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## **Zu früh verstummt**

### **Der Tod der Schriftstellerin Yvonne Vera ist ein Verlust für ganz Afrika**

Am 7. April 2005 verstarb die von vielen hochgeschätzte Schriftstellerin Yvonne Vera aus Simbabwe im Alter von nur 41 Jahren in ihrer Wahlheimat Toronto.

Die von ihr 1999 besorgte Anthologie *Räume eröffnen*, zur Gegenwartsliteratur afrikanischer Frauen von Mauritius bis Mali, war Programm. Schrieb sie doch in ihrem Vorwort, eine Schriftstellerin müsse über eine kompromisslos hartnäckige Vorstellungskraft verfügen, die imstande sei, neue Götter zu erfinden und alte, wirkungslos gewordene zu verbannen.

Sie war in Bulawayo (Simbabwe) geboren und von der York University (Toronto, Kanada) zum Dr. Phil. promoviert worden. Erste literarische Lorbeeren erwarb sie sich mit einer Sammlung von Kurzgeschichten (*Why Don't You Carve Other Animals?*, 1992). Der Durchbruch gelang ihr bald darauf mit dem Roman *Nehanda* (1993, dt. 2000), in dem sie sprachgewaltig dem Mythos der legendären Nationalheldin gleichsam von innen gesehen eine ganz neue Gestalt gab. Weitere Romane folgten: *Without a Name* (1994, dt. *Eine Frau ohne Namen*, 1997), *Butterfly Burning* (1998, dt. *Schmetterling in Flammen*, 2001), *The Stone Virgins* (2002). Bei der Fertigstellung ihres Romans *Obedience* nahm ihr der Tod die Feder aus der Hand.

Ihr dritter Roman *Under the Tongue* (1996) hatte ihr institutionell mit der Verleihung des Commonwealth Writers Prize für Afrika den größten Erfolg eingebracht. Er beginnt mit den Worten: „Eine Zunge, aus der das Leben gewichen, vermag nicht mehr zu weinen. Wie ein Grabstein lastet ein Fels auf ihr.“ Damit ist auch verdeutlicht, wie die Innenschau der jungen weiblichen Zentralgestalt in einer Art psychologischem Realismus zum Prisma von Bürgerkrieg, Chaos und Gewalt sowie den Zuständen in den Ghettos der Grubenarbeiter wird, und gleichzeitig poetisch überhöht eine lyrische Epik schafft, die eindrucksvoll auf die Macht des Wortes setzt. Was Zhiza, die Hauptfigur des Romans, denkt („Wir besitzen Zungen mit denen es zu träumen gilt“) hat Yvonne Vera kunstvoll und stilsicher verwirklicht.

Afrika und die Welt der Literatur hat eine gewichtige Stimme verloren, die insbesondere den Erfahrungen der Frauen stimmgewaltigen Ausdruck verlieh wie kaum eine andere.

**Peter O. Stummer** (München)

**GNEL/ASNEL**  
**Protokoll der ordentlichen Mitgliederversammlung**  
**an der Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Olshausenstr.**  
**40, 24098 Kiel, am 6. Mai 2005 um 17.00 Uhr**

**Die Tagesordnung vom 11.04.2005 lautete:**

1. Festlegung der Beschlussfähigkeit
2. Festlegung der endgültigen Tagesordnung
3. Protokoll der ordentlichen Mitgliederversammlung vom 22. Mai 2004, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Campus Westend, Casinogebäude, Raum 812, Grüneburgplatz 1, 60629 Frankfurt am Main, veröffentlicht in *ACOLIT* Nr. 54 (Juni 2004), S. 2-9
4. Mitgliederstand
5. Mitteilungen des Vorstandes
6. Entgegennahme und Genehmigung des Geschäfts- und Kassenberichts 2004/2005
7. Bericht der Kassenprüfer
8. Entlastung des alten Vorstandes
9. Wahl des neuen Vorstandes und der Beisitzer
10. Jahrestagungen 2006 und 2007
11. GNEL/ASNEL-Publikationen
12. Verschiedenes

Um 17.10 Uhr eröffnet der 1. Vorsitzende, Prof. Dr. Heinz Antor, die Mitgliederversammlung und begrüßt alle Anwesenden.

**TOP 1: FESTLEGUNG DER BESCHLUSSFÄHIGKEIT**

Der 1. Vorsitzende stellt fest, dass laut Anwesenheitsliste 27 Mitglieder an der Versammlung teilnehmen. Laut § 7.6 der Satzung besteht Beschlussfähigkeit, wenn mindestens ein Viertel der Mitglieder anwesend sind. Da dies nicht der Fall ist, befindet die einfache Mehrheit der Anwesenden über die Beschlussfähigkeit der Versammlung, die einstimmig und ohne Enthaltungen angenommen wird.

**TOP 2: FESTLEGUNG DER ENDGÜLTIGEN TAGESORDNUNG**

Der 1. Vorsitzende verweist auf die vorliegende Tagesordnung vom 11.04.05. Es gibt keine Änderungsvorschläge.

### **TOP 3: PROTOKOLL DER ORDENTLICHEN MITGLIEDERVERSAMMLUNG VOM 22.05.04 UNIVERSITÄT MAGDEBURG**

Der 1. Vorsitzende verweist auf das Protokoll der letzten Mitgliederversammlung, das allen Mitgliedern in *ACOLIT* Nr. 54 zugegangen ist. Es gibt keine Änderungsvorschläge zum Protokoll und das Protokoll wird einstimmig angenommen.

### **TOP 4: MITGLIEDERSTAND**

Der 1. Vorsitzende berichtet, dass im letzten Jahr ein leichter Anstieg der Mitgliederzahl zu verzeichnen war. Es gab drei Austritte und dreizehn Eintritte. Jetzt zählt die GNEL etwas über zweihundert Mitglieder. Die neuen Mitglieder werden vom 1. Vorsitzenden begrüßt: Eugen Banauch, Wien; Bettinger, Berlin; Katarina Burzynski, Zürich; Rainer Emig, Regensburg; Nancy Grimm, Jena; Arlett Günther, Sternenfels; Ursula Kluwick, Wien; Cordula Lemke, München; Maisun Sharif, Nürnberg; Doreen Strauhs, Luetjensee; Cosima Wittmann, Bad Vilbel; Ann-Katrin Wegener, Bad Iburg; Claudia Perner, Frankfurt.

### **TOP 5: MITTEILUNGEN DES VORSTANDES**

Frau Kroschewski berichtet von der Postcolonial Spring School, die vom 4.-8.04. 2005 unter dem Motto „I is for Identity – Looking beyond the Mirror“ an der Freien Universität zu Berlin stattgefunden hat und mit 151 Teilnehmern eine der bestbesuchten Summer Schools darstellte. Autoren aus aller Welt waren anwesend: Stephen Gray, Michael Sharkey, Gordon Collier, Beryl Fletcher, Sarah Quigley, Sudeep Sen, Joan Barbara Simon, Ian Ross, Birk Sproxton. Die GNEL Mitglieder Russ West-Pavlov, Cecile Sandten, Kerstin Knopf, Mark Stein, Frank-Schulze Engler, Jana Gohrlich, Jörg Heinke und Gordon Collier hielten zudem Vorträge und leiteten Seminare.

Hervorgehoben wird das internationale Flair der Summer School. Die Teilnehmer kamen aus 14 Ländern: Deutschland, Großbritannien, Österreich, Italien, Ungarn, Frankreich, Polen, Schweiz, Spanien, Slowenien, Niederlande, Tschechien, Serbien und Montenegro, Norwegen. Angeregt wird eine Reduzierung der Anzahl der morgendlichen Vorträge auf die bisher übliche Anzahl von drei, da die Vormittage von vielen Teilnehmern als überladen empfunden wurden.

