



Configuring the Present across Arts and Media
A symposium focusing on innovation in contemporary arts and their dialogue
with the past

University of Trier, 28-30 October, 2010

PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise stated, symposium events are in Room A 9/10, Gebäude A (Building A)

Wednesday, 27 October 2010

From 19.30 onwards

Conference Warming

Weinstube Kesselstatt, Liebfrauenstraße 10, Trier

Thursday, 28 October 2010

11.15-13.00

Neo-Victorianism I

Chair: Brian McHale

Dietmar Böhnke (Leipzig University): (Re)Fashioning the Neo-Victorian Canon: An Interim Assessment

Brian McHale (The Ohio State University): "Things then did not delay in turning curious": Some Versions of Alice, 1966-2010

Eckart Voigts-Virchow (University of Siegen): Bio-Fiction: Neovictorian Revisions of Genetics and Evolution: The Cases of Darwin and Mendel

13.00-14.00: Lunch break

14.00-15.45

Innovation and the Future in Fictional Discourse across Media

Chair: Maria Engberg

Maria Engberg (Bleking Institute of Technology): Polyaesthetics in Digital Literary Arts: Steve Tomasula's *TOC* and Multi-Media Fiction

Alexa Weik von Mossner (University of Fribourg): Looking Back to the Present: The Future History of Climate Change in Franny Armstrong's *The Age of Stupid*.

Heather J Hicks (Villanova University): The Postmodern Post-Apocalypse

15.45-16.15: Break

16.15-18.00

Experimental Form in Contemporary Narrative: Fiction and Television

Chair: James Phelan

Brian Richardson (University of Maryland): No End: Unnatural Endings in Contemporary Literature"

Robyn Warhol-Down (The Ohio State University): "You Know *They* Know": Realist Narration in *The Office*

James Phelan (The Ohio State University): Assessing the Contemporary Novel: The Case of Franzen's *Freedom*

18.00: Reception

Gästerraum der Universität, Mensagebäude (Mensa Building)

19.30: Formal Opening of the Symposium, Hörsaal 10, Gebäude E (Building E)

Peter Schwenkmezger, President of the University of Trier

Brian McHale, The Ohio State University, President of ASAP

Hilary Dannenberg, University of Trier

Followed by:

Presentation by Jürgen Meier (Architect and Light Artist, Leipzig):

The Art of Light: Commemorating East Germany's Peaceful Revolution in The Leipzig Light Festivals of 2009 and 2010

Friday, 29 October 2010

9.00-10.15

Neo-Victorianism II

Chair: Dietmar Böhnke

Elizabeth Ho (Usinus College): Neo-Victorianism at Sea: Towards a Global Memory of "the Victorian"

Amy J Elias (University of Tennessee): The Politics of Steampunk: Time/Space in Pynchon's *Against the Day*

10.15-10.45: Break

10.45-12.30

Conversations between the Discourses of the Present: Criticism, Ecology, Poetry and Architecture

Chair: Amy J Elias

Jeffrey Di Leo (University of Houston at Victoria): Criminal Editors and the Critical Present

Peter Howarth (Queen Mary, University of London): Poetic Form and Ecological Place in Contemporary British Poetry

Yasmine Shamma (University of Oxford): "All I Want is a Room Up There": Conversations between Poetry and Architecture

12.30-14.00: Lunch break

14.00-15.15

Innovative Dialogue with the Past in Digital Media and Fiction

Chair: Jürgen Ronthaler

Jay Clayton (Vanderbilt University): *Faerie Queene Online*: Augmented Reality and Storyworlds

Jürgen Ronthaler (Leipzig): Scandalizing Shakespeare: Re-Presenting the 'Bard' in Contemporary Popular Fiction

15.15-15.45: Break

15.45-17.30

Contemporary Fiction between Past and Future

Chair: Amir Eshel

Amir Eshel (Stanford University): Hannah Arendt's Politics and Poetics of Insertion

Joel Burges (MIT): Suddenly, September 11th: The Contemporary Novel, Hannah Arendt, and the Big Bang Theory of 9/11

Michael Benveniste (Stanford University): Getting over Magical History: Fatalism and Idealist History in Junot Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

20.15: Special showing of Mieke Bal and Michelle Williams Gamaker's film *Mère Folle* at the Broadway Cinema, Paulinstraße 18, Trier

For suggestions for pre-cinema dinner options near to the Broadway Cinema, see the symposium programme booklet

Saturday, 30 October 2010

9.00-10.30:

Presentation by Mieke Bal (ASCA, University of Amsterdam) and Michelle Williams Gamaker (Artist, PhD candidate, Goldsmiths College, University of London) on their collaboration on *Mère Folle* and previous film projects

10.30-11.00: Break

11.00-12.45:

Formalist Futures: Reading Twenty-First Century US Fiction

Chair: David James

Joe Brooker (Birkbeck, University of London): Is Fat a Formalist Issue? Lorrie Moore and the Question of Scale

Andrew Hoberek (University of Missouri-Columbia): Cormac McCarthy and the Aesthetics of Exhaustion

David James (University of Nottingham): A Renaissance for the Crystalline Novel

12.45-13.45: Lunch break

13.45-15.30

Contemporary Cultural Identities in Film and Television

Chair: Hilary Dannenberg

Hilary Dannenberg (University of Trier): Restorative Nostalgia and its Counter-Narratives in British Television Texts

Anna Linetsky (University of Trier): Revealing History's Unstable Letter: Jewish Identity in Contemporary Film

Aparna Bhar (University of Trier): Constraints and Opportunities of the Genre: Changing Gender Roles and Sexuality of Muslim Characters in British Soap Opera

Closing Programme

From the arts of the present to Trier's more ancient past

15.45-17.00: Visit to the Roman Imperial Baths before dinner

Guide: Simone Dausner

19.30: Dinner at the Wirtshaus *Zur Glocke*, one of Trier's oldest restaurants

Programme version: 22 October 2010