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Call for Papers

Student Conference | Goethe University Frankfurt a. M. | Faculty 10

August 13-14, 2022

Application Deadline: June 30, 2022

Contact: student-conference-goetheuni@outlook.com

All students are invited to participate in a student-organised conference at Goethe University's faculty 10 this summer. Bachelor and Master students alike, English- or German-speaking, are encouraged to contribute and present their individual research projects centred around the fields of culture, literature, media, film, theatre, linguistics, or similar.

The conference will take place during the semester break and is subject to Covid-19 regulations. Please apply for one of the following panels and find more detailed information below:

- On the Border of Dystopia: Linguistic and Literary Clashes
- Disproving Normativity: Swimming against the (Main)stream
- Aesthetics – Thinking Expression and Perception
- From Reproduction to Reform
- Interdisciplinary Approaches in Trans-Media and Trans-Methodology
- Transnationality Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: De-Westernisation as Anticolonial Strategy
- Poetic Experience, Poetic Existence



On the Border of Dystopia: Linguistic and Literary Clashes

Language and literature of the past decades have been overwhelmed with representations and remembrance of turmoil, terror, and struggles of power, politics, economy, ecology, religion, and ideology. War and global pandemic experiences mark our existence and prompt different mediums to tackle resultant effects. Linguistic and literary spaces have become a communicative contact zone of contrasts and volatile dynamics, yielding to discussions about written and oral utterances of conflictive controversy in a wide range of contexts. In this vein, philological studies may lend themselves to a productive exploration and possible reconciliation of conflicts in various textual forms and styles.

Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Representations of Conflict and Rebellion
- Questions of Border and Boundary
- Resolution and Reconciliation
- Practices of Communication
- Grammar, Vocabulary, Syntax, and Structure
- Questions of Canon
- Digital versus Print Media
- Translation
- Semantic and Diachronic Approaches
- Multilingualism

Disproving Normativity: Swimming against the (Main)stream

Widely held beliefs seemingly bias judgement, experience, relationships – resistance to such normative guides thus disrupts social convention in a multitude of ways that this panel shall investigate. Denial or approval of normative representations surface in diverse accounts by artists, writers, directors, and other creators who implicitly or explicitly engage with marginalised communities and individuals. Exploring the limits of progress and instrumentality, does “swimming away” from a present mainstream risk the establishment of a newfound normativity? Asking this allows us, therefore, to reconsider a socio-politically shaped mainstream, provoking questions of the power of different media and writings to map and navigate ideologies.



Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Gender Studies
- Queer Theory / Queerness
- Critical Race Theory
- Activism (Feminist, Environmental, etc.)
- Ecocriticism
- Disability Studies
- Animal Studies
- Posthumanism / the Anthropocene

Aesthetics – Thinking Expression and Perception

This panel is concerned with an exploration of aesthetics in conjunction with art, literature, music, and other media integral to social spheres. An intersection between these fields and discourses on emotions and perception vis-à-vis expression, form, and authenticity opens up a debate on processes of (abstract) thinking, mechanisms of cultural circulation, as well as confrontations of high and low culture. Critically reflecting on both complementation and rivalry of these two realms raises questions of aesthetic complexity: How do forms of expression or fabrication interact with reception? Where can we observe an aesthetically staged realism or authenticity and to what extent do such expressions operate in our surroundings?

Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Affect and Emotion
- Medial Staging and Authenticity
- Semiotics
- (Audio)visual Media
- Philosophical Aesthetics
- Sociology
- The Frankfurt School
- Cognitive Science and Empirical Aesthetics
- Health, Medicine, and Plastic Surgery



From Reproduction to Reform

This conference panel addresses issues about the creation, circulation, remembrance, rework, and reinvention of narratives. How do narratives travel through time and how are such travels relevant given the ever-increasing cultural capital of diverse mediums, be it literary, medial, or digital? An exploration of stories as impetus or discouragement of reform shall elucidate how reproductions function in our contemporary surroundings. How do narratives impinge on individual or collective experience and reality? And how can academic spaces facilitate classless, non-racist, feminist, and postcolonial approaches in this exploration? We invite presentations to analyse varied medial responses to our cultural and political landscapes by means of written, verbal, or audiovisual interaction with narrative.

Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Adaptation
- Popular Culture
- Fan Studies / Fanfiction
- Narratology
- Temporality
- Memory / the Archive
- Speculative Fiction
- Technology / Digital Media

Interdisciplinary Approaches in Trans-Media and Trans-Methodology

With the growing variety of audiovisual and written media and their vast possibilities, our engagement in the crossing and displacement of boundaries has increased likewise. Interrelations between subjects, objects, technologies, genres, and practices give rise to a necessary consideration of transgressive interactions with diverse mediums and methodologies. Thus, how can we respond to and address such new developments in a productive manner? And how can we incorporate the complex transformations that characterise our historically and culturally shaped existence in an academic sphere mindful of interdisciplinary needs? Debating this shall demonstrate trans-medial and trans-methodological innovations that enable an effective and critical approach of newly emerging frameworks, disciplines, and categories.



Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Interdisciplinary Methods and Research Fields
- Developments in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Information Technology, and Linguistics
- Digital Humanities
- Ontology and Epistemology
- Questions of Identity and Belonging
- Modes of Meaning-Making
- Theory / Thought and Practice
- Diversity in Literature, Comics, Video Games, Film, TV, Theatre, Dance, Fashion, Music, Architecture, Art, etc.

Transnationality Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: De-Westernisation as Anticolonial Strategy

Dedicated to critical, de-westernising thought and reconsideration of past, present, and future postcolonialism, this panel invites projects particularly inclusive of the manifold cultures and productions of former colonies, national minorities, and indigenous communities. In consideration of anticolonial approaches in a globalised world, what developments and conflicts emerge across (post)colonial and diasporic experiences? How can these experiences drive a de-centring of Western, imperial, and dominant practices? We encourage presentations from an interdisciplinary and transnational angle that shift focus from familiar Western European and North American contexts towards underrepresented collectivities, cultures, and histories from across the globe.

Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Diaspora, Migrant, and Refugee Communities
- Caribbean, Pacific, (Southeast) Asian, African, Middle East, and Indigenous Studies
- The Global South
- Cultural Hybridity
- National Politics and Identities
- Solidarity and Otherness
- Civilisation and Barbarism
- World Literature
- Questions of Canon



Poetic Experience, Poetic Existence

As a distinct form of expression, poetry uniquely reflects the inner self as much as poets and poetesses invent and reinvent themselves. Irrespective of all developments and experimental trends that poetry has lived through, a transformative and transgressive power seems to remain one of its most important qualities. Poetry unites opposites like no other medium; it allows readers and listeners to experience pleasure and pain, sympathy and hostility, calm and suspense, as well as every sensation in between. How, then, does poetic value contribute to our past, present, and future existence or human make-up, particularly in times of social, political, and ecological break-up? This panel seeks to exemplify ways we can (re)integrate poetry into our lives – as an experience of existence and an existence of experience.

Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Nature Poetry / Ecopoetics / Environmental Studies
- The Self and Subjectivity
- Confessional Poetry and Self-Revelation
- The Body / Corporeality
- Health and Disease
- The Human and the Posthuman
- Alienation and Loss

How to apply:

Please submit an **abstract** (max. 250 words) along with a brief **biographical note** (max. 100 words), your presentation's title and language (English or German), your course of study, and contact info to the organisers at student-conference-goetheuni@outlook.com by **June 30, 2022**.

Acceptance notices will be sent out by the beginning of July. Presentations are limited to 15 minutes each and will be followed by a Q&A session. We strongly recommend you have a PowerPoint as visual support of your paper presentation.

For further inquiry, please feel free to contact student-conference-goetheuni@outlook.com.