Im Namen der Gesellschaft dankt der 1. Vorsitzende den Organisator(inn)en für ihre beachtlichen Leistungen. Die nächste ASS wird im Herbst 2007 an der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main stattfinden.

Die weiteren Mitteilungen des Vorstandes resultieren aus den folgenden Tagesordnungspunkten.

## **TOP 6: ENTGEGENNAHME UND GENEHMIGUNG DES GESCHÄFTS- UND KASSENBERICHTS 2004/2005**

Der Finanzbericht wird vom Schatzmeister Jochen Petzold präsentiert. Generell gibt es eine gute Bilanz des Jahres 2004. Das Jahr 2004 begann mit einem GNEL-Eigenkapital von 22.696,87 EUR. Der Jahresabschluss zum 31.12.03 weist ein Eigenkapital von 27.461,23 EUR aus; das Jahr 2004 schließt mit einem Gewinnsaldo in Höhe von 4.764,36 EUR ab. Die Zwischenbilanz zum 01.04.05 weist ein Eigenkapital von 33.719,76 EUR aus. Dem stehen die für das Jahr 2004 zu erwartenden Ausgaben von rund 18.460,00 EUR gegenüber. Werden die ausstehenden Aufwendungen mit dem Eigenkapital der GNEL verrechnet, verbleibt ein Eigenkapital von 15.259,76 EUR. Die zu erwartenden Ausgaben enthalten die Zahlungen für die Tagungsbände Aachen (2x), Erfurt, Magdeburg, Frankfurt und Kiel.

Der Schatzmeister bemerkt abschließend, dass sich die Finanzbasis der GNEL deutlich konsolidiert hat.

Auf Nachfrage von Frank Schulze-Engler bestätigt der Schatzmeister, dass der GNEL für die Jahrestagung in Frankfurt 2004 keinerlei Kosten entstanden sind.

Der 1. Vorsitzende und die Mitgliederversammlung bedanken sich beim Schatzmeister für den Kassenbericht und die geleistete Arbeit.

## **TOP 7: BERICHT DER KASSENPRÜFER**

Die KassenprüferInnen Ulrike Erichsen und Jörg Heinke berichten, dass sie den Kassenbericht am 05.05.05 sorgfältig geprüft haben und dass die Angaben des Kassenberichts für den Jahresabschluss 2004 und den Zwischenbericht zum 01.04.2005 mit den Angaben im Kassenbuch, den Kontoauszügen und dem Bestand der Handkasse übereinstimmen. Sie erheben keine Einsprüche und empfehlen eine Entlastung von Vorstand und Beirat. Ihnen wird für ihre geleistete Arbeit gedankt. Frau Erichsen und Herr Heinke stehen im nächsten Jahr wieder als KassenprüferInnen zur Verfügung.

## **TOP 8: ENTLASTUNG DES ALTEN VORSTANDES**

Die Entlastung wird beantragt. Vorstand und Beirat werden mit fünf Enthaltungen und keiner Gegenstimme entlastet.

## **TOP 9: WAHL DES NEUEN VORSTANDES UND DER BEISITZER**

Tobias Döring übernimmt das Amt des Wahlleiters. Die Wahl von Vorstand und Beirat wird in sechs Teilwahlen aufgeteilt.

1. Vorsitzender: **Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler:** 24 gültige Stimmen, 4 Enthaltungen, 20 Ja-Stimmen. Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler nimmt die Wahl an.

2. Vorsitzende: **PD Dr. Jana Gohrisch**: 24 gültige Stimmen, 3 Enthaltungen, 21 Ja-Stimmen. PD Dr. Jana Gohrisch nimmt die Wahl an.
- Schatzmeister: **Dr. Vera Alexander**: 23 gültige Stimmen, 1 Enthaltung, 22 Ja-Stimmen. Dr. Vera Alexander nimmt die Wahl an.
1. (stud.) Beisitzerin : **Claudia Perner**: 25 gültige Stimmen, 25 Ja-Stimmen. Claudia Perner nimmt die Wahl an.
2. Beisitzerin: 25 gültige Stimmen. Albert Rau: 5 Stimmen; Dr. Virginia Richter: 4 Stimmen; Dr. Axel Stähler: 0 Stimmen; Henning Schäfer: 7 Stimmen; **Dr. Susanne Reichl**: 9 Stimmen. Dr. Susanne Reichl nimmt die Wahl an.
3. Besitzer: Albert Rau: 4 Stimmen; Dr. Virginia Richter: 5 Stimmen; Dr. Axel Stähler: 5 Stimmen; **Henning Schäfer**: 8 Stimmen; 1 Enthaltung. Henning Schäfer nimmt die Wahl an.

Frank Schulze-Engler stellt den Antrag, dass künftig die Verwaltung der Internetpräsenz der GNEL in der Verantwortung des/der Vorsitzenden verbleibt. Der Antrag wird mit 1 Enthaltung angenommen. Die Mitgliederversammlung dankt Jochen Petzold für seine bisherige Tätigkeit als Webmaster.

### TOP 10: JAHRESTAGUNGEN 2006 UND 2007

#### *Jahrestagung GNEL/ASNEL 2006, Koblenz*

Michael Meyer berichtet über den Vorbereitungsstand. Der vorgeschlagene Titel der Konferenz wird unter den Mitgliedern diskutiert. Man einigt sich auf „*Word and Image*“.

Folgende Schwerpunkte sind vorgesehen:

1. Travel- and Gothic Literature
2. Children and Young Adult Literature
3. Film and New Media
4. Photography, Painting, Cartoon

Es ist eine Forumsdiskussion zum Thema vorgesehen, wie man mehr Lehrer an die New English Literatures heranbringen kann. Herr Albert Rau wäre bereit, dieses Forum mitzugestalten.

#### *Jahrestagung 2007*

Der 1. Vorsitzende berichtet, dass mehrere potentielle Veranstalter für die Jahrestagung 2007 angefragt wurden, jedoch noch keine konkrete Zusage vorliegt.

### TOP 11: GNEL/ASNEL-PUBLIKATIONEN

Frank Schulze-Engler berichtet, dass die Herbstausgabe von Acolit einen Sonderbeitrag von Gerhard Stilz zur Entwicklung der GNEL und der Beschäftigung mit den New English Literatures enthalten wird.

Die beiden Tagungsbände der Konferenz in Aachen liegen bei Rodopi zur Auslieferung bereit. Leider ist bei der Bezeichnung der Bände ein Fehler unterlaufen. Geoffrey Davis und Peter Marsden schlagen daher vor, den Mitgliedern statt der Bände 8 und 9.1 die Bänder 9.1 und 9.2 auszuhändigen. Geoffrey Davis erklärt sich bereit, diesbezüglich Kontakt zu Rodopi aufzunehmen.

Frank Schulze-Engler lobt das Modell des Editorial Board, das sich bei der Zusammenstellung des Frankfurter Tagungsbandes als sehr gut funktionierendes Hilfsmittel herausgestellt hat. Mark Stein regt an, die Beiträge zukünftig ohne Namen der Autoren an das Editorial Board zu schicken, um so zumindest eine Teilanonymität zu wahren.

### **TOP 12: VERSCHIEDENES**

Es gibt keine Wortmeldungen.

Die Sitzung schließt gegen **19.10 Uhr**.

Protokollantin: Antje Kroschewski, Berlin

gez.  
Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler, Frankfurt  
(1. Vorsitzender)

gez.  
PD Dr. Jana Gohrisch, Berlin  
(2. Vorsitzende)

**Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English (ASNEL) / Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für die Neuen Englischsprachigen Literaturen (GNEL)**

***CALL FOR PAPERS***

**“WORD AND IMAGE”**

**University of Koblenz-Landau, Campus Koblenz,  
May 24-27, 2006**

The simultaneous use of verbal and visual forms of representation constitutes a major feature of anglophone literatures and cultures, but the similarities and differences between words and images and the parameters of their coexistence have hardly been theorised and critically explored in depth. Post/colonial critiques often stress that the Other transcends verbal representation, without, however, discussing the nature of the visual representation of the Other or its relationship to its verbal context.

