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That's in a Name: ASNEL is now GAPS

"What's in a name?" was the title of a roundtable at our annual meeting in Berne in 2012 with discussion statements from the various research fields in which our members are active. "Lots," as Pete Marsden has stressed in his report on the panel, published in *Acolit* 69 (2012), "There *is* something in a name, names *do* matter". Indeed they do. Names signal, but they also embody, contain, and highlight productive tensions and debates. The 25-year-history of our Association has documented such debates impressively, indeed, it has played a decisive role in shaping them in German-speaking countries, implementing and institutionalizing a crucial field of study and research at our universities: a field that in 1989, when this Association was officially founded, we called 'the new literatures in English,' terms ('new', 'English', 'literatures') we never stopped debating but insisted on in a mainstream climate that stressed a canon dominated by British and American literatures. 'New' in this context denoted less the literatures we targeted than the field of study; 'literatures' from the beginning of our Association was a shorthand for other cultural practices, and the study of language has always played an important role for our self-understanding; 'English' meant not only 'Anglophone' but also laid claim to an academic tradition. Our theoretical frameworks were diverse, but what we shared was an intense awareness of the continuous and globalized power asymmetries – between countries and cultures, but also within societies and groups – brought about, shaped, or intensified by the long history of European colonialism with ramifications well into the present. The contemporary Anglophone cultures we study have transformed in ways that make the simplifying attribution of injustices exclusively to the legacy of colonialism impossible; the awareness of historical processes nevertheless continues to play a central role in our field. The spread of English through British colonialism and its educational system has in its asymmetric encounters been transformed into a range of varieties of the language and brought forth vital, dynamic, heterogeneous literatures and myriad other forms of cultural expressions with global transformative potential. These cultural expressions, clearly, are no longer 'new', and they cover a range of practices not covered by any well-meaning stretch by the term 'literature'.

So it is against the background of such shifts as well as passionate and intense debates over the years that our members have decided to rename ASNEL (Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English) / GNEL (Gesellschaft für die neuen englischsprachigen Literaturen) into GAPS (Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien / Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies) at our annual meeting in Berlin on May 30 of this year. The decision was made with an overwhelming majority, and is the result of a four-year process of careful deliberations and redrafting of our statutes.

The first time we 'officially' debated a potential name change was at our annual meeting in Hannover in 2011. The objections towards a renaming in general expressed a hesitancy to change what had been established as a successful academic 'label' signaling not only cutting-edge research but also a keen awareness of

the close connection between societal constellations and cultural expression, of art, literature, language, music, or film as forms of political and social participation, and of scholarly responsibility; in short, a tradition of political commitment. Once GAPS had emerged as a favoured alternative to ASNEL, the term ‘postcolonial’ – contentious ever since it had been coined – provided legitimate grounds for objecting to a particular name change, for not all members saw – and see – themselves doing ‘postcolonial studies’. Last but not least, there was the concern that if we took on the label ‘postcolonial’, the range of interdisciplinarity we might seek to cover would move away from what we did consider our ‘core’ (loaded as the term is in postcolonial contexts), namely, the study of culture and language – historically embedded, yes, inspired and enriched by approaches from the social sciences, yes, open to contributions from other disciplines at our conferences, yes again, but, as a scholarly organization, focused on particular methodologies and materials from linguistics, literary, and cultural studies.

In the four-year debate since the annual meeting in Hannover, the members have carefully, controversially, but always respectfully addressed and mulled over these concerns, in panels and roundtables at our conferences, in *Acolit*, in countless personal conversations. As Kathy-Ann Tan perceptively put it in her reaction to the panel in Berne (also in *Acolit* 69, 2012), not so much the renaming itself but the renaming debate “marks an important watershed and, perhaps, threshold in the history of our Association.” The way in which the debate was conducted, the fact that we conducted it so productively, openly, and attentively to each other’s positions is indicative for the atmosphere of exchange and cooperation in ASNEL and now in GAPS.

Thus, the name change to GAPS does not constitute a break with the history of the Association. On the contrary: It highlights our strengths and continuities, not only of our interdisciplinary scope, but also with regard to our mode of exchange. At the same time, the new name now openly foregrounds the continuing contribution of the Association to core conceptual and institutional developments which shape the field which has come to be widely recognized under the label Postcolonial Studies and to the development of which our Association has contributed so consistently and significantly over the past quarter of a century. Taking the name change and the reasons for it as a cue, we will hold the extraordinary symposium “Naming the Future” in February 2015, as a forum for an in-depth debate about the future directions of Postcolonial Studies in German-speaking countries. We are certain that this event will only mark the beginning of a range of steps well in line with the history and tradition of this Association which project our interest and concerns into the future. We are confident that the new name GAPS, as a representative and widely recognizable label, is a solid basis for this vital project.

Katja Sarkowsky (Münster) and Lars Eckstein (Potsdam)

In Memoriam: Renate Eigenbrod (1944-2014)

We mourn the sudden death of Renate Eigenbrod, a dedicated scholar, inspiring teacher and mentor, long-time member of our association, and an incredibly warm human being, who passed away unexpectedly on May 8, 2014. Born in Germany and a graduate of the University of Göttingen and the University of Alberta, she received her PhD from the University of Greifswald in 2000. From her position in Lakehead she moved to the University of Manitoba in 2002, where in 2010 she became head of the Native Studies Department, a post she held until her untimely death.

Even though I had long been familiar with Renate Eigenbrod's work, it was only this past February that I finally met her in person, and I am grateful for having had this opportunity. That this would have been not only the first but also the last time is hardly conceivable even now, for she did not strike me as ill or weak when we met. On the contrary, she was lively and constantly engaged in conversations about the field to which she has dedicated so much of her scholarly life: the study of Indigenous literatures as a political and aesthetic force, as acts of survival, persistence, and grace, as ongoing expression of and engagement with Indigenous cultures, life realities, histories, and stories, as a struggle for justice and better futures.

Questions of decolonization and redress were at the forefront of her unceasing inquiry, as was her insistence on theoretical frameworks that take different forms of knowledge into account and highlight the importance of Indigenous theory on Indigenous literatures. With Renee Hulan, she co-edited the collection *Aboriginal Oral Traditions: Theory, Practice, Ethics* (2008) and in 2010 published *Across Cultures/Across Borders: Canadian Aboriginal and Native American Literatures* with Paul DePasquale and Emma LaRoque.

But Renate Eigenbrod's involvement was not only theoretical; a dedicated teacher, she was also engaged in crucial questions of teaching Indigenous literatures as well as in the connection between scholarly work and community formation, reflected in publications such as *Creating Community: A Roundtable of Canadian Aboriginal Literature* (co-edited with Jo-Ann Episkewin in 2002) and the award-winning "Aboriginal Literatures in Canada: A Teacher's Resource Guide" (compiled in collaboration with Georgina Kakegamic and Josias Fiddler in 2003), or in activities such as the organization of a creative writing workshop "Writing for Change" in the context of a SSHRC funded project on the "8th Generation" of Indigenous Canadians in 2013.

Last but not least, Renate Eigenbrod's work was always also embedded in critical self-inquiry: What is the position of the non-Native scholar in the field of Native Studies? In *Travelling Knowledges: Positioning the Im/Migrant Reader of Aboriginal Literatures in Canada* (2005), she contextualizes her own scholarly and teaching practice in a critical as well as personal and autobiographical reflection of

positionality and subjectivity; this contextualization highlights the in the most fundamental sense relational character of all serious scholarship.

