

Three Events on Diasporas, Cultures of Mobilities, 'Race'

A series of three events on the notions of race and diaspora is being organised by EMMA (Etudes Montpelliéraines du Monde Anglophone, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3, France), in partnership with:

- **CAAR** (Collegium for African-American Research)
- The **Caribbean Globalization Project** (Oriel College, University of Oxford)
- The **Department for Continuing Education** (University of Oxford)
- The Centre for Migration, Policy and Society (**COMPAS**, University of Oxford)
- The Institut de Recherche Intersite Etudes Culturelles (**IRIEC**, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3);
- The International Migration Institute (**IMI**, University of Oxford)
- The Centre de Recherches Littéraires et Historiques de l'Océan Indien (**CRLHOI**, University of La Réunion)
- The Centre of South Asian Studies (**CSAS**, University of Edinburgh, UK)
- **Wake Forest University** (North Carolina, USA)
- **Wesleyan University** (USA)

The co-convenors are:

- **Sally Barbour** (Wake Forest University, USA)
- **David Howard** (University of Oxford, UK)
- **Thomas Lacroix** (IMI, University of Oxford),
- **Judith Misrahi-Barak** (Montpellier 3, France)
- **Claudine Raynaud** (Montpellier 3, France)

Over the last decade 'Diaspora Studies' has become a fully-fledged discipline: numerous conferences have taken place, specialised publications have emerged and research centres have been created. Our aim is to assess these different evolutions to better understand how socio-economic and political changes have affected diasporic communities, as well as the way in which literature and the arts have seized upon that question. This reflection entails a redefinition of the terms and concepts, at times used in a loose way, and the confrontation of different, but not necessarily divergent, perspectives.

1. Preparatory Symposium: Diasporas and Cultures of Migrations, 20-23 June 2011, Université Paul-Valéry - Montpellier 3

In a global and increasingly trans-national context, numerous terms, such as diaspora, migration, displacement, and dispersion, involve populations of refugees, displaced persons, exiles, migrants and immigrants. Why has one term been preferred to another at a certain period of time or in a certain place? Why has one concept dominated when the other was rejected? What are the specificities of and the common points between these diaporas? Specialists of these questions from various disciplines (anthropology, sociology, political science, literature, comparative literature), will be asked assess the state of the debate in their field, to share their reflections and to confront them in round tables and discussions in preparation for the following event.

It will be our pleasure to welcome the following participants:

- **Deepika Bahri** (Emory University, USA)
- **Crispin Bates** (Director of the Centre for South Asian Studies, Edinburgh University, UK)
- **Elleke Boehmer** (University of Oxford, UK)
- **Aïda Boudjikianian** (Independent scholar)
- **Louise Cainkar** (Marquette University, USA)
- **Bella Brodzki** (Sarah Lawrence, USA)
- **Robin Cohen** (Director of IMI, University of Oxford, UK)
- **Corinne Duboin** (CRLHOI, University of la Réunion)
- **Karen Fog Olwig** (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
- **Kathleen Gyssels** (University of Antwerpen, Belgium)
- **Indira Karamcheti** (Wesleyan University, USA)
- **Thomas Lacroix** (IMI, University of Oxford, UK)
- **Bénédicte Ledent** (University of Liège, Belgium)
- **Typhaine Leservot** (Wesleyan University, USA)
- **Françoise Lionnet** (UCLA, USA)
- **Anthony Mangeon** (IRIEC, Montpellier 3, France)
- **Adlai Murdoch** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA)
- **Ato Quayson** (Director, Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto, Canada)
- **Alan Rice** (University of Central Lancaster, UK)
- **Mireille Rosello** (The University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- **Ashraf H. Rushdy** (Wesleyan University, USA)
- **Eva Sansavior** (University of Oxford, UK)
- **Richard Scholar** (University of Oxford, UK)
- **Ronnie Scharfman** (Prof. Emerita, Purchase College, USA)
- **Shu-mei Shih** (UCLA, USA)
- **Khachig Tölölyan** (Wesleyan University, USA)
- **Louise Yelin** (Purchase College, USA)

2. International conference: Diasporas and 'Race', Autumn 2012, Wake Forest University (North Carolina, USA)

Diasporas have always had to negotiate new articulations of ethnic/racial identities while individuals had to make do with contexts already defined by certain types of racial relations and certain evolutions of racial transnational references. The emergence of new racisms and of new racialised identities has gone together with new class hierarchies resulting from violence imposed on migrants. Does the prism of diaspora constitute a privileged point of entry to better understand the concept of 'race' as a socio-historical construction, a surface of projection, depending on a particular context? How can the concept of 'race' be imposed, but also how have populations appropriated it? What role does the mediation of art and literature play in these evolutions? A call for papers will be handed out in autumn 2011.

3. International conference: African Americans and Diaspora, 2013, University Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3

The diverse uses of 'diaspora' have contributed to redefine and renew the field of 'African American Studies' and to rethink African American identity in relation to a subject, more broadly defined as both racialised and diasporic. The reflection on 'race', central to the field, will be articulated to that of diaspora to envision the links, the breaking points and the articulations between the two notions. Participants will be asked to interrogate this redefinition of 'African American Studies' and to

formulate the questions and the new objects of study that this transformation has generated. Conversely, what has been the impact of African American Studies on the fields of Diaspora and Race Studies or Postcolonial and Race Studies? The term 'post-race' stands at the core of heated debates among scholars of the field. Have the different disciplinary fields (social sciences and the humanities) vested interests in preserving one concept over another through such and such a paradigm or certain combinations? Finally, are the arts (literature, the visual arts, popular culture, the Internet) privileged markers of these evolutions: notions of avant-garde, of globalisation, utopias? A call for papers will be handed out in 2012.