



Welcome to the Website of the International Conference

"Constructions of Home

**Interdisciplinary Studies in Architecture, Law and
Literature"**

26-28 November 2008

in cooperation with

Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, München

Institut für Informations-, Telekommunikations- und
Medienrecht, Münster

Institut für Anglophone Studien, Essen

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION:

**CONSTRUCTIONS OF HOME
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN ARCHITECTURE, LAW
AND LITERATURE**

**AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
26-28 November 2008**

TO BE HELD AT:

ENGLISCHES SEMINAR, WESTFÄLISCHE WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNSTER

JOHANNISSTR. 12-20, 48143 MÜNSTER

IN COOPERATION WITH

ZENTRALINSTITUT FÜR KUNSTGESCHICHTE, MÜNCHEN

INSTITUT FÜR INFORMATIONS-, TELEKOMMUNIKATIONS- UND MEDIENRECHT, MÜNSTER

INSTITUT FÜR ANGLOPHONE STUDIEN, ESSEN

In a time characterized by globalization and preoccupied with questions of migration and cultural exchange, conceptions of 'home' in the form of local cultures and long-term geographic positioning have become highly unstable, uncertain and ambivalent. This has led to cultural deficits, but also created new opportunities in fundamentally changing the lives of large parts of the world population. At the same time, points of reference which can be recognized as 'home' and which foster associations of stability, for the individual as much as for social groups and for entire cultures, have retained their significance; in some instances, they have even acquired new importance in shaping the way people organize their lives and make their decisions in politics, community life, cultural practice or in forming their general outlook.

Geographically, the study of various traditional concepts of home in Europe can be a point of departure. The British tradition epitomized by the much-quoted phrase "My Home is My Castle" comes to mind, or the culturally almost untranslatable idea of German *Gemütlichkeit*. More recent developments as analysed and presented by migration studies in an increasingly multicultural and politically changing Europe might be taken into account.

This conference will not only explore constructions of home and how these concepts have always already been part of interrelationships through travel or trade, a colonial past and many other channels of cultural exchange; it will also focus on the most recent departures in highly mobile, flexible and culturally diverse societies, in transnational and transcultural situations, and on the question how rootedness and 'home' can be experienced and constructed in these rapidly changing environments.

Contributors, mainly but not exclusively from the fields of

- architecture, arts and design
- legal studies
- literary and cultural studies

are invited to submit papers dealing, for example, with the following issues:

- How to define 'home'?
- What are delimitations of home in various contexts?
- How are concepts of home constructed in virtual space / virtual reality?
- Which strategies or material constituents are used in constructing concepts of home?
- How are aspects of home re-defined and utilized in mobile cultures?
- How can home be imagined in inter- or transcultural contexts? Which aspects of home lend themselves more easily to 'translation' and exchange than others?
- What are the main challenges to any given constructs of home in a globalized society?
- Is 'home' becoming an anachronistic concept?
- What is the impact of an ever increasing technological progress on conceptions of home?
- What influence can be observed by geographical discoveries and social developments?
- How are constructions of home characterised by notions of permanence or transience, and how do they reflect a given attitude towards time?
- How are environmental givens (e.g., geography, weather) integrated in constructions of home (aspects of ecocriticism)?

