

Entanglements

Envisioning World Literature from the Global South

International Symposium, Goethe University Frankfurt, 20/21 January, 2016

Venue: Goethe University, Campus Westend,

Casino Building, Room 823

In recent years, “World Literature” has become a hotspot of international academic debate. At the centre of the manifold and diverse attempts to turn the concept into a viable framework for engaging with literature in the 21st century world lies a widely shared urge to overcome the Eurocentric limitations that so long bedevilled literary studies in general and the institutional practices of comparative literature in particular. It is in this context that the idea of a “Global South” has re-emerged as a powerful point of attraction in global literary debates. Like many variants of postcolonialism, the idea of a “Global South” has often relied on a victimological perspective: what defines societies, cultures and literatures in Africa, Asia and Latin America, it is habitually assumed, is a common history of colonial oppression and anticolonial resistance. Half a century after the end of colonial rule in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, however, this perspective increasingly clashes with the new realities of a globalized world and arguably needs to be redefined to allow for a fruitful encounter with the complexity of contemporary cultures and literatures.

The International Symposium „Envisioning World Literature from the Global South“ will scrutinize current debates that attempt to bring historical and contemporary South-South entanglements to the fore and to develop a new understanding of world literature in a multipolar world of globalized modernity. The organizers invite participants to critically engage with models of world literature (e.g. Franco Moretti, Pascale Casanova, David Damrosch, or the Warwick Research Collective); to discuss to what extent these models manage to move beyond the Eurocentric confines that so long dominated literary studies; to highlight the “lateral” relations between literatures in “non-Western” locations; and to explore both “North/South” and “South/South” literary relations in terms of a widening global communicative network.

Wednesday, 20 January 2016

- 9:00-9:30 Opening
Welcome by ARNDT GRAF (AFRASO Project) and FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER (on behalf of the Symposium organizers)
- 09:30-11:00 PRIYA BASIL
"Where Are You From?"
MUKOMA WA NGUGI
"Mapping the Global through Africans and African Americans – Solidarity and Contradictions"
Chair: ANNE LÖBER
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*
- 11:30-13:00 ANDREA GREMELS
"Poetry's Place in the World: Octavio Paz's and Julio Cortázar's Re-envisioning of Surrealism"
PATRICIA NOVILLO-CORVALÁN
"South-to-South Encounters: Pablo Neruda and Ceylonese Modernism"
Chair: SILVIA ANASTASIJEVIC
- 13:00-14:15 *Lunch*
- 14:15-15:45 MAREN SCHEURER
"Survival of the Fittest, or, What Is a Classic? J. M. Coetzee, Aesthetic Darwinism, and World Literature"
ANKHI MUKHERJEE
"World Literature as Humanitarian Fiction"
Chair: SILVIA ANASTASIJEVIC
- 15:45-16:15 *Coffee Break*
- 16:15-17:45 PAVAN KUMAR MALREDDY
'World-Making' and Violence: Vernacular Writing(s) from the Global South
NICK LAWRENCE
"Uneven and Combined Development in the World-Literary Field"
Chair: JARULA WEGNER
- 18:15-19:45 Envisioning World Literature from the Global South: A Literary Soiree with Priya Basil, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Amanda Lee Koe and Mukoma wa Ngugi
Chair: JOHN NJENGA KARUGIA

Thursday, 21 January 2016

- 09:30-11:00 AMANDA LEE KOE
"World-Literature as Consensual Third-World Porn: The Copernican
Dance of the Token Asian"
JOHN NJENGA KARUGIA
"World Literature in My Afrieurafrasian Life"
Chair: ANNE LÖBER
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*
- 11:30-13:00 FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER
"Looking Sideways: Afrasian Imaginaries and the Remaking of World
Literature"
ABDULRAZAK GURNAH
"Transcending the Local"
Chair: JARULA WEGNER
- 13:00-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00-15:00 **Concluding Session:**
- Response by ASTRID ERLI
 - Discussion

Organizers:

SILVIA ANASTASIJEVIC, DR. JOHN NJENGA KARUGIA, ANNE LÖBER, PROF. DR.
FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER, JARULA WEGNER

