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International Conference on Indian Ocean Literatures and Cultures (/indicities/)



Call for papers

CALL FOR PAPERS

1st International Conference

INDICITIES/INDICES/INDÍCIOS

Hybridity in Indian Ocean Literature

L'hybridation dans les littératures indocéaniques

A hibridação nas literaturas do Oceano Índico

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

23rd - 25th April 2009

Stories of the legendary Lemuria allow us to envisage the cultural systems of the Indian Ocean as a once unified whole. Successive waves of migration have created creolized

populations where writing in English and French coexists with Shimaore (Comoros) and Kibushi (Comoros, Madagascar), Kreol (Réunion, Mauritius, Rodrigues, Seychelles) and Malagasy (Madagascar). The geographical proximity of the east coast of Africa – Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania – suggests its inclusion in a study of the Indian Ocean as a contact zone.

A comparative perspective is ideal for grappling with the phenomenon of hybridity in such a complex cultural area. It also allows us to overcome both linguistic and academic frontiers embedded within the current fragmentation of literary studies. As Bernard Mouralis (2007) argues: "language separates, writing unites". By confronting texts from diverse parts of the Indian Ocean we aim to break down these hermetically sealed compartments in order to disclose the convergences and divergences between literary productions and their traditional criticism. This also enables us to question the celebratory tone with which the phenomenon of hybridity is analyzed in literature and observe the silences and tensions inherent in the writings of this rich, and insufficiently explored, cultural area.

The following writers have confirmed their presence:

João Paulo Borges Coelho

Ananda Devi

Abdulrazak Gurnah

We welcome papers which explore the following topics:

-Theoretical approaches and literary and cultural studies related to hybridity in the writings of the Indian Ocean area and the East African coast:

- Hybridity as an ideological tool
- Hybridity as a theme
- Hybridity as a language. Linguistic and stylistic hybridity
- Hybridity as a questioning of the links between language, literature and individual identity: new literary maps

-Tensions and hierarchies between hybridized elements:

- Hybridity in Caribbean and Indian Ocean spaces: convergences and divergences
- Cultural and literary relationships between the East African coast and the islands of the Indian Ocean
- Poetics of Indian Ocean insularity: islands within islands
- Formation and workings of hybrid Indian Ocean literary systems
- Hybrid authors: The construction of the figure of the author
- The limits of hybridity. Hybris as a space for creation

The official languages of the conference are English, French and Portuguese.

A 200 word abstract in either English, French or Portuguese plus a short bio-note should be sent to **cg.indianocean@uab.cat** by October 31st 2008. Notification of acceptance will be sent by December 1st 2008.

Details of transport and accommodation will be available in September.

A selection of papers will be published after the conference.

Maria del Mar García – Dep de Filologia Francesa
Felicity Hand – Dep. de Filologia Anglesa
Nazir Can – Dep. de Filologia Anglesa

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