We miss Renate Eigenbrod. Our thoughts are with her family and many friends.

Katja Sarkowsky (Münster) on behalf of the GAPS Board

Gesellschaft für die Neuen Englischsprachigen Literaturen e.V. (GNEL/ASNEL)

Protokoll der ordentlichen Mitgliederversammlung vom 30. Mai 2014 in der Werkstatt der Kulturen, Berlin

Die erste Vorsitzende Katja Sarkowsky eröffnet die Mitgliederversammlung um 12:42 Uhr.

TOP 1: FESTSTELLUNG DER BESCHLUSSFÄHIGKEIT DER MITGLIEDERVERSAMMLUNG

Die erste Vorsitzende stellt fest, dass alle Mitglieder satzungsgemäß zur Mitgliederversammlung eingeladen wurden. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt sind 35 Mitglieder anwesend. Nach § 7.6 der Satzung ist die Beschlussfähigkeit der Gesellschaft gegeben, wenn ein Viertel der Mitglieder anwesend ist. Da dies nicht der Fall ist, beschließt die Versammlung einstimmig und satzungsgemäß ihre Beschlussfähigkeit.

TOP 2: FESTLEGUNG DER ENDGÜLTIGEN TAGESORDNUNG

Gesa Mackenthun aus Rostock bittet darum, über den Fall der Verleihung der Ehrendoktorwürde für Edward Snowden zu berichten. Der Vorstand schlägt vor, diesen Punkt separat als Tagesordnungspunkt 17 aufzunehmen. Der Tagesordnungspunkt „Verschiedenes“ fällt damit auf Punkt 18.

Zudem werden die Tagungsordnungspunkte 9.1 und 9.2 über die Konferenz „Naming the Future“ verkürzt. Die Unterpunkte entfallen. Dafür wird ein kurzer Bericht, der unter Tagungsordnungspunkt 9 zusammengefasst wird, erfolgen.

Der Vorstand bittet des Weiteren darum, den Tagungsordnungspunkt 5 über den Geschäfts- und Kassenbericht zu erweitern, da der Abbauplan neu diskutiert werden soll. Damit gibt es bei Tagungsordnungspunkt 5 drei Unterpunkte: 5.1 Kassenbericht, 5.2 Diskussion und Abstimmung des Abbauplans 2013 und 5.3 Abstimmung über die Bildung freier Rücklagen.

Es gibt keine weiteren Meldungen. Die neue Tagesordnung wird einstimmig von den Mitgliedern angenommen.

TOP 3: PROTOKOLL DER MITGLIEDERVERSAMMLUNG VOM 10. MAI 2013 (TU CHEMNITZ); VERÖFFENTLICHT IN ACOLIT 70 (DEZ. 2013), S. 7-24. <HTTP://WWW.GNEL.DE/ACOLIT/ACOLIT70-GESAMTTEXT.PDF>

Das Protokoll der letzten Mitgliederversammlung vom 10. Mai 2013 (TU Chemnitz) wird einstimmig angenommen.

TOP 4: MITTEILUNGEN DES VORSTANDES

Die erste Vorsitzende informiert die Mitglieder, dass zwei langjährige Mitglieder verstorben sind: Eckhard Breitinger und Renate Eigenbrod. Die Mitglieder gedenken beider mit einer Schweigeminute.

Zudem teilt die erste Vorsitzende mit, dass im letzten Jahr 23 neue Mitglieder in die GNEL eingetreten sind. Es gab 13 Austritte. Die neuen Mitglieder werden begrüßt und ihre Namen werden vorgelesen: Anne Franziska Tauber, Patricia Plummer, Bernd Hirsch, Ana Irina Pilca, Asis De, Katharina Zilles, Doris Hardt, Julian Wacker, Julia Melcher, Stephanie Bender, Jens Temmen, Katharina Motyl, Felicitas Keller, Leslie Peters, Magdalena Pfalzgraf, Marc Priebe, Louisa Nassauer, Anne Loeber, Senta Sanders, Kai Wiegandt, Lioba Schreyer, Alexandra Negri, Corinna Lenhardt.

Anlässlich der 25-Jahr Feier der GNEL informiert der Vorstand die Mitglieder, dass diejenigen ehemaligen ersten und zweiten Vorsitzenden der GNEL, die sich mittlerweile im Ruhestand befinden, die Ehrenmitgliedschaft erhalten sollen. Es handelt sich dabei um folgende Mitglieder (in alphabetischer Reihenfolge): Lise-lotte Glage, Konrad Groß, Norbert Platz, Dieter Riemenschneider, Gerhard Stilz, Peter Stummer. Die Feierlichkeiten werden einen Tag später, am 31. Mai 2014, mittags stattfinden.

Im Anschluss berichtet der zweite Vorsitzende Lars Eckstein, dass der Verlag Rodopi von Brill, einem niederländischen Verlag, übernommen wird. Die erste Vorsitzende vermerkt, dass das *special offer*, eine weitere GNEL-Publikation bei Mitgliedsstatuswechsel zu erhalten, dieses Jahr weiterhin Bestand hat, jedoch Ende 2014 auslaufen wird.

Das nächste Acolit wird im Herbst 2014 erscheinen.

Bezogen auf das durchgeführte CHE-Ranking und Rating teilt der zweite Vorsitzende den Mitgliedern mit, dass der Vorstand im Rahmen seines Mandates Kontakt zu dem Anglistenverband und der Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien aufgenommen hat. Alle drei Fachgesellschaften haben zusammen einen Brief entworfen, der eine klare Positionierung der drei Gesellschaften zu den vorgenommenen CHE-Ranking und deren erfolgte Publikation darstellt. Der Brief wurde abgeschickt, jedoch gab es keine Reaktion seitens der CHE.

Die erste Vorsitzende kontextualisiert das CHE-Ranking auf Anfrage eines Mitgliedes. Sie erklärt, dass durch CHE ein Ranking durchgeführt wurde, an dem sich nicht alle Institute beteiligen wollten, deren Daten aber dennoch erhoben und veröffentlicht wurden. In Abstimmung mit den anderen beiden Fachgesellschaften wurde in dem Brief ausgedrückt, dass man diese Vorgehensweise für unangemessen hält. Es wurde jedoch davon abgesehen, sich mit dieser Kritik an eine breitere Öffentlichkeit zu wenden.

TOP 5 ENTGEGENNAHME UND GENEHMIGUNG DES GESCHÄFTS- UND KASSENBERICHTS 2013/2014

5.1 KASSENBERICHT

Die Schatzmeisterin Caroline Kögler stellt die Bilanz und die Gewinn- und Verlustrechnung zum 31. Dezember 2013 vor. Dazu wird den Mitgliedern eine Übersicht ausgehändigt. Es wurden letztes Jahr 7.000€ abgebaut, was im Sinne der Beschlüsse der letzten Mitgliederversammlung ist. Den Mitgliedern wird die Möglichkeit gegeben, Fragen zu stellen, jedoch gibt es keine Nachfragen.

