



Deutscher
Anglistenverband

Call for Papers

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Jana Gohrisch und Barbara Schmidt-Haberkamp

Sektion

Cosmopolitan/Global/Planetary Fictions: The Uses and Abuses of Comparative Approaches

The last decade has witnessed a reassessment of comparative approaches in literary and cultural studies in order to adjust to an increasingly transnationally configured, globalized world. Researchers explore *The Cosmopolitan Novel* (Schoene 2009), *Fictions of Globalization* (Annesley 2006), and *Transcultural Imaginaries* (Tunkel 2012), or they “map world literature” (Rosendahl Thomsen 2008). Indeed, globality seems to emerge as the new mega paradigm, superseding even postmodernism, while transcultural studies are taken for granted in most disciplines today. Traditionally comparative research, as conducted by post-colonial studies or the discipline of comparative literature, finds itself under pressure to redefine its objectives: while comparative literature, pronounced dead only a decade ago (Spivak 2003), is striving to develop a “poetics of world literature” (Moser 2014), postcolonial studies seem to suffer a crisis of legitimation and are currently revising their methodologies (Huggan, ed. 2014). This panel seeks to explore the methodical value of comparison for the understanding of literatures and cultures in our globalized world.

Questions include:

- Global/cosmopolitan/planetary/transcultural/international and world literature: how do these concepts relate to each other and what are the principles of comparison?
- Do comparative approaches run the risk of obscuring the specificities of location and history?
- How can globality and its universalist or humanist implications be reconciled with poststructuralist approaches to literature and culture?
- What kind of regional comparisons are needed at a time when nation-based approaches seem no longer appropriate?
- What is the impact of English as a lingua franca in a multilingual context and what effect does it have on canon formation?
- How does the globality of our subject matter influence the discipline of English Studies and the courses we offer to students?
- How can we take into account the positionality of the researcher?
- How does the globalized cultural industry impact on our understanding of anglo-phone literatures and cultures?

Please send abstracts of papers (250 words) by **September 30, 2015** to:

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