

BORDERS DIFFERENCES DISTANCES

International Seminar
Tromsø, 10-12 November 2005
Border Poetics Project
Humanities Faculty, University of Tromsø

The aim of this seminar is to create a framework for the analysis of border-crossing narratives and figurations. Our emphasis will be upon what kind of poetic and semiotic transactions take place on the open or transversal borders of countries, communities, or artistic modes of expression. When are borders narrated as transitional spaces or zones of instability, and when are they narrated as static spaces, places, or institutions? Borders as bridges or points of interaction actively create difference, identity, and "otherness", using narrative and figural strategies – but are all differences and distances forms of border?

invited lecturers

Claudia Egerer (Ph.D.) is Senior Lecturer at the English Department of Stockholm University. She has previously held similar positions in Trondheim and Gothenberg and an honorary fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, Madison. Her dissertation has been published as *Fictions of (In)Betweenness* (1997). She is interested in the issue of border-crossings – questions of otherness, marginality, silence, language – from poststructuralist and postcolonial perspectives. Research in progress comprises a book tracing conceptualizations of the exotic in literature from the Renaissance to the era of globalization and postcoloniality, and a collection of papers investigating stereotypes of the American tourist abroad. She is also involved in the Trans-Position Project.

Wolfgang Müller-Funk (Prof. Dr. phil. habil.) teaches Modern German Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna. He has taught literature, media, cultural studies and philosophy and previously held a position in German cultural studies in Birmingham. His research interests and publications focus on the theory of culture, European cultural studies, ego-documents in European romanticism, self-images and images of the others in German-British relations, the anthropology of media, Hermann Broch, Robert Musil and Elias Canetti. His latest books include *Die Kultur und ihre Narrative: Eine Einführung* (2002) and *Niemand zu Hause: Essays zu Kultur, Globalisierung und neuer Ökonomie* (2005). He is involved in various research projects, has arranged international European postgraduate conferences, and is a regular contributor to newspapers, reviews and radio broadcasts.

how to find the seminar at the university

The 20 bus from town stops by the tall blue planetarium and the dark red administration building/bookshop, up the hill from the humanities faculty, and then once more just below the faculty. The humanities faculty (*Humanistisk fakultet*) shares a building with the social sciences faculty (*Samfunnsvitenskapelig fakultet*). From the road entrance, room A3021 is up the stairs at the end of the hall, left and up to the third floor of the A wing, and on the corner.

seminar organization

Johan Schimanski (johan.schimanski@hum.uit.no), Comparative Literature
Stephen Wolfe (stephen.wolfe@hum.uit.no), English Literature
<http://uit.no/humfak/borderpoetics/>

recommended reading

pp 141-6 of Georg Simmel, "The Sociology of Space" [orig. "Soziologie des Raumes" (1903)], in *Simmel on Culture: Selected Writings*, eds. David Frisby and Mike Featherstone, trans. Mark Ritter & David Frisby (London: Sage 1997): 137-70. Contact Johan Schimanski if you have any problems finding this.

Programme

Thursday, November 10 (Room E2003)

14:15 – 15:30 STUDENT SEMINAR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Claudia Egerer, University of Stockholm

on Malouf's *Remembering Babylon* and other material on ENG-3105 course reading list

16:00 – 18:00 PRESENTATION OF STUDENT PROJECT PROPOSALS

Participants in the ENG-3105 present and discuss term project proposals

Friday, November 11 (Room A3021)

10:15 – 10:30 SEMINAR OPENING AND WELCOME

10:30 – 12:00 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

Wolfgang Müller-Funk, University of Vienna

"Space and Border: Remarks on a Theory of Topology"

12:00 – 13:00 LUNCH

13:15 – 14:15 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

Claudia Egerer, University of Stockholm

"Border Lands: Mapping the Postcolonial/Postcolonial Mapping"

14:30 – 16:00 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Kristin Jernsletten, Carl Klintborg, Ruben Moi

16:00 – 16:30 COFFEE

16:30 – 17:30 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Short introductions by Stephen Wolfe and Johan Schimanski, University of Tromsø.

"Borders Differences Distances"

Saturday, November 12 (venue to be announced)

11:00 – 13:00 PROJECT WORKING GROUP MEETING AND DISCUSSION