Im Anschluss stellt die Schatzmeisterin eine Zwischenbilanz zum 31. März 2014 vor und erläutert die geplanten Ausgaben für dieses Jahr. In diesem Zusammenhang stellt ein Mitglied die Frage, ob es nicht möglich sei, die GNEL-Jahrestagung in Jahren, in denen es keine DFG-Fördermittel gibt, über die Thyssen-Stiftung oder über die Volkswagen-Stiftung finanzieren zu lassen. Daraufhin wird von mehreren Mitgliedern, einschließlich des zweiten Vorsitzenden, entgegnet, dass diese Stiftungen keine regelmäßigen Tagungen finanzieren. Regelmäßige Veranstaltungen seien nur über die DFG finanziert.

5.2 DISKUSSION UND ABSTIMMUNG DES ABBAUPLANS 2013 [NEU]

Die erste Vorsitzende erläutert den Hintergrund dieses neu aufgenommenen Unterpunktes. Als gemeinnütziger Verein darf die GNEL nicht zu hohe Rücklagen bilden, um ihre Gemeinnützigkeit nicht zu verlieren. Der ehemalige, Anfang 2013 zu Rate gezogene Steuerberater hatte empfohlen, 40.000€ abzubauen. Letztes Jahr wurde ein entsprechender Abbauplan von der AGM genehmigt.

Der letztjährige Abbauplan beruhte jedoch auf falschen Informationen seitens des Steuerberaters. Seit 2000 dürfen gemeinnützige Vereine nicht nur zweckgebundene Rücklagen und Betriebskostenrücklagen, sondern auch freie Rücklagen bilden; diese dürfen auch akkumuliert werden. Dies war nicht berücksichtigt worden; ein im vorgesehenen Umfang durchgeführter Abbau ist nicht nötig und würde die Gesellschaft zudem bis 2018 in finanzielle Schwierigkeiten bringen.

Den Mitgliedern wird die Möglichkeit gegeben, dazu Fragen zu stellen. Es gibt keine Meldungen.

Die erste Vorsitzende und die Schatzmeisterin stellen eine Übersicht des geplanten Abbaus für die Jahre 2013-2017 vor wie er im letzten Jahr verabschiedet worden war. Es wurde eine Reduzierung von 40.000€ in vier separaten Maßnahmen geplant.

Die Frage, die sich nun stelle, sei, welche der Mehrausgaben zurückgenommen werden können. In diesem Zusammenhang wird von Katharina Nambula die Frage gestellt, ob das Graduierten-Forum weiterhin finanziert werden kann und was das Graduierten-Forum mit nicht-benötigten Fördermitteln machen solle. Der Vorstand entgegnet, dass Finanzpläne jährlich erstellt werden und dass über eine weitere Finanzierung des Graduierten-Forums zu gegebener Zeit entschieden werde. Nicht-benötigte Fördermittel können immer zurücküberwiesen werden.

Im Folgenden schlägt der Vorstand vor, die 2013 geplanten Mehrausgaben bis auf 500€ für das Graduierten-Forum und die Travel Bursary für prekär Beschäftigte zu streichen. Zudem werden einmalig 500€ für die 25-Jahr-Feier ausgegeben. Des Weiteren könne man durch externe Geldgeber den Dissertationspreis finanzieren um den Wegfall der Mehrausgaben zu kompensieren.

Es erfolgt eine Diskussion über die Höhe des Abbaus. Die erste Vorsitzende fragt nach konkreten Alternativvorschlägen und der zweite Vorsitzende betont, dass es sich bei den vorgestellten Zahlen nur um Prognosen handele und dass in jedem Jahr neue Pläne konkretisiert werden müssen. Mark Stein meldet sich zu

Wort und stellt dar, dass er vor dem Hintergrund seiner Erfahrung als Vorstandsmitglied die Pläne für überaus überzeugend und sinnvoll halte.

Die erste Vorsitzende bittet um Abstimmung über die Anpassung des Abbauplans. Dieser wird einstimmig angenommen.

5.3 ABSTIMMUNG ÜBER DIE BILDUNG FREIER RÜCKLAGEN [NEU]

Der Vorstand stellt folgenden Antrag: „Die AGM möge beschließen: Die GNEL bildet jährlich freie Rücklagen von 10% der Einnahmen und einem Drittel der Zinseinnahmen.“

Der Vorschlag wird einstimmig angenommen.

TOP 6 BERICHT DER KASSENPRÜFER

Der Kassenprüfer Jörg Heinke verliest den Prüfbericht. Die Kassenprüfer Jörg Heinke und Malte Schudlich hatten am 24. Mai 2014 die Prüfung vorgenommen. Alle Buchungen sind nachvollziehbar und durch Belege begründet. Es gibt keinerlei Beanstandungen und die Kassenprüfungskommission schlägt die Entlastung vor. Mark Stein beantragt daraufhin die Entlastung des Vorstandes.

TOP 7 ENTLASTUNG DES VORSTANDES

Der Vorstand wird mit 36 Ja-Stimmen und 5 Enthaltungen (Mitglieder des Vorstandes und des Beirates) entlastet. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt sind 41 Mitglieder anwesend.

TOP 8 SATZUNGSÄNDERUNG/UMBENENNUNG DER GNEL [DETAILLIERTE BESSLUSSVORLAGE SIEHE S. 15-21]

Die erste Vorsitzende stellt die Satzungsänderungen vor, über die bereits 2013 auf der AGM in Chemnitz abgestimmt worden waren. Da 2013 das laut Satzung erforderliche Quorum nicht erfüllt war, musste mit identischer Vorlage erneut eingeladen werden; dies erfolgte fristgerecht, die Mitgliederversammlung ist damit 2014 auch in der vorgelegten Satzungsangelegenheit beschlussfähig. Die erste Vorsitzende erläutert, dass es gemäß des Vereinsrechts keine Stimmenthaltung bei einer Satzungsänderung gibt. Jede Enthaltung zählt als Gegenstimme. Es wird gefragt, ob der Wunsch auf eine geheime Wahl besteht. Kein Mitglied wünscht dies.

8.1. § 1 NAME DES VEREINS; § 2 VEREINSZWECK

Die Namensänderung des Vereins von Gesellschaft für die Neuen Englischsprachigen Literaturen (GNEL) zu Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien (GAPS) wird mit 39 Ja-Stimmen und 1 Nein-Stimme beschlossen.

Die Zweckänderung des Vereinszwecks gemäß Beschlussvorlage wird einstimmig beschlossen.

8.2 ÜBRIGE ÄNDERUNGEN LAUT VORLAGE

Alle übrigen Änderungen werden einstimmig angenommen. Damit ist die neue Satzung angenommen.

TOP 9 KONFERENZ „NAMING THE FUTURE“

Frank Schulze-Engler berichtet, dass es in Frankfurt ein Treffen gab, um die Konferenz „Naming the Future“ zu planen. Es liegt ein Call for Papers vor. Laut Mitgliedervotum der letzten AGM soll die Konferenz ein face-to-face-Format mit Symposiumscharakter haben. Es soll eine überschaubare Konferenz werden, in der die einzelnen Beiträge nicht in Panels aufgeteilt werden. Es werden bis auf die drei Keynotes keine Papers gehalten. Die Papers werden den TeilnehmerInnen im Vorfeld zugeschickt, so dass auf der Fachtagung gleich Diskussionen geführt werden können. Als Keynote hat bereits Diana Brydon zugesagt, zudem wurden bisher viele weitere potentielle Vortragende angefragt. Als Ort ist Friedrichsdorf geplant, das sich am Rande Frankfurts (Main) befindet. Es ist gut zu erreichen und durch die etwas abgelegene Lage wird zudem erreicht, dass ungestört getagt werden kann. Für die Finanzierung der Tagung werden die von der GAPS zur Verfügung gestellten 10.000€ nicht ausreichen, daher wird ein Zusatzantrag bei der DFG gestellt, um vor allem sicherzustellen, dass TeilnehmerInnen mit geringem Einkommen vollfinanziert werden können.

