

6th AISCLI conference

Università Roma Tre 17-18 January 2013



cultureS and imperialismS 2013

The 6th AISCLI conference intends to discuss the continuing relevance of Edward Said's *Culture and Imperialism* (1993) on the twentieth anniversary of its publication. It aims to assess its importance for postcolonial studies and read it against the contemporary literary, cultural and political scene. Twenty years allow for the formation of both historical perspective and critical revision, and offer the possibility of investigating new readings and uses of Said's powerful proposal alongside other recently-emerged theoretical perspectives and areas of inquiry.

One of the main traits of postcolonial studies is the persistent need of exploring the transnational cultural trends and local phenomena constantly emerging on the world's stage by making use of ideas and interpretive tools that are flexible and ever-changing. Many new developments in the last twenty years have redefined the way we think about literature, culture and imperialism, and have impacted also on the way we address postcolonial issues. For example, the challenges raised by the destruction of established socioeconomic systems on all continents, the erosion of alternative counter-cultures, the birth of new grassroots movements and worldwide networks – all of this asks for an understanding of complex global dynamics that, though in perpetual tension with local ones, have actually reframed our ideas of hegemonic centers and subaltern peripheries, metropolitan empires and marginal cultures. It is within the context of these major historical shifts in the world's cultural landscape that, following Said's vision, contemporary literatures, arts and criticism can play an important role as instruments of knowledge and, possibly, change.

The Rome conference on “Cultures and Imperialisms 2013” will explore the relevance of postcolonial thinking, writing and criticism in engaging with the following topics:

- *Culture and Imperialism* today
- Said and later theory
- Contrapuntal readings
- Stereotypes and representations
- North/South, West/East?
- The maps of imperial power
- History, memory and the cultural imaginary
- Pictures of imperialism
- Cultural museums, storerooms of empires
- Globalization and new imperialisms
- New cultures, new writing(s)
- Recent trends in postcolonial literatures
- Resistant languages, words and silences
- The question of high and low: contemporary popular genres and discourses
- Cultures, imperialisms and migrant literature in Italy

We invite you to submit paper proposals (250-300 words) dealing with any of the above inputs and from across the wide spectrum of postcolonial literatures, arts and criticism. A comparative, interdisciplinary approach is encouraged.

The new deadline for submission is **31 October 2012**.

Please send all proposals to AISCLI info@aiscli.it

Conference committee:

Maria Paola Guarducci

Annalisa Oboe

Maria Renata Dolce

