23rd GNEL/ASNEL Annual Conference
University of Bern, Switzerland
18-20 May 2012
www.gnel2012.ens.unibe.ch

Keynote Speakers:
Donna Landry, University of Kent, U.K.
Alfred Hiatt, Queen Mary, University of London, U.K.

Post-Empire Imaginaries?
Anglophone Literature, History and the Demise of Empires
Whether heritage film, colonial style in interior decoration, fashion and architecture, Indian cuisine, or nostalgic journeys of Western travellers to the famous sites of the British Empire – empire sells! Despite decades of political activism and anti-imperial critique voiced in Anglophone literature, art, and theory the idea of empire continues to be a lively presence in global consumer culture. These conflicts and contradictions at the heart of postcolonial theory's encounter with history, literature, and cultural practice form the core interest of the 2012 ASNEL Annual Conference hosted by the English Department and the Center for Cultural Studies at the University of Bern. The organizers Barbara Buchenau and Virginia Richter invite a critical scrutiny of today's paradoxical yearning for both, empires and their demise, offering a programme that explores recent theories of ‘post-empire’ from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Keynote Addresses

• 18 May, Donna Landry, “PostOttoman Rifts in Time: Postimperial, Postcolonial, Oppositional?”
• 19 May, Alfred Hiatt, “Maps of Empires Past”
• 20 May, Ann Laura Stoler, “Concept Work: On Recrafting Post-Empire Histories”

All keynote addresses will be held in UniS lecture hall A003.

Apart from a variety of research panels, the conference also offers teachers’ workshops, a closing panel debate, and a research forum for junior scholars, supported by the University of Bern’s Fund for the Promotion of Young Researchers (Nachwuchsförderungs-Projektpool). We have also invited six highly versatile poets and authors: Chirikure Chirikure from Zimbabwe, Dike Chukwumerije from Nigeria, Yvette Edwards from Britain, Meena Kandasamy from India, Lebogang Mashile from South Africa, and Jurczok 1001 from Switzerland. They will provide us with insights into the artistic negotiation of ‘post-empire’. On Friday, 18 May, several of these authors will bring together poetry and performance in a public Spoken Word Event, hosted by the artlink association for cultural cooperation.

Public Author Readings
(in cooperation with artlink)

Spoken Word: Chirikure Chirikure (Zimbabwe), Meena Kadasamy (India), Lebogang Mashile (South Africa) and Jurczok 1001 (Switzerland)

Friday, 18 May 2012
20.00 Auditorium of PROGR_Zentrum für Kulturproduktion
Speichergasse 4, 3011 Bern
Tickets: (CHF 18.-/12.-) Free for registered conference attendees
Further information and tickets: http://www.artlink.ch/spokenword.htm

Registration and further information:
http://www.kas.unibe.ch/gnel2012/
Registration deadline: 15 May 2012
Please direct any further enquiries to: marijke.denger@ens.unibe.ch

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