

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.

Ann Laura Stoler, The New School for Social Research, New York, U.S.A.



Post-Empire Imaginaries?

Anglophone Literature, History and the Demise of Empires

Organized by:
Virginia Richter
Barbara Buchenau
English Department

FNSNF
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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English Department
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CCS
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MITTELBAUVEREINIGUNG
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asnel association for the study of
the new literatures in english
gesellschaft für die neuen
englischsprachigen literaturen

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Post-Empire Imaginaries? **Anglophone Literature, History and the Demise of Empires** **23rd international GNEL/ASNEL Annual Conference**

University of Bern, 18-20 May 2012
Venue: UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3012 Bern

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.

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

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>

Made possible by the kind support of:

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Barbara Buchenau
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