

Translocating Cosmopolitanism

Call for Papers for a thematic section at the ASNEL Annual Conference on “Postcolonial Translocations“, Münster University, May 21-24, 2009

In recent years, cosmopolitanism has emerged as a major new area of interest in the field of the New Literatures in English and in Postcolonial Studies. While some suspect that ‘old’ and ‘new’ cosmopolitanism may not be that different after all and that ‘cosmopolitan talk’ may serve as an intellectual decoy deflecting critical interest from more pressing issues, for others, ‘new’ cosmopolitanism promises to close the gap between cultural and literary theory and political practice by ‘grounding’ transnational and transcultural perspectives in arenas such as citizenship, civil society and human rights. The proposed thematic section seeks to promote critical debate on the significance of cosmopolitanism in the field of the New Literatures in English and Postcolonial Studies and to explore methodologies for working with cosmopolitan theories in literary and cultural studies.

We propose to organize this thematic section around three intersecting strands:

- **The translocation from ‘old’ to ‘new’ cosmopolitanism:** What’s new about ‘new cosmopolitanism’? How do older and more recent forms of cosmopolitanism intersect and diverge from each other? If cosmopolitanism is more than the latest fad in cultural theory, what then is at stake politically in the dissemination of the term?
- **The disciplinary translocation of cosmopolitanism:** How can cosmopolitan theories produced in philosophy, law and the social sciences become productive in cultural and literary studies? Can they be ‘translated’ into concrete methodologies?
- **The decentering of cosmopolitanism:** How do cosmopolitan theories and experiences in various parts of the world intersect and diverge? Are there differences between ‘metropolitan’ and ‘local’ cosmopolitanisms?

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words to the conference organizers (gnel2009@gmail.com) **and** to the section organizers:

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Deadline for abstracts: February 6, 2009