



Call for Papers

DAAD-"Hochschuldialog mit Südeuropa"

"Crisis, Risks and New Regionalisms in Europe II: Emergency Diasporas and Borderlands"

Technische Universität Chemnitz – English Literatures –
Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten
University of Milan – Department of Studies in Language Mediation and Intercultural
Communication – Prof. Dr. Claudia Gualtieri

1 – 5 June 2016 – Chemnitz University of Technology

Keynote Speakers:

Prof. Frank Wilderson III (University of California Irvine)
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Liebert (Jean Monnet Centre for European Studies,
European Studies at the University of Bremen)
Prof. Lawrence Grossberg (University of North Carolina)
Prof. Dr. Heidrun Friese (TU Chemnitz)

The central idea of the conference on "Crisis, Risks and New Regionalisms in Europe II: Emergency Diasporas and Borderlands" (June 2016 in Chemnitz) is to explore the efficacy, limitations and future of Cultural Studies as a theoretical and methodological approach in the analysis of new regional formations and recent crisis phenomena in Europe (with a focus on Germany and Italy). The stability of the EU as a political and economic union of 28 member states; the refugee tragedies off the coast of Lampedusa, Italy; the resurgence of far-right, anti-Islam political groups throughout parts of Europe (e.g. Pegida in Germany), and other pressing issues, can be addressed and discussed from a variety of media, historical, political, gender and aesthetic perspectives that Cultural Studies and Postcolonial Studies encompass. The projected conference is interdisciplinary in nature and involves not only the fields of English Literature, Cultural and Postcolonial Studies but also Gender and Queer Studies, Media Studies, Linguistics, History, Political Science, Sociology, Romance Studies, European Law, and Urban Planning (Chemnitz and Milan being both post-industrial cities).

One of the central aims of the conference will be to arrive at a new working definition of Cultural Studies in conjunction with Postcolonial and Gender Studies within a European context, followed by an outline of new approaches that will be beneficial to the research practices of scholars working in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In particular, we will focus on how post-industrial urban spaces and the perception of migration, emergency diasporas, citizenship, gender and cultural hybridity, literary, historical and historiographical texts continue to be influenced by neo-imperial power structures and globalizing processes of late modernity. We will analyse how these new

approaches will enable us to discuss and understand the financial and political crisis in some of the European countries. Our objective is to lay the foundations of a new Cultural Studies methodology that focuses on crisis phenomena in the context of complex encounters and conflicts, new regionalisms, emergency diasporas, gender studies, and neo-capitalism/neo-colonialism in a German-Italian framework.

The continuity in the cooperation between Milan and Chemnitz is not only supported by the common theoretical and empirical aims that underlie this academic project. The dialogic structure is also reinforced by the specific physiognomy of the city hosting the conference, its cultural and political history and the current resonance of various forms of crisis in its urban spaces. In the light of these challenges, the conference provides a platform to reflect upon the themes that address, but are not restricted to, the following issues:

- General Theory: The Role of Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies and Gender Studies (in Germany and Italy)
- European Crisis and Risk Societies
- Gender and Queer Perspectives in the Context of the European Crisis
- New Regionalisms and the Rise of Far-Right, Islamophobic Political Organisations (e.g. the Pegida)
- Political-Aesthetic Discourse of Migration and Borderlands and the 'Rhetoric of Burden' ("unlearning privilege")
- Migration, Neo-Colonialism and Globalisation
- Soft Borders and the Question of Citizenship and (Un)Belonging ('Fortress Europe')
- International Governance, Asylum Policies, Securitization, Border Control
- Testimonies, Stories and Narratives of Migration and Dislocation; Cultural Memory, the Archive and the Media
- Human Trafficking and other Forms of Forced Migration
- The Post-industrial City: Metropolis, Abandoned Buildings/Housing

In order for the participants (academics, experts in the field, young scholars, artists, high-profile students, public) to present in smaller workshops or panels, we invite 20-minute talks followed by discussions and responses in order to facilitate a discursive and lively conference atmosphere.

Please send an abstract (200 - 250 words) of your paper and a brief bio-note to cecile.sandten@phil.tu-chemnitz.de. The call for papers will close on **15 February 2016**. Acceptance letters will be sent by 1 April 2016.

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