Es ergibt sich die Frage, ob auch TeilnehmerInnen an der Konferenz teilnehmen können, die kein eigenes Paper zur Diskussion stellen. Frank Schulze-Engler bejaht dies ausdrücklich.

TOP 10 JAHRESTAGUNG 2015, JAHRESTAGUNG 2016

Der zweite Vorsitzende berichtet, dass für die Jahrestagung 2015 ein Vorschlag der WWU Münster vorliegt. Der Vorstand hatte im Vorfeld der Jahrestagung viele Anfragen getätigt und für die Tagung 2015 ausschließlich Absagen erhalten. Es werden alle Mitglieder aufgerufen, sich Gedanken darüber zu machen, ob sie die Tagung 2016 ausrichten können. Da bereits München und Wien abgesagt haben, ist der Findung eines Tagungsortes für 2016 eine hohe Priorität beizumessen.

Die erste Vorsitzende und der zweite Vorsitzende bitten die Mitglieder, alle Vorschläge und Interessensbekundungen für die Organisation von Jahrestagungen grundsätzlich direkt an den Vorstand zu richten.

Die erste Vorsitzende berichtet, dass für die Konferenz 2015 in Münster das gesamte Englische Seminar (Buchwissenschaft, Didaktik, Linguistik, Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaften) gewonnen werden konnte. Das vorgeschlagene Thema für die Konferenz lautet „Ideology in postcolonial texts and contexts“. Ein Handout mit einer Kurzbeschreibung des Themas im Rahmen der geplanten Konferenz wird den TeilnehmerInnen ausgehändigt. Für die Arbeit erhält der Vorstand viel Lob, es wird applaudiert.

TOP 11 SUMMER SCHOOL 2015 IN AUGSBURG

Hanna Straß stellt in Vertretung für Senta Sanders, Beate Greisel und Tanja Conrad die Organisatorinnen der kommenden Summer School in Augsburg und deren Thema „Border Stories: Narratives of Peace, Conflict and Communication in the 20th and 21st Centuries“ vor. Die Summer School wird vom 01. bis 04. September 2015 stattfinden.

In diesem Zusammenhang ermutigt die erste Vorsitzende die Summer Schools längerfristig zu planen und schon früher die Ausrichtung in Erwägung zu ziehen.

TOP 12 JAHRBÜCHER

Im Jahr 2013 erschienen zwei Bände: *Postcolonial Studies Across the Disciplines*. ASNEL Papers 18. Jana Gohrisch & Ellen Grünkemeier (eds.); *Postcolonial Translocations: Cultural Representation and Critical Spatial Thinking*. ASNEL Papers 17. Marga Munkelt, Markus Schmitz, Mark Stein & Silke Stroh (eds.).

Zudem befinden sich die Bände zu den Konferenzen Bayreuth und Bern in Vorbereitung und werden aller Voraussicht nach noch dieses Jahr erscheinen.

Anschließend führt der zweite Vorsitzende noch einige Punkte zu dem bereits erwähnten Verlagswechsel zu Brill aus. Er verleiht seiner Hoffnung Ausdruck, dass mit dem Wechsel zu Brill eine größere elektronische Sichtbarkeit erreicht werden kann. Auf die Frage, ob es Alternativen gebe, entgegnet der zweite Vorsitzende, dass Universitätsverlage kein Interesse daran haben, Jahresbände herauszugeben. Vieles sei noch ungewiss, da die Verhandlungen noch nicht abgeschlossen seien. Der Vorstand versichert aber, die Mitglieder unverzüglich zu informieren, sobald sich Entscheidendes tut. In diesem Zusammenhang kann es auch passieren, dass eine außergewöhnliche Mitgliederversammlung einberufen werden muss. Die erste Vorsitzende bittet die Mitglieder sicherzustellen, dass die GAPS immer die aktuellen Kontaktdaten erhält, damit eine schnelle Kommunikation erfolgen kann.

Zudem wird der Wunsch geäußert, den Peer-Review-Prozess zu professionalisieren und die Reviewerliste zu aktualisieren und zu erweitern. Mit Blick auf die im Augenblick sowieso im Umbruch befindliche Verlagssituation wird der Vorstand die Mitglieder zu gegebener Zeit um ein Mandat für alle dann anstehenden Schritte bitten.

TOP 13 GNEL-MAP

Kathy-Ann Tan stellt in Vertretung für Kylie Crane die GNEL-Map vor, zunächst in ihrer gegenwärtigen Form und dann mit einem neuen Entwurf, der nicht über Institutionenlinks, sondern über individualisierte elektronische Karteikarten funktionieren soll, ein Modell das, wie Frank Schulze-Engler hervorhebt, den ursprünglichen Absichten der Map sehr nahe kommt. Laut einer durchgeföhrten Umfrage im November 2013 hatte sich gezeigt, dass die GNEL-Map vor allem dafür genutzt wird, nach potentiellen Betreuern zu suchen. In der geplanten Fassung sind die Mitglieder angehalten, alle Informationen in der Datenbank selbstständig zu aktualisieren.

TOP 14 NACHWUCHSFORUM ,POSTCOLONIAL NARRATIONS'

Von Anne Loeber und Karsten Levihn-Kutzler erfolgt die Ankündigung, dass die zweite Konferenz des Nachwuchsforums dieses Jahr vom 21. bis 23. September 2014 in Frankfurt am Main stattfinden wird. Dazu bekommen die Mitglieder einen Call for Papers ausgehändigt. Die Finanzierung der Konferenz ist noch nicht abge-

schlossen. Viele Punkte und die grobe Struktur wurden von der letzjährigen Konferenz übernommen. Als Keynote konnte Susan Arndt aus Bayreuth gewonnen werden. Es sind 15 Beiträge geplant, sowie ein Peer Coaching und eine Round Table Discussion.

TOP 15 ASNEL/GNEL-SPENDE AN ACLALS

Frank Schulze Engler erläutert die Finanzierungsschwierigkeiten der nächsten, in Stellenbosch/Südafrika stattfindenden ACLALS-Konferenz und stellt den Antrag, GAPS möge zu zweckgebundenen Spenden für ACLALS – eine internationale Organisation, deren Tätigkeitsprofil mit den Vereinszielen der GAPS weitgehend identisch ist – aufrufen. Der Antrag wird einstimmig angenommen.

TOP 16 PREISE

16.1 FÖRDERPREIS

Die erste Vorsitzende informiert die Mitglieder, dass dieses Jahr kein Förderpreis verliehen wird, da es keine Einreichungen gab.

