

TRANSNATIONAL SPACE AND THE POLITICS OF PLACE

The concept of space is central to reflecting on transnational communities that share languages, media or texts rather than physical terrain. Theories of transnational space are also instrumental in order to account for those who have been expelled from their land or remain on the margins of their new cities. How are space and place conceptualized within these various communities and their cultural productions? Artists and intellectuals sketch new spatial imaginaries in their work by destabilizing prevailing discourses on space and place, thus laying the groundwork for the revision of those discourses. Through translation and mediation, furthermore, the circulation of discourse transnationally generates new spatial metaphors of encounter and dialogue. Yet the processes by which these map onto particular histories are shaped, too, by inequities of power. Consequently, transnational imaginaries are sites of contention as well as recognition. This conference shall take a closer look at both the politics of place and the circulation of spatial knowledge in transnational context, in order to raise new questions about the broader claims of transnational spatial discourses today.

Organized by:

Program Co-directors:

Françoise Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih

Mellon Fellows:

Sze-wei Ang, Maya Boutaghou, Greg Cohen, Fatima El-Tayeb, Marcela Fuentes,
Sonali Pahwa, Sarah Valentine, Travis Workman

This event is sponsored by the Dean, College of Letters and Sciences and the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at UCLA.

This program is free and open to the public, however, seating is limited. Parking will be available for \$9 on the UCLA campus. Please go to the kiosk on Sunset and Westwood Plaza to purchase a pass for the nearest available lot.

For further information, please contact Laura Clennon at clennon@humnet.ucla.edu

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities
"Cultures in Transnational Perspective"
Third Annual Conference



TRANSNATIONAL SPACE AND THE POLITICS OF PLACE

May 8-9, 2009

University of California, Los Angeles

KEYNOTE SPEECH: EDWARD SOJA

TRANSNATIONAL SPACE AND THE POLITICS OF PLACE

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009, ROYCE HALL 306

- 9:15 am *WELCOME*
Françoise Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih, co-directors, UCLA Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities
- 9:30 am *THE VISUAL, THE MOBILE, AND THE TRANSNATIONAL: ARCHITECTURES OF SPATIAL THOUGHT*
Moderator: Liz Constable, (University of California, Davis)
- Greg Cohen**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)
"City of the *Planalto*: The Filmic Brasília and the Nature of Late-Modern Spatiality"
- Travis Workman**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)
"Bilingual Writer as Architect: Intensive Space and Lyricism in Yi Sang's Poetry"
- Tom Conley**, (Harvard University)
"Space in Transit: On Geographies of Film Noir"
- 12:00 pm *LUNCH BREAK*
- 1:30 pm *BORDERS, NETWORKS, AND SPATIAL REGIMES: EMBEDDED POWER AND PERFORMANCE INTERVENTION*
Moderator: Shanna Lorenz, (Occidental College)
- Marcela Fuentes**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)
"From Site-specific to Locative Arts: Placing Artistic Gestures in Transnational Context"
- Sarah Valentine**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)
"Shifting Borders in End-of-the-Soviet-Era Film"
- Dorita Hannah**, (Massey University)
"Black Wi(n)dow: Architectural Performativity and Spatial Cruelty"
- 4:00 pm *COFFEE BREAK*

4:30 pm

KEYNOTE SPEECH, Royce Hall 314

Edward Soja, (UCLA)

"Struggles Over Geography: On the Spatial Turn in the Human Sciences"

Introduction: Greg Cohen, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)

SATURDAY, MAY 9, ROYCE HALL 306

9:30 am

RACING RELIGION IN (POST)NATIONAL SPACES

Moderator, Sondra Hale, (UCLA)

Fatima El-Tayeb, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)

"Cosmopolitanism and the Construction of Muslim Identity in 'Postsecular' Europe"

Sze-wei Ang, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)

"Narrativizing Monotheism"

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, (Emory University)

"Identity and Self-Determination: Authority is in the Eyes of the Beholder"

12:00 pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:30 pm

GENDERED MODERNITY IN A TRANSNATIONAL ARAB WORLD

Moderator: Karina Eileraas, (UCLA)

Maya Boutaghou, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)

"Translation in Desired Transnational Spaces: Mayy Ziyada in Cairo"

Sonali Pahwa, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, (UCLA)

"Gendering Space in Transnational Media: Women's Talk Shows on Arab Satellite Television."

Ronald Judy, (University of Pittsburgh)

"Imagining an Arabization of Global English-language Literary Theory"

4:00 pm

CLOSING RECEPTION