

## Calls for Papers

Per le informazioni dettagliate relative ai calls for papers,  
si rimanda al sito [www.anglisti.it](http://www.anglisti.it)  
e/o ai siti specifici segnalati

### XXVII AIA CONFERENCE

#### *Transnational Subjects: Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Encounters*

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici

Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale

Dipartimento di Studi Letterari, Linguistici e Comparati

Naples 10–12 September 2015

The space of cultural globalization is increasingly moving beyond disciplinary and geographic boundaries and creating at the same time new approaches to learning in the field of Anglophone studies as well. Transculturality is the concept that identifies the formation of multifaceted, fluid identities, resulting from diverse cultural encounters, and fostering the very concept of world literature(s) or Globalit (Baucom) as networks of influence and transmission. At the same time, global professional, scientific and academic discourse communities are rising and other non-literary areas of language use, such as politics, web-mediated communication and global media, are increasingly being investigated calling for new paradigms of research and categories of analysis. Precisely in relation to this new perspective, categories such as national identity, migration, exile, war, colonialism, post-colonialism, gender, genre, translation, are undergoing dramatic transformations that may diverge from the older and more established ones of multicultural or post-colonial writing. The aim of the Conference is the exploration of these emerging modes of multilingualism and transculturality as they are currently debated in and across literature, language and cultural studies, together with the modifications they have created, from different points of view, including the consequences of the two World Wars in the starting construction of a European identity.

The Conference is organized in the three traditional sections of AIA conferences: literature, culture and language.

#### **PROPOSALS**

Paper proposals should be submitted **by 31 January 2015** to the conveners' addresses with the following elements:

Name  
Institution  
Present Appointment  
Contact details (email, telephone)  
Title  
Abstract (500–600 words)  
Indication of the thematic section in which the proposal falls.

ONLY FULLY PAID UP AIA MEMBERS WILL BE CONSIDERED.

Acceptance of proposals will be sent by email **before 31 March**. The registration will cost 100 euros **until 31 May 2015**, 140 euros after this date and **until 31 July**. Registration (cla@unina.it) will be only valid after confirmation of payment.

For current students of the Departments of the Universities “Federico II” and “Orientale” the admittance will be free.

THE CONFERENCE WEB SITE WILL BE READY BY THE END OF FEBRUARY.

Further details will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### LITERARY WORKSHOP

The critical debate on literature has recently moved from the comparative and postcolonial approach to the wider concept of transnational or world literature, as a result/effect of globalization. Indeed, the increasing interaction of national cultures and languages today means that contemporary literature cannot be seen as the product of one single nation and culture, but operates in an open and transnational field. In the early 20th century the writer Randolph Bourne coined the term transnationalism, to indicate “a new way of thinking about the relationships between cultures” that put aside the presumed monolingualism of individual nations.

Nowadays the world predominance of the English language over other languages (with the consequent risk of having a world literature in English), is a widespread phenomenon as the writing of many Anglophone works of English literature which are not produced in an Anglophone country testify. Another problem to be explored is therefore the future of literary studies, given the heterogeneity and discontinuity of national cultures and an increasing literary production resulting from the intermingling of different cultures. Of course criticism in the perspective of transnational literature applies not only to contemporary Anglophone literature in the world but also to that phenomenon of appropriation of past works in periods successive to their creation; indeed, appropriation, adaptation, trans-textuality, hybridization, trans-codification as forms of transmission of literary texts within the concept of trans-nationality will be explored in this section with reference to the categories of both space and time.

**Possible topics:**

- The future of literary studies on a global scale
- Multilingualism: is today's multilingualism different in kind from the literary multilingualism of the past?
- Networks of travel, trade and learning: past and present
- Transnational communities: Narratives of 'contact zones'
- The relationship of de-territorialized or no-territorial literature and the nation-state
- From 'national allegories' (Jameson) to World Literature: the 'canon writ large'
- "Against World Literature" (Apter): the rights of untranslatables
- Foreign form, local material: the strength of the novel
- Exile as a metaphor for modernity
- The crucial issue of reception: appropriations and re-writings

**CONVENERS**

Annamaria Lamarra (annamaria.lamarra@unina.it)

Simonetta de Filippis (sdefilippis@unior.it)

Michele Stanco (michele.stanco@unina.it)

**CULTURAL STUDIES WORKSHOP**

In the wake of Post-colonialism and Globalization, cultural theory has famously revisited and deconstructed the old binaries of colonial and national world-orders, focussing more and more upon transition as both process and space. After having revisited identities, cultures, languages, and posited categories such as transnational discourse, ideologies, modes of belonging, media and public spheres, the intellectual legacy of the cultural turn has given prominence and centrality to transnational forms of subjectivity as well. From this intermediate position some questions are nonetheless still worth asking and some categories are still to be interrogated. In a world of contentious geopolitical orders and borders, in which the friction between local and global is more dramatic than ever and the outburst of new violent epistemologies always at hand, the cultural dilemma of one's own location cannot be over-emphasized and the very concept of home still uncannily oscillates between 'a place of estrangement' and a 'space of engagement' (Bhabha).