The aim of the conference is to debate the complex and changing relationships of verbal and visual forms of representation in the context of post/colonial and transcultural anglophone writings and discourses. The following questions are meant to prompt a more comprehensive inquiry into the use of images beyond the mere illustration of texts:

- Do images and words complement or supplement each other?
- Do images render the visible world legible?
- Do images succeed where words fail to represent the Other?
- Do visual and verbal representations add up or rather detract from each other?
- Do images and the body of the text reveal each other's gaps and shifting significations, refocusing attention and expectations?
- How and for which reasons do representations offer, defamiliarize, or subvert the voyeuristic gaze?
- How and to which end do texts and images negotiate the power, the pleasure and the fear of being watched?

Travel writing, Gothic narratives, children's and young adult literature, maps, cartoons, photography, painting, movies and websites are of special interest for presentations and discussions. Papers may want to consider the works on image, illustration, photography, film, the new media, the gaze and voyeurism by critics such as Nancy Armstrong, Jacques Aumont, Roland Barthes, Norman Bryson, Norman Denzin, Jill Casid, James Heffernan, Friedrich Kittler, Murray Krieger, J. Hillis Miller, Nicholas Mirzoeff, W.J.T. Mitchell, Peter Wagner, etc. You are very welcome to make additional suggestions for approaches, genres and thematic sections for the conference.



A teachers' workshop on Friday, 26 May 2006, will consider verbal and visual material that is highly interesting for teaching New English Literatures and Cultures at schools.

We would like to provide slots of 20 minutes for papers and 10 minutes for discussions. The deadline for abstracts is 31 December 2005.

**Contact address:**

Prof. Dr. Michael Meyer  
Universität Koblenz-Landau  
Campus Koblenz  
Universitätsstrasse 1  
56070 Koblenz  
EMAIL: ASNEL2006@uni-koblenz.de

For more information about the conference please consult the website:

**[www.uni-koblenz.de/asnel2006](http://www.uni-koblenz.de/asnel2006)**

## **“Under Construction”: Research Projects in the New Literatures in English at the ASNEL Annual Conference 2006**

At the forthcoming ASNEL Annual Conference on “Word and Image” (University of Koblenz-Landau, Campus Koblenz, Germany, May 24-27, 2006), we will introduce a new format designed to intensify academic discussion and exchange on ongoing research in our field. Two sessions will be dedicated to 15 minute presentations of current research projects undertaken by doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers and professors; each presentation will be followed by 15 minutes of discussion. The research projects should be presented as work in progress rather than in the form of “polished papers” and need not be related to the overall conference theme. The aim is to stimulate academic debate among ASNEL members and conference participants at all levels of professional experience (and not to institute a separate “junior researchers’ corner” or “*Nachwuchsforum*”).

This new format will be accompanied by another event designed to allow intensive individual exchange and feedback on ongoing research:

### **Poster Forum: Projects in Words and Images**

Conference participants are invited to present their ongoing research projects on large posters which will be on display throughout the conference. Towards the end of the conference, there will be a “Poster Forum” where conference participants have the opportunity to meet those who have displayed their projects in a “market-place” setting and informally discuss current research individually or in small groups.

Both events will be organized directly by the ASNEL Executive Board. The deadline for applying for the “Under Construction” session and the Poster Forum is December 31, 2005. Please send your applications to:

**Dr. Susanne Reichl ([susanne.reichl@univie.ac.at](mailto:susanne.reichl@univie.ac.at))**

Please indicate whether you would like to display a poster and/or introduce your ongoing research in a 15-minute presentation.

**European Network for Euro-African Studies  
Project 2006**

**Transcultural Modernities: Narrating Africa  
in Europe**

**Frankfurt University, Germany – June 1-3, 2006**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Call for Papers**

Convenors:

Elisabeth Bekers (University of Antwerp, Belgium)  
Sissy Helff (Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany)  
Daniela Merolla (University of Leiden, the Netherlands)

Whereas in recent years the creative output of Africans living in Europe has received increasing interest from the media and in academia, little critical attention has been paid to the manner in which the narrative modes in these Euro-African works give expression to or are an expression of their creators' transcultural realities. This conference responds to this need for reflection by scrutinizing how creative work explores issues such as home, migration, and diaspora, and how these explorations in turn contribute to the emergence of specific modern realities.

The conference aims to bring together researchers from different areas such as cultural and literary studies, anthropology and narratology, for an extensive interdisciplinary exchange. We invite papers focusing on modes of narration in Euro-African literature, film and other media. Questions concerning transculturality and postcolonial studies will provide other major points of entry to our discussions. The focal points of the conference will be:

- **'Tracing Euro-African Modernities - Of Asylum Seekers and Cosmopolitans'**  
(addressing fieldwork and topics such as concepts of home, inclusionary and exclusionary practices, social, cultural and political dimensions of migration and diaspora)
- **'Modes of Narrating Africa in Europe'**  
(addressing topics such as unreliability, focalisation, orality, contextualised and cognitive approaches in Euro-African fiction, lifewriting, documentary, drama, etc.)

- **‘Postcolonial and Transcultural Studies: Framing a Euro-African Future’** (addressing topics such as authenticity, ethnicity, hybridity, globalization and cultural production)

**Confirmed Keynote speakers:**

Mieke Bal (University of Amsterdam)

Graham Huggan (University of Leeds)

Frank Schulze-Engler (University of Frankfurt)

Nwachukwu Frank Ukadike (Tulane University)

In order to encourage intensive discussions at the conference, 3,000 word papers are requested by **1 April 2006** and will be compiled in a reader and sent to all participants beforehand. At the conference itself, participants are asked to briefly comment on the arguments they develop in their papers and to elucidate their positions by responding to the other papers.

This conference aims to provide a platform for cooperation between academic institutions across Europe and the development of a European Network for Euro-African Studies. Enquiries and submissions (name, affiliation, title of contribution, and abstract of no more than 200 words) should be addressed to the conveners no later than **1 December 2005**. Participants can expect a letter of acceptance by the beginning of January.

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helff@nelk.uni-frankfurt.de

**Conference webpage:**

**<http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb10/ieas/abt/nelk/euro-afric/>**

## Conference Reports



### **Sharing Places: Searching for Common Ground in a World of Continuing Exclusion**

**EACLALS Triennial Conference Malta, March 21-26, 2005**

Malta – situated between Europe and Africa – provided an idyllic location to investigate ideas of shared spaces and places. Having its own peculiarly complex history of colonisation by countries as diverse as France, Italy and England and possessing an enviable cultural mosaic attributed to these various influences, the island proved a most invigorating and colourful background, against which this year’s triennial EACLALS could unfold its own multifaceted agenda of “revisiting such familiar issues as: the clash of civilizations brought about by colonialism, which forcibly linked disparate geographies under the aegis of imperial regimes”<sup>1</sup>. In the week leading up to Easter, the conference attendees pursued with alacrity the hope expressed by the conference convenors, that “a shared zone of mutual responsibility whereby all human subjects may be considered as partial insiders to the project of conceiving a common future” be acknowledged and explored.

There was a prominence of academics from German universities at the Maltese EACLALS conference, who functioned as chairs for diverse panels besides presenting papers in interdisciplinary contexts. I am one of four graduate students from Frankfurt, who had the pleasure of attending; here is what I have to tell of that most intriguing event.

The opening panel comprised Dr. Stella Borg-Barthet (the main convenor), Prof. Roger Ellul-Micallef (the Rector of the University of Malta), Prof. Peter Vassalo (the Head of the English Department), Dr. Geoffrey Davis (the EACLALS Chair) and Prof. Daniel Massa (who organized the first triennial EACLALS conference in Malta back in 1978).

