



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

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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 WILHELMС-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

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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**

"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)

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**

**Dr. ing. Heiko Lieske**

11:15-12:00 "How to Root Yourself in Suburbia"

12:00-13:30 *Lunch*

**Prof. Dr. ing. Niels-Christian Fritsche**

"Housing as a Restricting Condition"

13:30-14:15 **Humana: About the Concurrence of Private Property, Human Language and Perception"**

**Prof. Dr. Alfred Sproede**

14:15-15:00 "The Ithaca Syndrome. Literature and Public Space in Post-Imperial Ukraine"

15:00-15:30 *Coffee*

**Prof. Dr. Sonja Fielitz**

"The Literal and Architectural"

15:30-16:15 **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'"

**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

20:00 400 (not included in conference fee;  
please register on arrival)

Shuttle bus leaves at 19:30 from the  
English Seminar

Fri, 28 Nov

**Prof. Dr. Immacolata Ammodeo**

09:00- "The Emergence of a New *Heimatent-*  
09:45 *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*"