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CALLS FOR PAPERS

1

TRANSATLANTIC ENCOUNTERS: AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY'
TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 27–30, 2008 IN ŁÓDŹ, POLAND.

The conference is organized in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of American Studies and Mass Media at the University of Łódź. The conference will offer a forum for discussing issues related to American Studies as seen from the perspective of transatlantic and interdisciplinary research.

We invite proposals from individual scholars as well as groups of three to five presenters on topics including, but not limited to:

- media and society: film, radio, TV, the press, and the new media
- multiculturalism: approaches to and representations of
- globalization, regionalization, political leadership
- terrorism: military and intellectual responses to
- national identity, migration, and representation
- popular culture and its national and international contexts
- interdisciplinary American Studies/Transatlantic Studies pedagogy

Key-note speakers: Emory Elliot (University of California, Riverside), Alfred Hornung (University of Mainz), Zbigniew Lewicki (Warsaw University)

Deadline for the submission of title and abstract of 200–250 words and proposals for panels (350 words, including names of presenters and titles of their presentations) is May 15, 2008.

Please submit abstracts electronically or by mail to the following address:

TRANS 2008

Department of American Studies and Mass Media,

University of Łódź

ul. Składowa 41/43, 90–127 Łódź, Poland

E-mail address: trans2008@uni.lodz.pl



A selection of papers will be published by Peter Lang Publishers (Germany) in 'American Studies and Media' Series. General Editors: Elżbieta H. Oleksy and Wiesław Oleksy.

2

MODERNITY'S MODERNISMS: HEMI/SPHERES, "RACE", AND GENDER.

We seek abstracts for essays to be included in a collection that will build on recent scholarship underscoring both the need for and possible ways in which the project of widening the borders of modernism and modernist studies may be undertaken. Beginning with the 15th century encounter between Old World and New—an instance of modernity commonly considered solely in terms of Western cultural development—the collection will explore how this more conventional articulation of modernity is split into numerous hemispheric modernisms with global affect, and how these modernisms are often linked to each other through transnational flows of people, ideas, and things, particularly in terms of "race" and gender. Reconceiving conventional articulations of modernity in this way shifts the focus of interconnectedness between disparate modernisms from the significance of globalization to the exploration of shared history, thus providing the ground for consideration of New World modernisms while opening up new possibilities for unearthing their hidden links with the Western and non-Western modernisms of the Old. Modernity's modernisms thus become multiple interconnected hemi/spheres, in which exist many possible relations of various modernities through history, time, and space, across axes of east and west and north and south—linked also, through the shared quest of discovery, to disparate global modernities existing prior to the 15th century modern moment of the West. Understood in terms of multiple hemi/spheres, then, modernity's modernisms suggest a dynamic paradigm that reconfigures conventional binaries, revealing a previously hidden nexus between inside/outside, colonial/postcolonial, national/transnational, the West and the Rest.

We invite essays that interpret modernism in various social, cultural, historical, philosophical, ethnic, political and geographical registers, and which also reconsider the problem of modernity within a hemispheric frame emphasizing multiple points of view. We are particularly interested in essays that explore the shared histories of modernisms across axes of east and west, north and south. In addition, we are looking for essays that interrogate the boundaries of and interrelationships between modernism and modernity's neglected binaries, especially those between the West and the Rest. The following questions, which should not be taken as exhaustive, might serve as a guide:

1. What does it mean to expand the borders of modernism, and how is modernity implicated in this act?
2. What is the meaning of modernity in relation to modernism?

3. What is the relation between space and time in a reconfigured notion of modernism and modernity?
4. How might a notion of shared history inform our understandings of modernism and modernity?
5. What does it mean to consider the 15th century encounter between Old World and New as a “relational”, rather than “nominal”, moment?
6. In what ways might “race” and gender be implicated in new versions of modernism and/or modernity?
7. How might a “hemispheric” modernism be described, and what might be its significance?
8. What is the relation between “hemispheric” modernism and globalization?
9. What modern hemi/spheres might exist across axes of east and west and/or north and south, and how might recognizing them alter our understanding of modernism and modernity?
10. How might we describe the hidden nexus between inside/outside, colonial/postcolonial, national/transnational, the West and the Rest?

Abstracts should be 1 page single-spaced, Times Roman 12” font and e-mailed, along with a CV, to Cyraina Johnson-Roullier and Meg Harper at johnson.64@nd.edu, or mailed to 1614 N. Campbell Ave. , Chicago IL 60647 by January 15, 2009. Authors of abstracts selected for the collection will be notified by March 1, 2009 of the deadline for final essays.