:30 pm
Happy Hour at The Dog and Duck Pub

406 W 17th St
Austin, TX 78701-1207
(512) 479-0598
Eastwood Room, Governors’ Room, Sinclair Room, and Lone Star Room are all located in the Texas Union.

Avaya Auditorium is located on the first floor of the Applied Computational Engineering & Sciences Building.
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A7 Provencher, Nicole (UT San Antonio)
C4 Raheja, Natasha (UT Austin)
A6 Raphael, Gaelle (UC Irvine)
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B2 Sadai, Célia (U Paris IV)
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B5 Townsend, Sarah (UC Berkeley)
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C6 Zhang, Benzi (Chinese U of Hong Kong)
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A4  Dana Cloud
B7  Naminata Diabate
B3  Tarek El-Ariss
A7  Thomas Garza
C1  Karen Grumberg
B6  Barbara Harlow
C2  Michael Johnson
B4  Christopher Micklethwait
A2  Fehintola Mosadomi
B2  Karen Pagani
B1  Cesar Salgado
C4  Snehal Shingavi
C6  Janet Swaffar
A5  Hélène Tissières
A3  Alexandra Wettlaufer
C5  Jennifer M. Wilks
B5  Hannah Wojciehowski
C3  Marjorie C. Woods