Transcultural Spaces
Challenges of Urbanity, Ecology, and the Environment in the New Millennium
International Conference
October 30 – November 1, 2008
John F. Kennedy-Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Lansstr. 7-9, 14195 Berlin, Subway Station: Dahlem-Dorf

Thursday, October 30, 2008
18:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks (Room 340)
Stefan Brandt (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
Frank Mehring (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
Keynote Lecture: Lawrence Buell (Harvard University, United States)
»Nature and City: Antithesis or Symbiosis?«
Chair: Susanne Hamscha (GSNAS, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
20:00 Reception at the John F. Kennedy Institute

Friday, October 31, 2008
9:00 – 11:00 Workshop 1 (Room 203)
»Literature as Cultural Ecology: A Functional Model and Its Applications«
Michael Sauter (University of Augsburg, Germany), »Literature as Cultural Ecology: An Analysis of Philip Roth’s ‘The Human Stain’«
Funda Civelekoglu (Izmir University, Izmir, Turkey), »Archaic Structures as Imaginative Counter-Discourse«
Alexander Härning (University of Augsburg, Germany), »Literature as Culture Ecology and Foreign-Language Literary Education at School«
Georg Drennig (University of Vienna, Austria), »Reading ‘Mainstreet’ as an (Eco)(u)topia«
Chair: Timo Müller (University of Augsburg, Germany)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00 Keynote Lecture: Jean Kempf (Université Lumière Lyon, France) (Room 319)
»The American Small Town and the Reconstruction of Spaces«
Chair: Jeanne Cortiel (Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:30 Workshop 3 (Room 203)
»Nature, the Environment, and Ethnicity«
Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru (University of Bucharest, Romania), »Urban and Rural Projections of Nomadic Identities in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s Novels«
Edda Luckas (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany), »Mexican American Ecopastoralism in the Wilderness, Alma Los Valles’s Ecofeminist Fictions«
Alexander Starre (Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany), »Roots of American Nature – Negotiating Discourse and Environment in Early American Captivity Narratives«
Sonja Georgi (University of Siegen, Germany), »Ethnic Space and the Commodification of Urbanity in Larissa Lai’s ‘Salt Fish Girl’«
Chair: Akhtar M. Akhtaruzzaman (GSNAS, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

Workshop 4 (Room 319)
»Recent American Fiction pre and post-9/11«
Leyla Haferkamp (University of Cologne, Germany), »Somebodies got to get angry…: Ecoterrorism in the Work of Carl Hiaasen«
Jeanne Cortiel (University of Dortmund, Germany), »The Virtual City: Science Fiction and the Topography of Nanospaces«
Antje Dallmann (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany), »Reconnaissance Expeditions: Re-negotiating Space and Urbanity in the post-9/11 Novel«

Jan Hollm (PH Ludwigsburg, Germany), »Envisioning Eco-Dystopian Spaces: Decomposing Civilization in Cormac McCarthy’s The Road«

Chair: Susanne Hamscha (GSNAS, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:30 Keynote Lecture: Catrin Gersdorf (Freie Universität Berlin) (Room 340)
»Nature in the Grid: American Fiction and the Poetics of Urban Space«

Chair: Ulrich Meurer (University of Leipzig, Germany)

19:00 Reception at the American Academy in Berlin (Am Sandwerder 17-19, 14109 Berlin)

Artists Forum: Rolf Giesen (University of Beijing, China)
»Metropolis and Beyond«

Concert Program: Jens Barnieck (Piano)

Saturday, November 1, 2008

9:00 – 10:15 Keynote Lecture: Alan Wallach (The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, USA) (Room 340)
»The Persistence of the Panoramic: Technologies of Vision in American Culture from the 19th to the 21st Century«

Chair: Timo Tonassi (GSNAS, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

10:15 – 10:30 Short Break

10:30 – 12:30 Workshop 5 (Room 203)
»New York as Urban Environment«

- Canzio Scarponi (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy), »New York City Archipelago of Waste and Memory: Ellis Island, Rikers Island, Hart Island, Staten Island«

- James Glisson (Northwestern University, Evanston, USA), »Repressed Ecology: Cityscapes of New York City Circa 1900«

- Georgiana Banita (University of Konstanz, Germany), »On the Sacredness of Dust: Urban Memorialization and the Toxic Legacy of 9/11«

- Sandrine Baudry (Université Paris 7, France), »The Community Gardens of New York City: From Political Statement to Sustainable Developments«

Chair: Dorothee Brantz (Center for Metropolitan Studies, TU Berlin, Germany)

Workshop 6 (Room 319)
»Transcultural Poetics«

- Astrid M. Fellner (University of Vienna, Austria), »Translating Toronto on a Bicycle: Dionne Brand’s What We All Long For and the Challenges of Urbanity«

- Ralph J. Poole (University of Salzburg, Austria), »Bastardized History: Elif Shafak’s Transcultural Poetics«

Devin Zuber (University of Osnabrück, Germany), »Out of Paris, into the Favela: Transcultural Poetics of the Urban Flâneurs«

Cheryl Lousley (Univ. of Leeds), »Ethics, nature, and the stranger: Cosmopolitanism in Dionne Brand’s long poems Thirty and Insests«

Chair: Elisabeth Damböck (GSNAS, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

12:30 – 13:15 Coffee Break and Lunch Snacks

13:15 – 14:30 Keynote Lecture: Gundolf Freyermuth (International Film School, Cologne, Germany)
»Edges & Nodes // Cities & Nets: The History and Theories of Networks and What They Tell Us About Urbanity in the Digital Ages«

Chair: Christine Gerhardt (Universität Dortmund)

Closing Remarks

The organizers would like to express their gratitude to:

Devin Zuber (University of Osnabrück, Germany), »Out of Paris, into the Favela: Transcultural Poetics of the Urban Flâneurs«

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Conference fee: € 20. (Students: free of charge)