Warm welcomes were extended by the panel, along with a few historical anecdotes and strolls down memory lane on the part of Dr. Davis and Prof. Massa, who pointed out that every EACLALS conference was unique in its location and each in its own right was a fitting platform to celebrate the Commonwealth Literatures. Due recognition was also paid to Anna Rutherford, whose efforts and contributions to the teaching and research of the Commonwealth Literatures in Europe since 1971 were fondly reminisced on. Russell McDougall delivered the Anna Rutherford Memorial Lecture as a morning plenary on Tuesday March 22.

An added feature that was awaited with great anticipation was the adjudication of the 19th Commonwealth Writers’ Prize in the course of the conference proceedings. Elucidations on the term ‘Commonwealth Literatures’ were engaged

<sup>1</sup> See EACLALS Call for Papers on <http://www.ulg.ac.be/facphl/uer/d-german/eaclals/eaclals.html>.

with – an undertaking which was continued on Thursday afternoon’s panel of judges present for the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize. Prof. Vassalo also delivered a highly amusing paean to Dr. Stella Borg-Barthet, the main convenor, and her husband Victor Borg, likening their efforts to the twelve labours of Hercules, while praising their organisational abilities and unshakeable calm. The organizers had planned a conference not merely as an intellectual exercise but also as an opportunity to provide an insight into the historical, political, cultural and religious fabric of the Maltese people.

Robert Young’s plenary lecture focussed on illegal migrants, using Walter Benjamin as an example of “invisible lives being divided into sharply delineated angular territories of other nations”. Young traced and compared migratory routes from Africa to Europe from the 19th and 20th centuries, while his poignant video and slide presentations served to underscore the reality of tangible as well as virtual borders encountered by illegal migrants and the consequences of stringently implemented immigration laws on displaced persons not allowed to share places or spaces.

After the initial exhaustion of rushing between panels that first day, we settled down in St. George’s Hall in the early evening after the coffee break for two plenary addresses by Hoda Barakat and Caryl Phillips. Prof. Phillips, teaching at Barnard College at Columbia University, New York, addressed the issue of drama as a literary form and the problems encountered by Black British playwrights especially in the 1980s. This was set in the historical context of theatre studies in Britain.

Dennis Brutus, a well-known writer and activist from South Africa, delivered a very provocative and highly entertaining plenary address on the current political situation in South Africa. The octogenarian had been a cell-mate of Nelson Mandela’s on Robben Island and is currently involved as an activist in an anti-global movement called Jubilee South.

Wednesday evening was heralded by two highly scintillating readings given by writer Karen King-Aribisala from Nigeria, who related the title story of her collection *Our Wife and Other Stories* (2003), followed by poet George Elliot Clarke, from Toronto who read from his works, among them a jazz libretto.

The highlight of the evening was the Conference Gala Dinner at the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort. The highly anticipated Commonwealth Writer’s Prize was adjudicated and announced. A distinguished pan-Commonwealth panel chaired by Professor Daniel Massa (University of Malta) and including Professor Mary E. Kolawole (Ile-Ife, Nigeria), Professor Marjorie Thorpe (St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago), Dr. Sanjukta Dasgupta (Kolkata, India) and Professor Vijay Mishra (Perth, Australia) awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for 2005 to acclaimed British author Andrea Levy for her fourth novel *Small Island* (2004). Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie won the category for First Best Book with *Purple Hibiscus* (2004). President Emeritus Professor Guido de Marco, chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation, announced the winners at the conference dinner.

The afternoon of Friday 25 March saw most of us being guided around the old town of Vittoriosa, before we settled down in the town square in the evening to watch the Good Friday Procession which lasted 3 hours, affording us an experience of the elaborate presentation of Christ's Passion in sculptures, some of which were created in the Middle Ages in Spain.

The last morning of the conference, Saturday 26 March, saw a large number of participants (or survivors as the case may be) setting out for a daytrip to Malta's sister island Gozo, where prehistoric temples and natural stone formations held them in thrall.

The EACLALS Conference 2005 was indeed an unforgettable event for all the delegates, who came together as an international family of scholars, sharing a mutual interest in Commonwealth Studies. The conference provided a platform not just for a debate on post-colonial questions but also offered a unique opportunity to share views as well as spaces while opening new venues of discussion on culture, globalization, hybridity, gender issues; hence it proved to be an important step towards a better understanding of our constantly changing world.

**Christine Vogt-William (Frankfurt/M)**

in cooperation with **Nadia Butt** and **Sabrina Brancato**

## Student Report

### **“IS FOR IDENTITY: LOOKING BEYOND THE MIRROR” – ASS REVISITED**

**Postcolonial Spring School, Freie Universität Berlin,  
4-8 April 2005**

When we first heard about the students' conference, we didn't know what to expect. One of our lecturers had told us about it so we had a look at the homepage which made us curious and we decided to sign up. The programme consisted of a lot of diverse activities: three lectures in the morning and an additional one after lunch break, then seminars in the afternoon and a night event. So, each day was packed and we began to fear that we would be too exhausted to do it all and see it all already after the first day.

Arriving at the conference, we got a very warm welcome. One of the organizers checked our names and handed us a bright yellow envelope which was labelled with the motto of the conference: “I is for Identity – looking beyond the mirror.” Inside we found all the information about the events and how to get around in Berlin.

The lectures started at 9 a.m., and our very first session (“How to talk ‘Postcolonial’”) already gave us an introduction to postcolonialism and its terms. The room was crowded with more than a hundred students, most of them scribbling down eagerly what the lecturer said. After 45 brainy minutes we were quite ready for a break, and therefore positively surprised when we left the room and saw a long table with coffee, tea, biscuits, chocolate and, last but not least, cherry lollipops. We went to the next lecture with new energy.

These were our mornings: 45 minutes of lecture, then coffee and cookies, and then the next 45 minutes covering a completely different topic. So, for example, we listened to a lecture about “Anglophone Arab Diaspora Literature and Culture”, followed by Stephen Gray, an Australian writer, talking about the “Philosophical Detective Novel”. It was a hard task to limit each lecture to 45 minutes, because every topic was interesting enough to talk about the whole day. Often the lecturers had no time to answer all questions raised by the attentive audience, because the next lecturer was already waiting.

Wow! We had not expected that Postcolonial Studies were such a broad and diverse field. Never before had we heard of Chicano Art or had concrete ideas about political novels in Africa – here we got a first glimpse of all these different areas. These encounters encouraged us to future readings, especially since some of the lecturers recommended books, some of which were their own.

In the afternoons, the seminars took place: among the 18 different courses were Creative Writing and Performance Workshops as well as for example “Forgery, Disguise, Imagination and the European Aboriginal” or “1930s Scotland and the Idea of Blackness”. In most of the courses one had the possibility of obtaining a ‘Schein’ valid for all German Universities.



Our seminar on “Recent Protest Writing by Australian Writers and Poets” was held by Michael Sharkey, an Australian University lecturer and author. He had all the warmth Australians are said to have, and a wonderful, sarcastic humour which he applied generously when telling us stories about Australia. The seminar dealt with the effect recent terrorist attacks have had on politics and the media. One of the questions we discussed was: Do writers have a greater responsibility to speak up than “ordinary people”? Besides examining the relationship of activism and writing, we particularly talked about the detention camps in Australia, where mainly refugees from Arab countries lived. Many writers commit themselves to drawing public attention not only to the existence, but also to the conditions of these camps, while the government tries to play down the seriousness of the situation. This was something else we learned at the conference – we knew about the American detention camps, but we had no idea of the more recent developments down under.

A particularly nice aspect which we especially noticed in our seminar was that the participants were not only from Germany, but also from other European countries like Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Hungary, Czech Republic, etc. Originally, the conferences were organized by and for German students, but in recent years news spread all over Europe attracting motivated students from abroad, too.

