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: Graduate student JFKI
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 Application«
Michael Sauter (University of Augsburg, Germany), »Literature as Cultural Ecology: An Analysis of Philip Roth’s ‘The Human Stain’«
Funda Gökkgönül (Istanbul University, Turkey), »Archetypal Structures as Imaginative Gestalt Discourses«
Alexander Harring (University of Augsburg, Germany), »Literature as Cultural Ecology and Foreign Language Literary Education at Schools«
Georg Drennig (University of Vienna, Austria), »Reading Mainstreet Cascadia as an Ecopoem«
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 Space«
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 Dragas 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 Luz Villalobos’s Ecocritical Fiction«
Alexander Starre (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, 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: Graduate student JFKI

Workshop 4 (Room 319)
»Recent American Fiction pre and post 9/11«
Leyla Haferkamp (University of Cologne, Germany), »Somebody’s 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), »Re-negotiating Space and Urbanity in the post-9/11 Novel«
Jan Hollm (PH Ludwigsburg, Germany), »Envisioning Poco-Dystopian Spaces: Decomposing Civilization in Cormac McCarthy’s The Roads«

Chair: Graduate student JFKI
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 Spaces«
  Chair: Carmen Birke (Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)
19:00 Reception at the American Academy in Berlin (Am Sandwander 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: Graduate student JFKI
10:15 – 10:30 Short Break
10:30 – 12:30 Workshop 5 (Room 203)
  »New York as Urban Environments«
  Canzio Scarpa (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy), »New York City Archipelago of Waste and Memory: Ellis Island, Rikers Island, Hart Island, Staten Islands«
  James Glisson (Northwestern University, Evanston, USA), »Repressed Ecology: Cityscapes of New York City (1990s)«
  Georgiana Bonita (University of Koenigsberg, 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 Development«
  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 Flaneur«
  Cheryl Lousley (Univ. of Leeds), »Ethics, nature, and the stranger: Cosmopolitanism in Dionne Brand’s long poems Thirsty and Inventory«
  Chair: Graduate student JFKI
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)
14:30 Closing Remarks

The organizers would like to express their gratitude to:

Freie Universität Berlin

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NORTH AMERICAN STUDIES

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JFKI Alumni Association e.V.

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