Methodologically, the cultural studies workshop looks at the overlapping spheres of translation studies, comparative literature and world literature, which have recently been the site of increased scholarly traffic and dialogue, keeping at the same time a distinct set of priorities in research enquiry. For example, with reference to the still open question of Globalization as neo-liberal westernization and/or as a possible form of multi-polar cosmopolitanism, the cultural studies section aims at exploring, on the one hand, the risks of projecting specific cultural values as 'false universals' but also, on the other hand, at taking a bearing of the opportunities offered from genuine invariants and even fruitful differences emerging from the new spaces of linguistic and cultural encounters.

The following are suggested possible topics:

- Home culture and wider world: happy hybridity, assimilation, retrenchment
- Power relations, old and new 'violent epistemologies'
- Tribalism and universalism: two sides of the same coin?
- Fruitful failures: the limits of translation, the necessity of transculturation

With reference to the new sites where transnational identities are generated, contributions might be organized around the following or other related issues:

- 'Ethno/Ideo-scapes'(Appadurai): war communities and the role of media
- Global cities: the site of transnational subjects
- Transplantation, transference, circulation: what kind of citizenship?
- A new place of transit: the 'transnation' (Ashcroft)

Questions relevant to the seminar might also include the ways in which Cultural Studies themselves engage with the idea of a transnational book market and the processes of translational circulation of texts dominated by the hyper centrality of English. Following the downstream/upstream fluxes of cultural influence we'd like to address these possible additional issues:

- Globalization and the book market: what access to the "The world Republic of Letters" (Casanova)?
- Travelling theory in travelling culture, which direction?
- Between class and culture: to have English, not to have English
- For a post-postcolonial critical trend: beyond the Anglophone canon and back to area studies?

#### **CONVENERS**

Rossella Ciocca (rciocca@unior.it)

C. Maria Laudando (cmlaudando@unior.it)

Marina De Chiara (mdechiara@unior.it)

#### **LANGUAGE WORKSHOP**

Globalisation and present forms of migration across national boundaries have changed our perception of self, identity, mother tongue and intercultural communication to the point that encounters with other languages/cultures have increasingly become the norm and have irrevocably altered previously stable and unified notions of identity.

Cross-cultural movements through travel, tourism, contemporary technologies and novel means of global communication have facilitated the interaction between the self and the other language/culture. Multifaceted socio-cultural and economic phenomena have given birth to the emergence of new discourses both on the significance of belonging to a linguistic community and English language(s) as the new medium of global communication.

Web-wired transnational audiences have shaped unprecedented scenarios and brought to light new forms of linguistic socio-cultural entanglements. Within this novel national/transnational language-related reality, researchers are required to a) re-discuss the notions of globalization and transculturality in English, so that concepts such as: identity, citizenship, ethnicity, bilingualism and translanguaging may find functional and efficient definitions, b) examine the impact that the new scenario has had on the evolution of English, and on the way we conceptualize and categorize linguistic phenomena; and c) redefine the role of translation and translation practices in the perspective of global literatures/cultures. A plethora of topics emerges and opens to analyses, discussions and investigations. It requires the community of language experts to forward novel visions, update language-related notions and propose working methodologies. Relevant topics for the conference will also include the following areas:

- new translation methodologies and practices
- translation and intercultural communication
- interference and language variation
- constructing and deconstructing ideological discourses in language
- language and social change
- the language of exile
- English in the traditional and the new media
- teaching English in multicultural contexts
- English in CLIL-oriented contexts
- English for Academic and for Professional Purposes
- affect and English learning
- ELF and teacher training
- the use of English as a Lingua franca in the new global discourse communities
- meaning in language, mind and culture
- universality and culture specificity in language categorization
- contrasting cultural and cognitive frames

#### CONVENERS

Liliana Landolfi ([liliana.landolfi@unior.it](mailto:liliana.landolfi@unior.it))

Eleonora Federici ([efederici@unior.it](mailto:efederici@unior.it))

Flavia Cavaliere ([fcavaliere@unina.it](mailto:fcavaliere@unina.it))