Each day’s activities reached its climax with the evening event. Monday Australian Night, Tuesday New Zealand Night, Wednesday Midweek Party, Thursday Canada Night and Friday Farewell Party – each night a unique experience! Readings from well-recognized authors and drama performances entertained us in splendid surroundings as for example the Starke Stiftung. Thanks to supporters like the Canadian Embassy and a local Deli catering service, we were also provided with delicious food which helped us through the night and fun memorabilia like pens, pins and little flags. The Midweek Party was particularly interesting because, besides poetry readings, there was also a band (Jumaa & friends) playing while people enjoyed a cool drink and a good conversation. On Friday night’s party, some of the participants had the opportunity to present a bit of their work, as in drama performances.

All in all, it was an experience not to be missed! The participants were eager, the lecturers very friendly and highly competent, and the organizers always busy trying to make our stay as pleasant as possible. Thank you so much! We will certainly participate again.

**Christina Droll & Hanna Markones (Freiburg)**

**“Translation of Cultures”**  
**17<sup>th</sup> GNEL/ASNEL Annual Conference**  
**Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, 4-7 May 2005**

To some extent Kiel seemed to be another gathering of the people who (surprisingly enough) had not had enough of each other after Malta even though some prominent figures had gone missing and others had decided to join the circle (like the writer of these lines). Thus our annual conference, though smaller than last year’s, had an air of cheerful reunion which was helped along by the pleasantly efficient work of the team around local organizer Konrad Groß. We arrived, had an interesting and stimulating time and left eager to resume work on our respective academic projects and looking forward to next year’s conference.

I hope that I will be forgiven for the fact that Laura Moss’ opening lecture and the conference warming unfortunately will have to be covered elsewhere. The writer of these lines was still stuck on the autobahn somewhere between Frankfurt and Hamburg when those (undoubtedly important) parts of the programme were taking place. I was told (and I am convinced) that some ASNEL veterans were doing their best to “warm the conference” on behalf of the ones yet to arrive and ended up representing the ASNEL crowd rather “cheerfully” on Wednesday night. Eyewitnesses tell stories of obnoxious behaviour and enraged senior citizens complaining from neighbouring tables. Said stories of course are just hearsay but it can be concluded that some of us were there to open the conference “in style”.

During the following days scholars from all over the world tackled the conference topic “Translation of Cultures” in various, sometimes surprising ways, frequently referring to Rushdie’s memorable words on the things that can be gained in translation which seemed to develop into something like an unofficial conference motto. After the somewhat belligerent atmosphere that had dominated the main panel in Magdeburg and the debates on “inter”-, “trans”- and “post”-isms in Frankfurt, people seemed to be relieved to be allowed a certain degree of agreement for a change. The fact that most encounters inside and outside the panel rooms remained largely harmonious must of course have been highly suspicious to this selection of committed academics, which explains why a statement underlining the harmony met fierce contradiction in the plenary panel discussion.

This naturally is not to say that there were no actual disagreements before that or that panel discussions were lacking the dedication of previous years. If discussion was inspired as ever, we owe a lot of this to the presence of prominent figures like Kwadwo Osei-Nyame, who proved to speak two (and apparently think three) times faster than other people and returned to stun his fellow speakers and the audience at the plenary panel discussion with an introductory statement that was timed to the last second of “exactly 5 minutes”. We wide-eyedly followed instructions on how to translate a goat’s language. We fell in love with an Italian novel

that most of us will never be able to read. We ate more chocolate cookies (and pickled cucumbers!) than advisable. In brief: We greatly enjoyed ourselves.

Of course we had a head start: Mala Pandurang opened the conference Thursday with an insightful and humorous plenary speech on “metaphors, melodies and maladies” in migration studies. Later that day Russell McDougall, who seemed to have become a local by the end of the conference, followed this up with an equally inspiring plenary speech on Henry Ling Roth and Tasmanian moments of translation. Panels drew attention to “translatability and untranslatability of cultures”, “travel and translation in the contact/conflict zone”, “migration and the translation diaspora”, “translation of cultures in the EFL-classroom”, “postcolonial multilingualism/multiculturalism and translation”, “translation as cultural trade” and “politics of cultural trade”. Most of the usual minor technical problems (the eternal battle with projectors, microphones and blinds) were dealt with effectively, and even in the few cases in which technical equipment altogether denied its services, speakers and listeners remained pleasantly imperturbable. There unfortunately was a comparatively high number of cancellations which caused a few disappointments, especially among “panel jumpers” who invariably seemed to end up missing exactly the speeches they had been most eager to hear. Nevertheless there were a lot of pleasantly diverse and interesting papers which answered a few questions and (quite intentionally) raised just as many.

During the past years there seems to have been a notable move towards migrant studies, which to some extent has caused a shift of focus away from the literatures coming from the former colonies as such. At the Kiel conference a high number of papers on migrant literatures reflected this development. At the same time there were papers which highlighted the attempt to open up the field into other directions even though last year’s attempt to further include Jewish studies was not followed up with the dedication one might have hoped for. It is also noteworthy that Canadian literature and culture was more prominent in the papers than it had been in previous conferences, which of course was a pleasant consequence of the special interest that the English Department in Kiel takes in the region.

On Thursday night we were invited to the Kunsthalle Kiel where Jan Kemp, Stephen Scobie and David Arnason had agreed to present some of their work. However, it was Konrad Groß who first opened the floor to hilarity by humorously explaining why exactly every one of the distinguished literary guests was one of his best friends (or at least very close to that desirable status in one way or the other). Stephen Scobie, who would return for an illuminating plenary speech on his translation project Paris/Québec on Friday, entertainingly demonstrated the relativity, the possibilities and to some extent the dangers of translation by offering several translations of Guillaume Apollinaire’s “Gentil Rousseau”. In Jan Kemp’s expressive poems the audience found Dante and Beatrice translated to down under, and David Arnason presented his rendering of the story about the girl and the wolf, an all-time audience favourite, before rushing the delighted audience through his very own Icelandic family saga. After the reading a group of pleasure-seeking scholars ventured out to experience “local culture” and stranded in an Irish pub where they

came to the conclusion that even the most pleasantly transcultural ambience cannot make up for the fact that it would take a considerable amount of time to learn to appreciate certain “local varieties” of Irish pub live music. However, we found refuge elsewhere and were presented with another positive example of Kiel hospitality at the cheerful Conference Dinner which took place in the “Forstbaumschule” on Friday.

Two more cancellations turned the last round of workshop sessions on Saturday morning into a plenary event. However regrettable this may be in other ways, it had the positive effect that Geoffrey Davis’s Egon Erwin Kirsch paper climactically concluded the workshops for all of us rather than being hidden away among other choices. After a last coffee break we gathered for the plenary panel discussion which had been titled “Translating Cultures, Translating Disciplines” and in which Lyn Innes, Katja Sarkowsky, Axel Stähler, Kwadwo Osei-Nyame, Mark Stein and Pete Marsden were addressing the importance of “intra- and interdisciplinary exchange” for our field and its future as well as the datedness of certain categories. Much of the discussion centred around the question in how far the field will have to open up in the future and which categories and distinctions will not lose their strategic importance despite their limitations. Responses from the audience drew attention to what was called the “marginalization of white contemporary British literature” in literary studies and on the book-market and emphasized the need for an increased interest in teaching New English Literatures as opposed to the present concentration on academic research. It was characteristic for the whole conference that so many participated in the plenary discussion and stayed until the last contributions had to be cut short and the plenary session ended with Kwadwo Osei-Nyame’s “non-conclusive thanks to the organizers” – which I would like to repeat here. We left Kiel when the rain set in, obscuring our last glances at the sea and accompanying us on our way back home.