16.2 DISSERTATIONSPREIS: ERGÄNZUNG DER GESCHÄFTSORDNUNG

Die erste Vorsitzende kündigt an, dass am 31. Mai 2014 der erste Dissertationspreis der GAPS (ehem. GNEL) verliehen wird. Im Verlaufe des Verfahrens wurde deutlich, dass die gegenwärtige Formulierung des § 4 Abs. 3 zukünftig zu Problemen bei der Juryzusammensetzung führen kann. Der Vorstand schlägt daher vor, die gegenwärtige Fassung („§ 4 Abs. 3: Die Mitglieder der Jury dürfen an Promotionsverfahren der Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten nicht beteiligt gewesen sein“) durch die folgende zu ersetzen: „§ 4 Abs. 3: Die Mitglieder der Jury des Dissertationspreises dürfen **in der Regel** nicht an dem Promotionsverfahren der Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten beteiligt gewesen sein; **§ 4 Abs. 3 a) In Ausnahmefällen, beispielsweise im Fall einer Selbstnominierung, muss sich das entsprechende Jury-Mitglied bei der Abstimmung enthalten.**“ Es folgt eine rege Diskussion. Die erste Vorsitzende betont, dass es sich primär um eine rechtliche Absicherung handelt. Die Ergänzung der Geschäftsordnung wird einstimmig angenommen.

TOP 17 VERLEIHUNG DER EHRENDOKTORWÜRDE AN EDWARD SNOWDEN [NEU]

Gesa Mackenthun aus Rostock berichtet, dass die Philosophische Fakultät der Universität Rostock plant, Edward Snowden die Ehrendoktorwürde zu verleihen. Trotz des eindeutigen Beschlusses des Rates der Fakultät beanstandete der Rektor der Universität Rostock Wolfgang Schareck diese Entscheidung aus inhaltlichen Gründen.

Darauf erfolgt eine lebhafte Diskussion. Mit einstimmiger Zustimmung erhält der Vorstand das Mandat, einen Protestbrief an die Universität Rostock zu schreiben.

TOP 18 VERSCHIEDENES

Seitens des Vorstandes und der Mitglieder gibt es keine weiteren Punkte.

Die erste Vorsitzende schließt die Mitgliederversammlung und bedankt sich bei der Kassenprüfung. Die Mitgliederversammlung ist um 15:17 Uhr beendet.

Protokollant: Tobias Schlosser (TU Chemnitz)

Gezeichnet:

Prof. Dr. Katja Sarkowsky (1. Vorsitzende)

Prof. Dr. Lars Eckstein (2. Vorsitzender)

Anhang zum Protokoll, TOP 8 (GNEL-Satzung)

Thematisch gegliederte Übersicht von Änderungsvorschlägen

Aktuell gültige Satzung (2009), zu streichende oder zu korrigierende Passagen sind durch Unterstreichung hervorgehoben

Zur Abstimmung vorgeschlagene Änderungen (AGM Berlin, 30.5.2014), Änderungen sind durch Unterstreichung hervorgehoben

[Name der Gesellschaft]

<p>GNEL Gesellschaft für die Neuen Englischsprachigen Literaturen e.V. ASNEL Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English Satzung der Gesellschaft für die neuen Englischsprachigen Literaturen e.V. beschlossen am 16.06.1989 geändert am 23.05.2009</p>	<p>Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien (GAPS) e.V. Satzung der Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien e.V. beschlossen am 16.06.1989 geändert am 23.05.2009 geändert am 30.5.2014</p>
<p>§ 1 Name und Sitz des Vereins Der Verein führt den Namen GESELLSCHAFT FÜR DIE NEUEN ENGLISCHSPRACHIGEN LITERATUREN e.V. nach erfolgter Eintragung in das Vereinsregister beim Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main. Er hat seinen Sitz in Frankfurt am Main.</p>	<p>§ 1 Name und Sitz des Vereins Der Verein führt den Namen GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ANGLOPHONE POSTKOLONIALE STUDIEN (GAPS) e.V. Der Verein hat seinen Sitz in Frankfurt am Main und ist im Vereinsregister des Amtsgerichtes Frankfurt am Main unter VR 9480 eingetragen.</p>
<p>§ 7 Ordentliche Mitgliederversammlung 1. Die ordentliche Mitgliederversammlung findet jährlich einmal und in der Regel im Rahmen der Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für die neuen englischsprachigen Literaturen e.V. statt. Sie besteht aus den anwesenden stimmberechtigten Mitgliedern des Vereins und ist öffentlich.</p>	<p>§ 7 Ordentliche Mitgliederversammlung 1. Die ordentliche Mitgliederversammlung findet jährlich einmal und in der Regel im Rahmen der Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien e.V. statt. Sie besteht aus den anwesenden stimmberechtigten Mitgliedern des Vereins und ist öffentlich.</p>

[Vereinszweck und Aufgaben der Gesellschaft]

<p>§ 2 Vereinszweck, Gemeinnützigkeit</p> <p>1. Der Zweck des Vereins ist</p> <p>a) die Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Beschäftigung mit den neuen englischsprachigen Literaturen sowie den Sprachvarianten des Englischen in Forschung und Lehre;</p>	<p>§ 2 Vereinszweck, Gemeinnützigkeit</p> <p>1. Der Zweck des Vereins ist</p> <p>a) die Förderung der <u>analytischen und theoretischen</u> Beschäftigung mit den <u>anglophonen</u> Literaturen der Welt, den <u>Varietäten</u> der englischen Sprache sowie mit weiteren durch die <u>englische Sprache geprägten kulturellen Formen, Praxen und Medien</u> in Forschung und Lehre;</p>
<p>§ 2.1</p> <p>b) die Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses auf diesem Gebiet;</p>	<p>§ 2.1</p> <p>b) <u>die Förderung der kritischen Auseinandersetzung mit der Geschichte des europäischen Kolonialismus und dessen lokalen und globalen gesellschaftlichen, kulturellen, literarischen und sprachlichen Nachwirkungen sowie mit den Theorien und Methoden der Post-colonial Studies;</u></p>
<p>§ 2.1</p> <p>c) die Verbreitung und Vertiefung der Kenntnisse der Kulturen dieses Bereiches als Beitrag zur Völkerverständigung.</p>	<p>§ 2.1</p> <p>c) weggefallen;</p>
	<p>§ 2.1</p> <p>d) die Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses auf diesen <u>Gebieten</u>;</p>
	<p>§ 2.1</p> <p>e) <u>der Wissenstransfer auch in den außeruniversitären Bereich, z.B. in die Schul- oder Erwachsenenbildung.</u></p>
<p>§ 2.2 [Aufgaben der Gesellschaft]</p> <p>a) die Durchführung von wissenschaftlichen Tagungen, Lesungen, Ausstellungen und anderen Veranstaltungen, die dem Vereinszweck entsprechen;</p>	<p>§ 2.2</p> <p>a) die Durchführung von wissenschaftlichen Tagungen, Lesungen, <u>Fort- und Weiterbildungsveranstaltungen</u>, Ausstellungen und anderen Veranstaltungen, die dem Vereinszweck entsprechen;</p>

§ 2.2 c) die Vergabe von Druckkostenzuschüssen für Publikationen, die dem Vereinszweck entsprechen;	§ 2.2 <u>c) die entsprechende Vergabe von Preisen und Auszeichnungen sowie die Förderung von Publikationen</u> , die dem Vereinszweck entsprechen;
§ 2.2 d) die Zusammenarbeit mit privaten und öffentlichen Institutionen im In- und Ausland, die die gleichen Interessen vertreten wie der Verein.	§ 2.2 d) die Zusammenarbeit mit privaten und öffentlichen Institutionen im In- und Ausland, die <u>vergleichbare</u> Interessen vertreten wie der Verein.