Deadline for submission of papers: 1 October 2008

Length of Abstract to be submitted: ca. 300 words

Please send abstracts to

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Programme

Wed, 26

Nov

- Keynote Lecture: Prof. Dr. Michael McKeon**
09:00-10:00 "Constructions of Home in Early Modern England: An Overview"
- 10:00-10:30 *Coffee*
- Prof. Dr. Kevin Cope**
10:30-11:15 "Home is Where the Heat Is: Hole, Holy, and Holistic Dwellings and Modern Domestic Proficiency"
- Prof. Dr. Walter Göbel**
11:15-12:00 "Homes Lost and Found. Three Expatriate Indian Novelists"
- 12:45-14:00 *Lunch*
- Prof. Dr. Ulf Müller**
14:00-14:45 "Individual and Collective Home in German Civil Law"
- Prof. Dr. Maria Donata Panforti**
14:45-15:30 "The Family Home and the Law: A Comparative Overview of the Western Legal Systems"
- 15:30-16:00 *Coffee*
- Keynote Lecture: Prof. Dr. George Rousseau**
16:00-17:00 "Longing for Home: A Middle-European Case History"
- Prof. Dr. Jochen Achilles**
17:00-17:45 "Constructions and Contestations of Home in African-American Theatre"
- Lori Lyn Greenstone, MA**
17:45-18:30 "Interpreting the Blueprint for The Road Home by Rose Tremain"
- Dinner at Molloh's (African cuisine)/ Hörsterstr. 33 (not included in conference fee; please register on arrival)**
19:30

Thu, 27 Nov

- 09:00-10:00 **Keynote Lecture: Prof. Dr. John**

- Archer**
"Towards an Aesthetics of Home"
- 10:00-10:30 *Coffee*
- 10:30-11:15 **Prof. Dr. Wolf Tegethoff**
- 11:15-12:00 **Dr. ing. Heiko Lieske**
"How to Root Yourself in Suburbia"
- 12:00-13:30 *Lunch*
- Prof. Dr. ing. Niels-Christian Fritsche**
"Housing as a Restricting Conditio
Humana: About the Concurrence of
Private Property, Human Language and
Perception"
- 13:30-14:15 **Prof. Dr. Alfred Sproede**
"The Ithaca Syndrome. Literature and
Public Space in Post-Imperial Ukraine"
- 14:15-15:00 *Coffee*
- Prof. Dr. Sonja Fielitz**
"The Literal and Architectural
Fashioning of Private and Public Homes:
British Country-House Poems of the
18th Century"
- WORKSHOP I**
- Patrick Gill, MA**
"The Enemy You Know: The Uneasy
Domesticity of Dylan Thomas's *Under
Milk Wood* as a Response to a World in
Crisis"
- Dr. Katja Kanzler**
"Architecture, Writing, and Vulnerable
Signification in Herman Melville's 'I and
My Chimney'"
- 16:15-19:00 **Dr. Florian Kläger**
"Roots and Routes in Contemporary
Irish Drama"
- Marie Löffler**
"All We Ever Remember Is Their Scars' -
Dismantling the Foundations of Home
in African-American Speculative Fiction"
- Gregor Pudzich, MA**
"After the Diaspora: Concepts of Home
in African-Canadian Literature"
- PD Dr. Katharina Rennhak**
"Imagining the Nation as Home; or

Regulating English Desire in Mary Mitford's *Our Village*"
Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer
"The British 'Intrusion Comedy': 19th Century and After"

[Thanksgiving Dinner at Parkhotel Schloss Hohenfeld](#) / Dingbängerweg
400 (not included in conference fee; please register on arrival)
Shuttle bus leaves at 19:30 from the English Seminar

20:00

Fri, 28 Nov

Prof. Dr. Immacolata Ammodeo
09:00-09:45 "The Emergence of a New *Heimaten-Literatur*. Migrant Literature in Germany."

Dr. Elke Schuch & Neil Deane, BA, MSc:
09:45-10:30 "Merseypride or the Importance of Geography in the Construction of Home and Belonging"

10:30-11:00 *Coffee*

WORKSHOP II

Anna Maria Everding, BA
"Complements of Home - 'Belle Rêve' and 'Elysian Fields' in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*"
11:00-12:00 **Prof. Dr. Annette Kern-Stähler**
"Homeliness in Late Medieval England"
Franziska Quabeck, MA
"Shooting Up and Coming Home - Heroin as a Substitute for Home in Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* and *Porno*"

12:00 *Buffet*

Valedictory: Prof. Dr. Daniela Carpi
13:15-13:45 "The Law Firm as the House/ Home of Law in P.D. James's *A Certain Justice*"