**Claudia Perner (Frankfurt/M)**

## LEHRVERANSTALTUNGEN IM SOMMERSEMESTER 2005

[zusammengestellt aus *AREAS - Annual Report on English and American Studies*,  
Band 28 (2005) sowie aus Zusendungen von Mitgliedern der GNEL]

### *Deutschland*

#### **AACHEN**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Davis         | Black and Asian British Theatre and Fiction   |
| ---           | Post-colonial Post-mortems  |
| Davis/Marsden | Cultural Studies: England's Last Colony: Post-colonial Literature and the Matter of Ireland |
| ---           | Introductory Course Tutorial, Part II (New English Literature)                              |
| Deringer      | Canadian Literature and Culture: A Survey   |
| ---           | American and Canadian Literature: A Comparatist Approach                                    |

#### **BAYREUTH**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Breitinger | New Postcolonial Writing since 1985 (Farah, Gurnah, Vassanji, Phillips et al.)                              |
| ---        | Postcolonial Film, Theatre for Development and Edutainment: Theoretical Approaches and Performance Practice |

#### **BERLIN, FU**

*Postcolonial Spring School, 2005:*

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Collier         | Nalo Hopkinson and Caribbean-Canadian Fabulist Fiction  |
| Episkew         | The Literature of Residential Schools   |
| Fiebach/Martini | African Drama and Theatre   |
| Gray            | Forgery, Disguise, Imagination and the European Aboriginal  |
| Heinke          | From "Brittany in another World" to "You big ugly": Colonial, National and Postcolonial Short Writing from Australia                  |
| Kosew           | Identity and Place in Australian Cultural Texts   |
| Leitner         | Varieties of English  |
| Müller          | Re/Discovering "Our" West: Places, Histories, and Cultures in Canadian Prairie Writings   |
| Ngwenya         | The Poetry of Freedom: South African English Poetry from 1994 to 2004   |
| Schülting       | Colloquium für Examenskandidat/inn/en: Postcolonial Spring School „I is for Identity – Looking beyond the Mirror“ vom 04.04.-08.04.05 |
| Sharkey         | Recent Protest Writing by Australian Writers and Poets  |
| Simon           | "Shed up" – Discussion of Notions of Gender and Race and Creative Writing   |

Sneddon	1930s Scotland and the Idea of Blackness
Sproxtton	Versions of Canada North: From Tyrrell to Highway
Tunca	Examining the Link between Language and Identity in Post-Colonial Literature
West-Pavlov	Colloquium für Examenskandidat/inn/en (bes. im Bereich Postcolonial Studies)
West-Pavlov/Stein	Research Forum Postcolonial and Transcultural Studies
Willet	Australia on Film
---	Indigenous Australia
---	Landeskunde I: Australian Politics and Society
---	Globalisation and its Discontents in the English-Speaking World
Ickstadt/Klaus	Zwei Sprachen – Zwei Kulturen? Montreal and der zeitgenössische kanadische Roman
<b>BERLIN, HU</b>	
Lucko	The Politics of English as a Global Language
Matzke	Theatre-for-Development: Empowerment oder Propaganda?
Schwalm	Migration, Multiculturalism, and Contemporary British Culture
Veit-Wild	Methoden und Konzepte zur Analyse afrikanischer Literatur
---	Einführung in das Studium der afrikanischen Literaturen
<b>BERLIN, TU</b>	
Maroldt	Kreolistik
<b>BIELEFELD</b>	
Kunze	Theory/ Film Analysis /Postcolonial literature, African English Fiction
<b>BOCHUM</b>	
Degering	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (Defoe) – <i>Foe</i> (Coetzee)
Puschmann-Nalenz	South African Fiction: Nadine Gordimer and J.M. Coetzee
Niederhoff	Classics of Canadian Fiction
<b>BONN</b>	
Kreutzer	Postkoloniales Kolloquium
Stähler	Diaspora(s)
<b>BRAUNSCHWEIG</b>	
Bettinger	Remembering Slavery
Gnutzmann	Sociolinguistic and Educational Perspectives of English as a World Language
<b>BREMEN</b>	
Sandten	Utopias and “Robinsonades”
Watson	The Irish Diaspora: Contemporary Literature and Migration

**DORTMUND**

Lange Pidgins & Creoles  
 N.N. Canadian Studies

**DÜSSELDORF**

Gomille Translation in Practice: Contemporary Canadian Women's  
 Writing into German  
 Kern-Stähler The Holocaust in Canadian Literature  
 Kouteva International Varieties of English  
 Peters Canadian Literature and Culture: Past & Present Views  
 --- Salman Rushdie and Other Cases of International Fiction

**EICHSTÄTT**

Strobl Canadian Literature: An Expedition up North  
 --- Canadian Literature: Reading Class

**ERFURT**

Kuntze Landeskunde: Introduction to South Africa

**ERLANGEN**

Klotz English and Englishes

**ESSEN**

Davis Australian Drama  
 Deane/Breul/ Studying and Teaching Anglophone Cultures at Duisburg-Essen  
 Gassenmeier University (Ringvorlesung)  
 Drawe Crime Fiction in Southern Africa  
 Hamacher-Lübitz Magic Realism in Recent British and South African Novels  
 Hickey The English Language in Asia and the Southern Hemisphere  
 --- Pidgins and Creoles  
 Lehmann Colonialism, Independence, Post-Independence in Anglophone  
 Africa  
 Paulick Aotearoa – Land of the Long White Cloud  
 Rüschoff Multilingual Matters: Language in a Global Society  
 --- Canada and the British Empire: Cultural Studies in the Language  
 Classroom

**FLENSBURG**

Parker Philosophy of Education: Scotland, Australia, America

**FRANKFURT/M**

Helff Ambivalent Truths: Unreliable Narration in Contemporary South  
 African Literature  
 Levin Female Genital Mutilation in Creative Writing: US, African  
 Diaspora, Africa  
 Schulze-Engler Introduction to the New Literatures in English  
 --- Language, Culture, Identity: English as a Global Literary Medium

--- Atlantic Worlds: The Novels of Caryl Phillips  
--- Contemporary Maori Literature  
Bieswanger Varieties of English around the World

**FREIBURG**

Deuber English in the Caribbean  
Halford The English Language in Canada  
Hochbruck Modern and Postmodern Canadian Poetry and Fiction  
Korte A Comparative History of the Short Story in British, American and Postcolonial Contexts  
Spittel A Comparative History of the Short Story in British, American and Postcolonial Contexts  
Zimmermann Contemporary Canadian Women Writers

**GIEßEN**

Basseler From Slave Narrative to Neo-Slave Narrative  
Birke Introduction to the Analysis of Narrative Texts: Selected Novels by Kazuo Ishiguro  
Collier The Indo-Caribbean Novel: Gender and Society in V.S. Naipaul, David Dabydeen and Shani Mootoo  
--- The Black Presence in Canadian History and Literature, from the Underground Railroad to the Haitian Diaspora  
--- Aspects of Painting and Cinema in Canada  
Erll Indien in postkolonialer Literatur: Salman Rushdie und Arundhati Roy  
Horstmann Schreiben in Südafrika: Nadine Gordimer  
Huber Synchronic and Diachronic Dimensions of World Englishes  
Sommer Black British Literature from Sam Selvon to Zadie Smith: Concepts of Identity, Englishness and Cultural Exchange

**GÖTTINGEN**

Glaser South African Literature  
Czennia Nation-Building and Literature: The 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Novel in New Zealand

**GREIFSWALD**

Bast Canadian Multicultural Literature  
Cariou Canadian Literature since 1967  
--- Canadian Prairie Literature  
Knopf Canadian Media Culture  
Koll-Stobbe World Englishes  
--- "Don't worry, mate." English Down Under  
Lutz History of Canadian Literature in English  
--- Canadian Women Novelists  
N.N. Issues in Canadian Literature



### HALLE-WITTENBERG

- Meyer Reading the Caribbean: Aphra Behn, Derek Walcott, V.S. Naipaul  
 Schröder English in the Caribbean

