

## **20<sup>th</sup> annual conference of ASNEL/GNEL**

(Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English)

**“Postcolonial Translocations,” University of Muenster, Germany, 21–24 May 2009**

### **Panel discussion:**

### **“Translocating Postcolonial Studies: Interdisciplinary Developments”**

#### **– Call for Contributions –**

In recent years, there have been increasing attempts to transfer theoretical and analytical paradigms originally developed in postcolonial Anglophone literary and cultural studies to other disciplinary fields. To a certain extent, this seems to tie in with an interest in interdisciplinary perspectives and cooperations which had been repeatedly expressed in postcolonial studies from a very early stage in the development of the field. However, in practice genuinely interdisciplinary projects have thus far remained rather isolated, few and far between, and often unilateral. The engagement of other disciplines with postcolonial theories has sometimes been highly selective, and even where more sustained engagements with the transferability of such theories have taken place, for various reasons little of this has fed back into a postcolonial mainstream which remains very much centred around English Studies.

This panel discussion aims to make a contribution to bridging this gap by providing a forum which brings together representatives of postcolonial English studies with representatives from diverse other fields which have accessed postcolonial paradigms. This also partly ties in with, and continues, earlier initiatives and several specialised panels at previous GNEL conferences (e.g. as regards Celtic and Jewish Studies). This year, however, we aim to focus primarily on disciplines not yet represented at previous GNEL conferences, such as:

- Classical Studies
- Archaeology
- Medieval Studies
- Art History
- Eastern European / Post-Soviet Studies
- East Asian (e.g. Japanese) Studies
- certain more marginalised sub-disciplines of South Asian Studies, such as Tibetan or Nepalese Studies

In addition, we also welcome contributions from other fields which are relevant to interdisciplinary postcolonial studies, e.g. geography, or what might be termed ‘comparative empire studies’ (for instance with regard to Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and French involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade).

Each member of the panel will be asked to give a short (5-10 min) statement on ‘postcolonial’ developments within his or her own discipline, thus providing introductory overviews and reviews which can serve as a basis for subsequent dialogue and discussion between panellists and the audience. A significant part of the discussion agenda will address the various theoretical and methodical problems, as well as potential benefits, which such interdisciplinary transfers, translations, appropriations and adaptations can entail.

#### **Suggestions for contributions should be addressed to the panel organisers via email:**

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