

Multiple Cultures – Multiple Perspectives

With respect to the fact that multiple cultures can only be defined from multiple perspectives, the conference's title proposes to open up the necessary "spaces of contradiction". What are these spaces, where do we find them - where do cultures take place? As one of the prominent sites of cultural production, the urban space brings forth syntheses of cultures, mixtures and hybrids – it is the primary site of negotiation and also conflict. Furthermore, the multicultural coincides with the multimedial: Does the technological revolution of the information age work to eliminate differences wherever the necessary infrastructure exists, how can we grasp culture when cyberspace assumedly levels national borders? Do multiple cultures spread their influence via the internet, or does a new form of leveling take place, are there new concepts which appear in an environment outside the traditional borderlines? The new concepts and realities of culture – focusing on hybridity, the diaspora and the multiple - leave no room for easy antinomies like "it's them or us". Inevitably addressing the political, the conference will focus on questions like these and others, all relating to the interaction of multiple cultures and identities, and the perspectives arising therefrom. It will also take into account our very own and personal stance and position in a cultural framework which is getting increasingly intertwined, be it in the media, politics, academia or cyberspace.

Students of all faculties are invited to present original or seminar papers on the topic, join the discussions or just listen.

www2.hu-berlin.de/amerika/projects/multiplecultures

Thursday, May 15, 2003

16:00 - 17:00: Opening of the Conference

UL 6, R 3119

Opening Addresses

Matthias Oppermann

Keynote Address: Story, Archive, Apparatus. American Studies Decentered

17:20 - 18:00: Reception

UL 6, R 2004 A

18:00 - 20:00: Guest Lecture

UL 6, R 2097

Prof. Bob Boyer, Saskatchewan Indian Federated College
The History of Aboriginal Art and How it Affects Bob Boyer

(part of the lecture series "Citizenship and Multiculturalism in Canada. Cultural Difference and Identity Construction")

Friday, May 16, 2003

UL 6, R 3119

10:00 - 12:00: Session I

Chair: Philipp Kneis

Christoph Raetzsch
Cultural Hybridity

Bert Bobock

Identity Formation and the Internet

12:00 - 13:30: Lunch Break

13:30 - 16:00: Session II

Chair: Jennifer Evans

Eddie Bruce

Afro-German Identity: A Diasporic Literature

Simon Strick

Emulation-Dialogics-Diaspora: Strategies of Intercultural Translation in German Minority Rap

Carsten Junker

On the Difficulty of Being White and Not Racist

16:00 - 16:30: Coffee Break

16:30 - 19:00: Session III

Chair: Susann Neuenfeldt

Beatrice Michaelis, Elaine Haschemi Yekani

"Where are the Lesbians?" - The Topography of Lesbian Desire in 1950s and 1960s America in the Pulp Novels of Ann Bannon

Philipp Kneis

"Friends of Ours." Strategies of Minority Self-Assertion and Self-Definition on "The Sopranos"

Ben Letzler

"A sliced tomato you have maybe".

Jewish-American Literature and the Question of Food

Round-Up Discussion

Saturday, May 17, 2003

UL 6, R 3119

10:00 - 12:00: Session IV

Chair: Claudia Schwarz

Sladjia Blazan
Gender and Migration in Contemporary Slavic American Literature

Laimas Fergizas

Refugee Migration as Founding Basis of Multiculturalism

12:00 - 13:30: Lunch Break

13:30 - 16:00: Session V

Chair: Anne Koch-Rein

Alexandra von Barsewisch

Bordering on Images: Reflections on the Film The Garden of Eden by Maria Novaro

Steven Corcoran

Multiculturalism and Universality

Michael Funk

Searching for Room at the Inn:

Minority Conservatism and the Critique of Multiculturalism

16:00 - 16:30: Coffee Break

16:30 - 19:00: Session VI

Chair: Simon Strick

Kim Förster

Reading New York City and Other Cities in Novel Ways. The Construction of New Meanings of Urban Spaces in and through Paul Auster's New York Trilogy

Manuela Thiel

American Indians and U.S. Higher Education

Claudia Schwarz

"A Nuyorican State of Mind."

On Nuyorican Poetry and the Refusal to be Colonized.

19:15 - 20:00: Concluding Discussion

Chair: Hannes Schaser

This Conference is sponsored and supported by the American Studies Program at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and the Fachschaft of the Institute of English and American Studies

Questions of Identity and Urbanity in a Transnational Context. 3rd Annual Students Conference, May 15-17, 2003