[Verpflichtung zur Herausgabe einer Zeitschrift entfällt]

§ 2.2 [Aufgaben der Gesellschaft] b) die Herausgabe einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift;	§ 2.2 b) weggefallen;
§ 7.2 [TOPs Mitgliederversammlung] f) Bericht des/der Herausgeber/in der wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift.	§ 7.2 f) weggefallen;
§ 7.3 Die Mitgliederversammlung hat insbesondere die Aufgabe der [...] b) Entgegennahme des Rechenschaftsberichtes des Vorstandes, der/des Schatzmeister/(/in)s, <u>der/des Herausgeber/(/in)s der Zeitschrift</u> , sowie der Verabschiedung des Jahresabschlusses;	§ 7.3 Die Mitgliederversammlung hat insbesondere die Aufgabe der [...] b) Entgegennahme des Rechenschaftsberichtes des Vorstandes und des/der Schatzmeister/in sowie der Verabsiedlung des Jahresabschlusses;
§ 7.3 d) Wahl, Abberufung und Entlastung des/der Herausgeber/(/in)s der wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift;	§ 7.3 d) weggefallen;
§ 7.3 g) Beschlussfassung über die Herausgabe und Herausgeberschaft der wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift des Vereins;	§ 7.3 g) weggefallen;

[Orthographie und formale Korrekturen]

§ 5.3.a) [...] des Zweckes <u>der</u> Vereins	§ 5.3.a) [...] des Zweckes des Vereins
§ 7.2 Der Einladung muss eine Tagesordnung beiliegen, die mindestens folgende Punkte enthält: [...] b) Bericht der Kassenprüfer;	§ 7.2 Der Einladung muss eine Tagesordnung beiliegen, die mindestens folgende Punkte enthält: [...] b) Bericht der Kassenprüfer/innen;
§ 7.2 e) Wahl des neuen Vorstandes (zweijährlich) und der Kassenprüfer;	§ 7.2 e) Wahl des neuen Vorstandes (zweijährlich) und der Kassenprüfer/innen (zweijährlich)
§ 8.4 eine/n kommissarische/n Nachfolger	§ 8.4 eine/n kommissarische/n Nachfolger/in
§ 8.8 Der Vorstand [...] f) hat die Aufgabe, den Organisator der Jahrestagung zu unterstützen.	§ 8.8 Der Vorstand [...] f) unterstützt den/die Organisator/in der Jahrestagung.
§ 9 Außerordentliche Mitgliederversammlung 2. Eine außerordentliche Mitgliederversammlung muss einberufen werden, wenn wenigstens ein Viertel der Mitglieder dies schriftlich und unter Angabe von Gründen beantragt.	§ 9 Außerordentliche Mitgliederversammlung 2. Eine außerordentliche Mitgliederversammlung muss einberufen werden, wenn wenigstens ein Viertel der Mitglieder dies schriftlich und unter Angabe von Gründen beantragt.
§ 9.3 Für die außerordentliche Mitgliederversammlung gelten im übrigen die gleichen Regeln wie für die ordentlichen Mitgliederversammlungen.	§ 9.3 Für die außerordentliche Mitgliederversammlung gelten im Übrigen die gleichen Regeln wie für die ordentlichen Mitgliederversammlungen.
§ 10 Kassenprüfer 1. Die Kontrolle der Rechnungsführung obliegt den von der Mitgliederversammlung dazu bestellten Kassenprü-	§ 10 Kassenprüfer/innen 1. Die Kontrolle der Rechnungsführung obliegt den von der Mitgliederversammlung dazu bestellten Kassenprü-

<u>fern</u> . Diese erstatten der Mitgliederversammlung Bericht über das Ergebnis ihrer Prüfungen. Die Kassenprüfer dürfen dem Vorstand nicht angehören.	fer/innen. Diese erstatten der Mitgliederversammlung Bericht über das Ergebnis ihrer Prüfungen. Die Kassenprüfer/innen dürfen dem Vorstand nicht angehören.
§ 10.2 Die Kassenprüfer werden von der Mitgliederversammlung für die Dauer von zwei Jahren gewählt.	§ 10.2 Die Kassenprüfer/innen werden von der Mitgliederversammlung für die Dauer von zwei Jahren gewählt.
§ 7.2 e) Wahl des neuen Vorstandes (zweijährlich) und der Kassenprüfer;	§ 7.2 e) Wahl des neuen Vorstandes (zweijährlich) und der Kassenprüfer/innen (zweijährlich);
§ 11.2 <u>zwei Liquidatoren</u> bestellt	§ 11.2 zwei Liquidator/innen bestellt

[Auf Empfehlung des juristischen Beistands]

§ 5.2	§ 5.2 d) Soweit in dieser Vereinssatzung für die Abgabe von Willenserklärungen Schriftform vorgesehen ist, reicht auch die Einhaltung der Textform gemäß § 126b BGB aus, d.h. die Abgabe per Telefax, E-Mail, Scan.
§ 7.2 Der/die 1. Vorsitzende oder seine/ihre Stellvertreter laden alle Mitglieder schriftlich mindestens zwei Wochen vor dem Versammlungstermin ein.	§ 7.2 Der/die 1. Vorsitzende oder seine/ihre Stellvertreter/innen laden alle Mitglieder schriftlich <u>unter Einhaltung einer Ladungsfrist</u> von mindestens zwei Wochen ein.
§ 7.2 d) Festsetzung von Fälligkeit und Höhe des Mitgliedsbeitrages;	§ 7.2 d) weggefallen;
§ 7.3 e) Festsetzung von Höhe und Fälligkeit der Mitgliedsbeiträge;	§ 7.3 e) weggefallen;

	§ 7.2 g) Neben den hier aufgeführten Beschlussgegenständen enthält die Tagesordnung auch die übrigen Beschlussgegenstände, über die in der Mitgliederversammlung abgestimmt werden soll.
§ 7.8 Über die Verhandlungen und Beschlüsse der Mitgliederversammlung ist ein Protokoll anzufertigen, welches von einem Vorstandsmitglied zu unterzeichnen ist.	§ 7.8 Über die Verhandlungen und Beschlüsse der Mitgliederversammlung ist ein Protokoll anzufertigen, welches von einem Vorstandsmitglied zu unterzeichnen ist <u>und den Mitgliedern in weiterer Folge zugänglich gemacht wird.</u>
§ 8.2 Der Vorstand besteht aus dem/der 1. Vorsitzenden, dem/der 2. Vorsitzenden und dem/der Schatzmeister/in. Gegebenenfalls gehören dazu Beisitzer/innen, deren Zahl von der Mitgliederversammlung bestimmt wird, und die von ihr gewählt werden. In diesem Falle muss mindestens ein/e Beisitzer/in Student/in sein. Die Ämter des Vorstandes im Sinne dieses Absatzes sollen zur Hälfte mit Frauen besetzt werden und dürfen nicht ausschließlich von Professor(inn)en wahrgenommen werden. Im folgenden werden unter Vorstand die hier bezeichneten Ämter verstanden.	§ 8.2 Der Vorstand besteht aus dem/der 1. Vorsitzenden, dem/der 2. Vorsitzenden und dem/der Schatzmeister/in. Gegebenenfalls gehören dazu Beisitzer/innen, deren Zahl von der Mitgliederversammlung bestimmt wird, und die von ihr gewählt werden. In diesem Falle muss mindestens ein/e Beisitzer/in Student/in sein. Die Ämter des Vorstandes im Sinne dieses Absatzes sollen zur Hälfte mit Frauen besetzt werden und dürfen nicht ausschließlich von Professor/ innen wahrgenommen werden. Im Folgenden werden unter Vorstand die hier bezeichneten Ämter verstanden. <u>Dem/der Schatzmeister/in und den möglichen Beisitzer/ innen kommt keine Vertretungsmacht für den Verein zu.</u>
§ 8 5. Vorstandssitzungen werden von dem/der 1. oder 2. Vorsitzenden einberufen. Vorstandssitzungen werden darüber hinaus auf Verlangen von mindestens der Hälfte der übrigen Vorstandsmitglieder einberufen.	§ 8 5. Der Vorstand fasst seine Beschlüsse in Vorstandssitzungen, die von dem/der 1. oder 2. Vorsitzenden einberufen werden. Vorstandssitzungen sind einzuberufen, wenn mindestens die Hälfte der Vorstandsmitglieder eine Einberu-