### HEIDELBERG

- Fischer-Hornung Wole Soyinka and Chinua Achebe – A West African Nobel Laureate and a “Should-Have-Been“  
 --- Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* and its Rewriting in Mukherjee’s *Holder of the World*  
 Glauser The Language of ‘The Age’: Educated Australian English  
 --- Ozzie English  
 Hundt English as an Asian Language  
 Lutz J.M. Coetzee – South African Nobel Laureate  
 Nünning Geschichte als Fiktion: Koloniale und post-koloniale Konstellationen in der englischsprachigen Literatur des 20. Jahrhunderts  
 Reichardt Globalisierung in Kulturwissenschaftlicher Perspektive

### JENA

- Sander Hanif Kureishi, Novelist: Intercultural Encounters and Questions of Identity (*The Buddha of Suburbia*, 1990; *The Black Album*, 1995; *Gabriel’s Gift*, 2001)  
 N.N. The Canadian Novel: The Female Experience

### KARLSRUHE, PH

- Altendorf Workshop “National Varieties of English”

### KIEL

- Arnason Canadian Prairie Poetry  
 Damlos-Kinzel J.M. Coetzee  
 Groß Die Short Story in dem USA und in Kanada im Überblick  
 --- The Canadian North  
 --- The Short Story in the U.S.A. and Canada  
 --- Postcolonial Literature in the Terranglia  
 Meyer Four Major Regional Varieties of English: American, Canadian, British and Australian English  
 Rosenberg Colonial and Psychological Exile in the Work of Doris Lessing, Jean Rhys and Bessie Head

### KOBLENZ-LANDAU

- Gohrbandt Introduction to British and Postcolonial Cultural Studies  
 Lahr Meena, Jess and Tariq – Growing up Ethnic in the UK

### KÖLN

- Adone Varieties of English

Bungert Weltgeschichte, Globalgeschichte, transnationale Gesellschafts-  
geschichte: Eine Einführung in neuere theoretische Ansätze

### KONSTANZ

Rosenthal Caribbean Writers  
--- The Nature-Culture Paradigm in Canadian Literature  
Tönnies Black Performance Poetry in Britain  
Reif-Hülser New English Literatures: Theory and Texts

### LEIPZIG

Dannenberg Key Genres and Periods in British Literature and the New  
English Literatures  
Reuter Pidgin and Creole Englishes  
Tosic Interactive Oral Discourse (New English Cultures)  
Welz Tales of the Empire

### LÜNEBURG

Walsh Chinua Achebe: Selected Novels

### MAGDEBURG

Bartels Black British Writing  
Gohrisch Caribbean Fiction in English  
Kersten Introduction to Canadian Studies  
Lange Fictions of Migration: Ondaatje, Mistry, Ghosh  
Martini South African Literature

### MAINZ

Gernalzick Canada and Film  
Müller-Wood Anglophone Short Stories  
Plummer Contemporary Anglophone Crime Fiction  
Popp Übungen zur politischen Terminologie der Anglophonie  
Rüttgers Postcolonial Literature: Amitav Ghosh: *The Shadow Lines*  
Scheiding The Historical Imagination in American and Canadian Fiction  
Stein Black British Fiction by Women: Zadie Smith,  
Monica Ali, Andrea Levy  
Stoll Wole Soyinka, *The Interpreters*

### MANNHEIM

Reichardt Globalisierung aus kulturwissenschaftlicher Perspektive  
Reichardt/Kohl- Globalisierung: Theorie und Praxis  
ross  
Tracy/Kieser Globalization

### MARBURG

Kuester/Keller Tall Tales and Typescripts: Canadian Creative Processes

**MÜNCHEN**

- Clemm Caribbean Identities: Literature, History and Politics of the West Indies – Discussion and Essay Writing Practice
- Cook Canadian Studies
- Döring *Heart of Darkness*: Text, Context, Consequences
- English Literature in Postcolonial Perspectives: Rereading and Rewriting
- Janney Pragmatics and Ethnological Perspectives on Transcultural Films
- Labun U.S. - Canada Relations
- Mortimer ‘The Jewel in the Crown’: A Historical Introduction to Britain’s Relationship with India
- Sanchez International Trade and Development with References to North America and the Caribbean
- Sauer Varieties of English
- Sedlak Post-Colonial Drama in Context: Selected African and Native Canadian Plays
- Multi-ethnicity and Intercultural Relations in Africa, the West Indies and Britain: Regional, National and Transnational Perspectives
- Windeler Dirty Linen? Assessing Gender and Sexuality in Britain, South Africa and Australia
- Zwingenberger Nations of Immigrants: Ideas, Issues, Interests and Institutions Shaping US and Canadian Immigration Policy

**MÜNSTER**

- Stierstorfer Kanadische Literatur und Kultur
- Literatures and Cultures in English: A Graphic Survey

**OSNABRÜCK**

- Asu Great Britain and Africa
- Markmann Native Cultures and Literatures (Australia/Canada/New Zealand)
- The Issue of Land in the New Literatures in English
- Portrait of a Hyphenated Canadian: Aritha van Herk
- The Canadian North
- Murphy Great Britain and Africa

**POTSDAM**

- Esders Poetics, Politics and Power in Contemporary American and Postcolonial Literature
- Laurien Konzepte von Landeskunde/Civilisation/Cultural Studies unter den Bedingungen multilingualer und multikultureller Gesellschaften
- Stein Mixed Parentage in Post-Colonial Literatures
- Writing Self, Writing Other: Transnational Autobiography
- /West-Pavlov Research Forum Post-Colonial and Transcultural Studies

**REGENSBURG**

Emig                      Black Britain  
Trüb                      English as a Global Language

**ROSTOCK**

Bös                      Varieties of English

**SAARBRÜCKEN**

Ghosh-Schellhorn      Focus on India: A TAS Survey of British Colonial Writing  
---                      Without Benefit of Clergy: Kipling's Oeuvre  
---                      Theories of Transculturality  
Martens                 Canadian Novels: Frederick Philip Grove, Hugh MacLennan,  
                                Sinclair Ross and some American Contemporaries  
Morris                    Vorlesung zur kanadischen Literatur  
von Lutz                 Culture Studies GB: British Imperialism and After

**SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND**

Zirkel                    Canada's Ethnic Landscape – Anglophones – Francophones –  
                                Autochthones  
---                      The Frontier Concept in Canada and the USA

**SIEGEN**

Berensmeyer            Mapping Ireland: Global Media and (Trans)Cultural Identity  
Braun                    Pidgins and Creoles

**STUTTGART**

Göbel                    Postcolonial Literature  
Fischer                  English Based Creoles  
Michel                   Landeskunde Südafrika  
Lauenstein              Varieties of English

**TRIER**

Jung                      Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe* and J.M. Coetzee: *Foe*  
Müller                    Asian Canadian Writing  
Platz                      Australian Novels

**TÜBINGEN**

Stilz                      An Introduction to Australian Literature

**VECHTA**

Schulz                    Doris Lessing: Selected Novels and Short Stories

**WÜRZBURG**

Pordzik                  Tourists with Typewriters  
Schubert                 Varieties of English

**WUPPERTAL**

Prießnitz                Die 'Nineties' in Großbritannien und Australien  
Spies                      Black British Literature: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## *Österreich*

### **GRAZ**

- Bierbaumer Varieties of English  
 Grünzweig SE in Anglophone Cultures: American Studies and Transnational Studies  
 Löschnigg Contemporary Canadian Fiction

### **INNSBRUCK**

- Klein Canadian Women Writing  
 Markus English Varieties II: From Ethnolects to the Language of Media  
 Heuberger English as a World Language

### **KLAGENFURT**

- Wimmer Topics in Australian and Postcolonial Culture Studies: Discourse of Colonialism in Film. A Comparison of Australian, British and American Movies  
 --- Topics in Australian and Postcolonial Culture Studies: Australian Poetry

