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## “TRANSNATIONALISM IN QUESTION”

Rapidly consolidating as a field, transnational studies emerged more or less contemporaneously with the economic and cultural processes aggregately referred to as “globalization.” In that regard, transnationalism roves between or beyond the material and imaginary borders of the nation-state as it was conceived and structured in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, thus proposing to unmoor artistic, cultural, and political practices—as well as methods of scholarly interpretation—from the concentric affiliations of national community and national subjectivity. Though the ethos of transnationalism and its moment in history may be defined in this way, we have yet to account sufficiently for the spectrum of its possibilities and limitations as a terrain of thought and practice.

This conference will take the idea of transnationalism in itself as a matter of inquiry. We will engage its past instances within colonial formations and trans-oceanic economies, as well as address its articulations in relation to cosmopolitanism and internationalism. By considering the meanings of “the transnational” in relation to different cultural logics and political agendas, we aim to assess its value as a methodology and its usefulness as an epistemic lens, rather than merely a descriptive term. To that end, we shall situate transnationalism in relation to different historic, ethnic, and cultural contexts, disciplinary formations, and concrete practices throughout history that, in hindsight, evidence the mark of what we recognize today as transnational processes. Ultimately, the goal of the conference will be to weigh the possibilities for knowledge, culture, and politics opened up by transnationalism as a conceptual frame, at the same time that we chart the depth and contours of its potential limitations.

### **ORGANIZED BY:**

Program Co-directors:

Françoise Lionnet and Shu-Mei Shih

### **Mellon Fellows:**

Joseph Bauerkemper, Maya Boutaghou, Greg Cohen, Marcela Fuentes, Jeannine Murray-Roman, Travis Workman

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

This event 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 Myrna Ortiz at  
ortiz@humnet.ucla.edu

ANDREW W. MELLON  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES  
Fourth Annual Conference, 2010

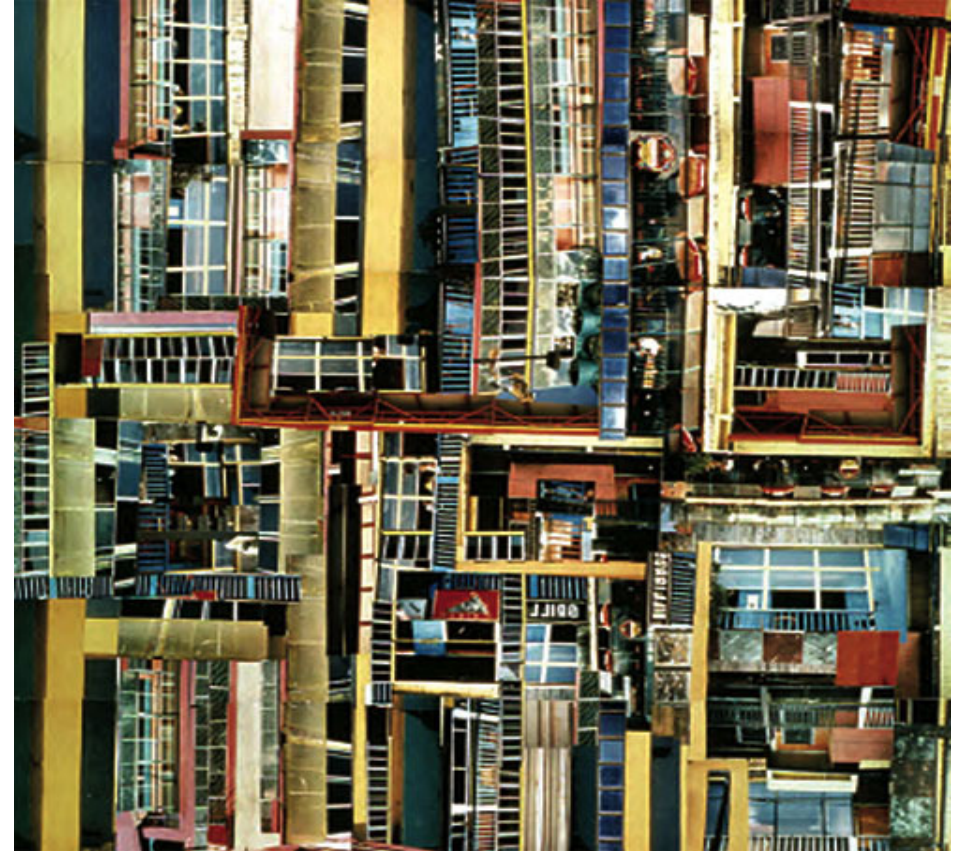


IMAGE AUTHOR: TEDDY CRUZ

## “TRANSNATIONALISM IN QUESTION”

February 5-6, 2010

University of California, Los Angeles

*KEYNOTE SPEECH:* DORIS SOMMER

# “TRANSNATIONALISM IN QUESTION”

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010, ROYCE HALL 306**

**1:15pm WELCOME**

**Françoise Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih**, Directors  
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities,  
“Cultures in Transnational Perspective” Program

**1:30pm " TERRITORY, INDIGENEITY, AND EMPIRE: PROBLEMS AND  
POSSIBILITIES IN TRANSNATIONAL STUDIES"**

**MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT:** William Marotti (UCLA)

**Robert Warrior**, Professor (University of Illinois, Urbana-  
Champaign) “Indigenous Intellectual Practice Inside and Outside  
the Transnation”

**Joseph Bauerkemper**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (UCLA)  
“Constituting Indigenous Trans/Nationhood”

**Travis Workman**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (UCLA)  
“Transnationalism and the Problem of Territory in Asian Studies”

**3:30 pm COFFEE BREAK**

**4:00 pm KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION, ROYCE HALL 314**

**Jeannine Murray-Román**,  
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (UCLA)

**KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**Doris Sommer**, Professor (Harvard University)  
“Stop and Go Movements of Art and Politics”

**6:00 pm RECEPTION (Following Keynote Address)**  
**ROYCE HALL 306**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, ROYCE HALL 306**

**10:00am " TRANSNATIONAL POETICS AND THE GEOPOLITICAL  
AESTHETIC"**

**MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT:** Efrain Kristal (UCLA)

**Maya Boutaghou**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (UCLA)  
“*Sharp Contrasts of all Colors* or How Can One Be Transnational  
in Nineteenth Century India?”

**Greg Cohen**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (UCLA)  
“The Revolution Must (not) Be Advertised: Latin American  
Political Cinema and the Limits of Transnational Discourse”

**Jahan Ramazani**, Professor (University of Virginia)  
“Why a Transnational Poetics?”

**12:00 pm LUNCH BREAK ROYCE HALL 314**

**1:30pm " SPECULATIVE TRANSNATIONALISMS AND  
HEMISPHERIC SHIFTS"**

**MODERATOR AND RESPONDENT:** Elizabeth DeLoughrey  
(UCLA)

**Marcela Fuentes**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (UCLA)  
“America 2.0: Sites of Performance, Embodiment,  
and Transnational Digital Politics”

**Jeannine Murray-Román**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (UCLA)  
“Structures of Value: Surviving in Transnationalism's Dystopic  
Landscapes”

**Jill Lane**, Associate Professor (New York University)  
“Postcolonial Cybernauts: Space Travel and Semantic  
Disturbance”

**3:30 pm COFFEE BREAK**

**4:00 pm ROUND TABLE ROYCE HALL 306**

**MODERATOR:** Shu-mei Shih

**PANELISTS:** Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Efrain Kristal,  
William Marotti, Françoise Lionnet, Shu-mei Shih