<p>6. Der Vorstand ist beschlussfähig, wenn alle Vorstandsmitglieder eingeladen und mindestens die Hälfte der Mitglieder anwesend sind.</p>	<p>fung verlangt. Mit Zustimmung aller Vorstandsmitglieder können Beschlüsse auch außerhalb von Vorstandssitzungen schriftlich, per Telefax oder per E-Mail gefasst werden (Umlaufverfahren). Die Nichtbeantwortung der Aufforderung zur schriftlichen Stimmabgabe bzw. zur Stimmabgabe per Telefax oder E-Mail innerhalb der gesetzten Frist gilt dabei als Ablehnung der Beschlussfassung im Umlaufverfahren.</p> <p>6. Weggefallen.</p>
<p>§ 12 Inkrafttreten der Satzung Vorstehende Satzung wurde von der Gründungsversammlung am 16. Juni 1989 beschlossen. Mit dem Eintrag in das Vereinsregister beim Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main ist diese Satzung am 16. Februar 1990 in Kraft getreten.</p>	<p>§ 12 Inkrafttreten der Satzung Die vorliegende Vereinssatzung basiert auf dem Beschluss der Gründungsversammlung vom 16.02.1990 in der Fassung des ersten Änderungsbeschlusses vom 23.05.2009 und des zweiten Änderungsbeschlusses vom ##.##.####.</p>
<p>§ 2.7 Mitglieder der Gesellschaft erhalten bei ihrem Ausscheiden nicht mehr als ihre Kapitalanleihe und den gemeinen Teil ihrer Einlagen zurück.</p>	<p>§ 2.7 Weggefallen.</p>

Commemorative Speech on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of GNEL/ASNEL held at Potsdam University, 31st May, 2014

**Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler
(Goethe University Frankfurt)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear members of ASNEL and GAST
Dear friends and colleagues,

We are celebrating ASNEL's 25th birthday today – a birthday on which ASNEL has decided to make itself a very special birthday gift indeed by renaming itself, a decision that was finally taken yesterday at the Annual General Meeting of GNEL/ASNEL after a two-year process of intense deliberations and debate. What was known as the Gesellschaft für Neue Englischsprachige Literaturen (GNEL) or Association for the Study of New Literatures in English (ASNEL) has now become the Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien – GAPS. We no longer have an official English name, it is true, but we now have an acronym that works only in English – a clear indication, I believe, of the transnational scope of our field and the inherent hybridity of our association.

We are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our Association today, but like all claims for absolute beginnings, this is, as Homi Bhabha might say, almost true, but not quite. It is true, of course, that GNEL/ASNEL was founded at a Conference entitled "Them and Us: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the New Literatures in English" organized by Gordon Collier at the University of Gießen in 1989, but how did that Conference come about? Well, it was part of a series of meetings and conferences under the heading of "Commonwealth Literature in German-Speaking Countries" that had begun 12 years earlier with a meeting in Frankfurt organized by Dieter Riemenschneider (who was later to become the first president of GNEL/ASNEL, and who, I am happy to say, is here with us today, as are Gerhard Stilz, the first Vice-President, and Peter Stummer, the second Vice-President. Welcome to you all – and we will hear more about you later). So, for many of the older members of GAPS (including myself), GNEL/ASNEL marks only one stage in the development of our academic field, and there are excellent reasons to claim that what we are celebrating today is not 25, but actually 37 years old. It is in the spirit of that reckoning that GNEL/ASNEL already celebrated a 25th anniversary 12 years ago, with a special issue of our Newsletter Acolit dedicated to "25 Years of Study, Teaching and Research in German-Speaking Countries" published in 2002.

GNEL/ASNEL, then, with a salute to Tom King's *Green Grass, Running Water*, was not an earthdiver dropping out of a blue sky, but emerged from a two-year process of intense deliberations and debate. HOLD IT, WE ALREADY HAD THAT! - Did we? - YES, IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS SPEECH! Well, anyway, this is how it all started in 1989: A number of colleagues at the time were quite apprehensive of turning the budding, energetic and somewhat anarchic field that had developed around the label "Commonwealth Literature" into an orderly German-style association. Some were afraid that now an inherently German rabbit-breeder mentality might take over, and a few colleagues (well, only one to be precise) even saw the long shadow of German authoritarianism at work in the deliberations to found a professional association that would serve as an effective lobbying agency for the study of anglophone literatures and cultures beyond Great Britain and the USA. Well, I think the history and practice of our association have shown that these fears were quite unfounded. For one, as this conference has impressively shown, we deal in rhinos rather than in rabbits. On a more serious note, the Austrian and Swiss members have, I believe, found a congenial, non-teutonic home base for their professional aspirations in our association, as have an increasing number of international members from various European countries as well as members from locations as diverse as Nigeria, Canada, Australia and India.

Let me briefly return to the 1980s and to the history of our field before the founding of GNEL/ASNEL in 1989. More recent members of our association (and indeed perhaps even the organizers of this superb conference) might be surprised to hear that we have already been in Potsdam before. Well, almost, but not quite. The 7th Conference on Commonwealth Literature in German Speaking Countries held in 1985 under the title "North-South Tensions in the Commonwealth" only got as far as Glienicke Castle on the westernmost tip of what was then West Berlin, right by the famous Glienicke Bridge linking Berlin and Potsdam, which at that time was of course part of the iron curtain separating East from West Germany and was only opened up now and again for James Bond-like exchanges of spies and the like.

My own memories of that particular conference are indelibly intertwined with images of the death strip, watchdogs and border patrols just outside our beautiful conference location and glimpses of Potsdam beyond the border on the one hand, and with a rather bizarre accommodation arrangement on the other. Because there weren't enough rooms in Glienicke Castle, the organizers of what was in fact already a large, international conference had allocated a number of conference delegates to private rooms they had organized in nearby Wannsee. I was a bit startled when it transpired that I would have to share a room with someone I didn't know, but I was positively stunned when I realized whom I was going to share it with. I was writing my PhD on East African Literature at the time, and my room-mate was to be none other than Berndt Lindfors, the perhaps internationally best-known scholar in worldwide African Literary Studies. Imagine the most venerable person you can think of in your own field of study, and you will get an idea of my own feelings at the time. As it turned out, Berndt Lindfors was a very nice (from

my perspective at the time already somewhat elderly) gentleman, and when I shamed-facedly confessed that I would have to spend one afternoon of the conference finishing my own paper, he calmly responded that he had only begun to put together his on the aeroplane to Berlin and would need to do the same.