### **SALZBURG**

- Bachinger Canadian Postmodernism  
 Grosser English from Dialect to Global Language  
 Steiner Writing "Nature" in America and South Africa  
 --- Aspects of Anglophone Civilizations: City Poetry in Perspective: New York and Capetown

### **WIEN**

- Mengel Truth and Reconciliation in the Contemporary South African Novel  
 Landesmann- Gender Equality: Problems and Perspectives  
 Aibara  
 N.N. Cultural and Regional Studies: English Speaking World

**PUBLIKATIONEN**

[zusammengestellt aus *AREAS - Annual Report on English and American Studies*, Band 28 (2005) sowie aus Zusendungen von Mitgliedern der GNEL]

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- Davis, G.V. "The Great World and the Home Front: Contemporary Literary Accounts of the Impact of the War in the Pacific (1942-45) on Australia". N. H. Platz (Hg.): *Zwischen Asien und dem Westen. Zur politischen, ökonomischen und kulturellen Orientierung Australiens*. Tübingen: Stauffenburg, 2004, 127-150.
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## Forschungsergebnisse



### **Miriam Herfel, „Aspekte der Umwelterfahrung in der australischen Lyrik“, Examensarbeit LA Gymnasium, Trier, 2003 (Prof. Dr. Norbert Platz)**

Seit Menschengedenken ist die Lyrik ein wichtiges Ausdrucksmittel gewesen, ob mündlich überliefert oder schriftlich, ob gesungen oder rezitiert. Auf vielfältige Weise haben Menschen Erfahrungen in Gedichten verarbeitet, haben diese zur Unterhaltung oder sogar als politisches Sprachrohr benutzt. Oft wurde und wird die Natur in Gedichten ihrer Schönheit wegen gepriesen und besungen, da sie eine große Inspiration und ein wichtiges Erfahrungsfeld für die Menschen darstellt. Aber auch negative Emotionen werden lyrisch verarbeitet, ein Phänomen, das in der ersten Phase der australischen Kolonie bei den weißen Siedlern zu beobachten ist. Gegenstand meiner Arbeit ist die britische Erfahrung von Natur und den indigenen Völkern Australiens sowie deren Widerspiegelung in der Lyrik im Wandel der Zeit, beginnend mit der Gründung der Kolonie.

Nach ihrer Ankunft im erhofften Paradies erlitten die Siedler nicht selten einen Kulturschock. Bei ihrem inneren Vergleich mit dem britischen Vorbild werteten sie die Andersartigkeit der Umgebung als negativ und verabscheuten sie. Aufgrund der von ihnen empfundenen Leere des Kontinents und der Tatsache, dass Australien ein Gefängnisstaat war, übermannte sie das Gefühl von Isolation und des Eingesperrtseins. All diese Erfahrungen spiegeln sich in der Lyrik in Form von Hasserkklärungen und extremem Pessimismus wider, was nach Paul Kane auch als Phase der ‚Negativity‘ bezeichnet werden kann.

Im Laufe des 19. Jahrhunderts versuchte man nach und nach, seine Umgebung neu zu entdecken, um eine australische Identität zu finden. Der wirtschaftliche Aufschwung, begünstigt durch Goldfunde, ließ auch in der Literatur eine positivere Betrachtung des Landes entstehen. Zusätzlich verbreitete sich die Meinung, laut der darwinistischen Evolutionstheorie müsse die Rasse der Aborigines bald aussterben, und man empfand Mitleid mit ihnen. Der Optimismus bezüglich des Landes entwickelte sich um die Jahrhundertwende in eine Phase des Nationalismus, die eine Idealisierung der Natur in der Lyrik bewirkte. In Liedern und Balladen entstand die literarische Form des Buschmythos, die das Leben des hartgesottenen Mannes in der Wildnis verherrlichte.

### **Martina Konz, „Die Schönheit der Natur in australischer und kanadischer Lyrik“, Magisterarbeit, Trier 2003 (Prof. Dr. Norbert Platz)**

Zweifelsohne ist die Natur eines der Dinge, welche die menschliche Vorstellung schon immer bewegte. Im christlichen Mittelalter trat sie auf als ein angsteinflößender Gegenspieler, den es zu besiegen und zu unterwerfen galt. Die Romantik hin-

gegen sah die Natur als ästhetische Gegenwelt zur Zivilisation. Zu beiden Zeiten ging es jedoch nicht um die Natur an sich, sondern sie war die Manifestation Gottes beziehungsweise diente als Katalysator für die Imagination.

Ausdruck der unterschiedlichen Wahrnehmungen ist damals wie heute die Kunst, sei es Malerei oder Literatur. Dabei ist allerdings darauf zu achten, welche Natur betrachtet wird, das heißt ob man Wildnis oder nicht doch vom Menschen überformte Natur, gemeinhin als Landschaft bezeichnet, anschaut. Diese Unterscheidung ist oft gar nicht so offensichtlich wie es scheint. Ein Beispiel hierfür kann man in dem Begriff des Sublimen sehen. Hierbei geht es zwar darum eine wilde Natur zu erfahren, doch man erwartet einen relativ bequemen Zugang zu ihr. Man möchte einen Schauer erfahren, aber keine echte Angst oder Lebensgefahr. Auch moderne Touristen suchen nach dem echten, dem wahren Naturerlebnis, ohne dabei zu merken, dass sie es durch ihre Anwesenheit stören. Die Suche nach Orten einer noch ursprünglichen Natur, bedingt sehr oft den Aufbau einer Infrastruktur, die eben jenen Zustand zerstört.

Mit dieser Zerstörung der Umwelt setzen sich viele Dichter des ausgehenden 20. und beginnenden 21. Jahrhundert auseinander. Dabei ist es nicht verwunderlich, dass sie besonderes Augenmerk auf die schönen, ästhetischen Aspekte richten, denn die Menschen müssen einsehen, dass sie verloren gehen, damit etwas unternommen wird. Die Dichter rücken jene Schönheit wieder in den Mittelpunkt, die kaum mehr wahrgenommen wird, weil sie entweder zu selbstverständlich geworden ist oder normalerweise nicht als schön empfunden wird. Ihre Grundaussage bleibt sich dabei ähnlich: Die Schönheit ist da, man muss nur hinschauen und sie sehen wollen.

Auf den ersten Blick scheinen Australien und Kanada das genaue Gegenteil voneinander zu sein. In ihrem Klima sind sie das auch, doch es gibt Gemeinsamkeiten. Insbesondere die extrem abschreckende Natur wird ähnlich übermächtig wahrgenommen. Es überrascht nicht, dass sie den frühen Siedlern in beiden Ländern feindlich erschien. Doch es ist wichtig im Gedächtnis zu behalten, dass man europäische Maßstäbe anlegte, anstatt die Natur für sich selbst zu betrachten. In der frühen australischen und kanadischen Landschaftsmalerei ist dies deutlich zu sehen, wenn die Natur mehr traditionellen europäischen Bildern ähnelt als der Natur wie sie tatsächlich zu sehen war. Es war vor allem jene europäische Landschaftsmalerei, die die Wahrnehmungen der Menschen prägte. Konnte man die Natur schon nicht in Wirklichkeit besiegen, zähmte man sie doch wenigstens malerisch. Erst sehr viel später beginnt eine Hinwendung zur Einzigartigkeit der Natur, und sie wird Teil der jeweiligen nationalen Identität.

Die Analyse ausgewählter Gedichte aus beiden Ländern macht deutlich, dass auch die scheinbar so feindliche Natur unglaubliche Schönheit in sich birgt. Oft sind es widersprüchliche Wahrnehmungen, die die Dichter darstellen, aber trotz aller Gefahren oder Widrigkeiten gibt es immer auch eine schöne Seite. Man muss eben nur lernen, sie zu sehen.