This anecdote not only allows an interesting glimpse into the wonderful world of academic just-in-time production that I seem to have inhabited ever since, but also holds two interesting further insights into the history of our association.

The fact that this conference was held in West Berlin and could not possibly have been held in Potsdam points to an important omission in the designation “Commonwealth Literature in German-Speaking Countries”, since a fairly sizeable German-speaking country, the German Democratic Republic, did not feature in this field until 1990. GNEL/ASNEL was founded when the GDR was about to collapse, and in the early 1990s a number of scholars who had grown up and in many cases had started their academic career in the GDR joined our association; GNEL/ASNEL has thus made its own modest contribution, I believe, to the often difficult process that is only insufficiently described by the term “German reunification”.

The second insight relates to the peculiar spirit that pervaded our conferences in the 1980s, a spirit that persisted far into the 1990s, but that has since faded out, indicating a major change in our practices and self-perception. Like most delegates at the Berlin Conference of 1985, I certainly felt like a rebel with a cause: to participate in such a conference was to be part of a challenge to traditional English Studies and its often still Eurocentric outlook; it also meant engaging with writing that was often centrally engaged with processes of transformation or revolution, and there could be little doubt, we felt, that there was something inherently unconventional, radical, or even avantgardist in what we were doing. The fact that this spirit no longer dominates the self-understanding and the practices of our association indicates a transformative change: introducing little-known regions of the anglophone world, language varieties or underrecognized texts to German academia or school life can no longer be the main rationale for an association like ours, not only because many of the texts we deal with are no longer underrecognized at all, but are often at the centre of worldwide literary attention, but also because we have become much more conscious of the need to self-reflexively monitor the theories and methods we employ in our critical practice.

There have been other transformative changes in the last 25 (or 37) years as well. The concept of national literatures or literary regions, which for much of the 1980s and far into the 1990s continued to be a major organizational principle of our studies, has become much more porous; a quick glance at the conference programmes and ASNEL Papers of the last two decades amply testifies to the growing interest in the transnational and transcultural dimensions of anglophone literatures and cultures. A similar porousness has also developed with regard to institutional structures: many of our members are also members of the German Association of English Studies (Deutscher Anglistenverband) or the German Association for the Study of British Cultures and we have developed new and important interfaces with English Studies, for example in the field of Black and

Asian British literature, language and culture. A similar development has taken place with regard to American Studies: many of our members are also, or even mainly, American Studies scholars, and as the Round Table later today on "American Studies as Postcolonial Studies" testifies to, there are, of course, also important interfaces between Anglophone Studies and American Studies. And finally, there are, of course, numerous personal, institutional and thematic interfaces between our Association and other interdisciplinary associations dedicated to specific parts of the anglophone world such as the German Association for Canadian Studies or, indeed, the Association for Australian Studies (GASt).

Over the last 25 years, GNEL/ASNEL has thus grown and expanded in many directions. It has remained a philological association dedicated, as our amended constitution asserts, to "the analytical and theoretical study of anglophone literatures worldwide, of the varieties of the English language, as well as other cultural forms, practices and media shaped by the English language", but it has outgrown, as many of us have come to believe, a name that seemed to restrict its activities to the study of literatures only and that still carried overtones of the avantgardistic "newness" I talked about earlier. Our new name, GAPS, will serve us well, I believe, as a new trade mark for what we are actually doing, and as a somewhat utopian signpost reminding us that, ideally, we should study all English-language literatures and cultures worldwide (including those of Britain and the USA) side by side.

Before we get too carried away by the image of the beautiful postcolonial butterfly that has emerged from the ungainly cocoon of the new literatures in English, allow me two cautionary remarks with regard to the future of our association:

(I) While there can be no doubt about the growing importance of interdisciplinary connections for the work that we are doing, I firmly believe that GAPS must remain a place where sound philological core competencies related to specific English-language literatures, cultures and language varieties continue to be honed and put to the test. The most fascinating feature of interdisciplinary dialogues, I have come to learn in my own professional career, lies in the insight into the specific modes of thinking and protocols of research prevalent in different disciplines that are brought to bear on common research problems. We need to be able to make a recognizable philological contribution, I believe, to be successful participants in such interdisciplinary dialogues.

(II) The presence of writers and artists at our conferences has always been a major asset, I feel, for our association, and should continue to constitute a constitutive feature of our conferences in the future. Academic critics have a professional propensity to develop a somewhat autopoietical attitude towards their own labours, and the presence of writers and artists with whom we have been able to enter into critical dialogues has helped us a lot over the years, I believe, in not wagging the dog of anglophone literatures and cultures too much.

I am sure that none of the friends and colleagues who joined the list of signatories that officially brought GNEL/ASNEL into being 25 years ago thought ahead to what our association would look like in 25 years. I certainly didn't, and the last

thing I could have imagined then was that I would be standing here today giving this speech. Will there be a similar ceremony 25 years into the future? Given the dynamic development of anglophone cultures, language varieties and literatures worldwide and the continuing interest in our field embodied in the many new scholars who have joined us in recent years and who are present at this very conference, I, for one, wouldn't be surprised if there was. And, who knows, maybe the speaker who will be talking at that ceremony is already sitting among us, right here in this sunny square in Potsdam University.

A salute to the organizers of this year's marvellous conference, happy birthday to GNEL/ASNEL, and welcome and a successful future to GAPS!

The first GAPS-Dissertation Award goes to Dr. Doreen Strauhs

At the 2014 ASNEL (now GAPS) conference in Potsdam, the Association launched its newly established bi-annual Dissertation Award, an award meant to recognize excellent PhD theses in the fields of Anglophone postcolonial literatures, cultures, and varieties of English.

The recipient of the first GAPS Dissertation Award is **Dr. Doreen Strauhs**. She received the prize for her outstanding dissertation entitled *African Literary NGOs: Power, Politics, and Participation*, which had been submitted at Goethe University (Frankfurt) in 2012 and was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2013.

The jury, consisting of Prof. Dr. Barbara Buchenau (Duisburg-Essen), Prof. Dr. Liselotte Glage (Hannover) and Prof. Dr. Susanne Mühliesen (Bayreuth), chose Dr. Strauhs's dissertation out of five nominations, which were all highly commendable in their scholarly quality and innovation.

As the jury's laudation (which the following summary largely draws on) highlights, Doreen Strauhs's work is marked by an innovative approach to literary NGOs in Africa and their involvement in the Anglophone literary production on the continent. To set the stage for her analysis, she first provides a historiographic account of the phenomenon of the African literary NGO, tracing the influence of institutionally organized and sponsored socio-political literary activities since the late 1950s. She then introduces her concept of LINGOs which provides a theoretical framework that serves as a guideline to her study. The LINGO, as Strauhs assumes, can best be understood as a dynamic social network driven by heterogeneous actors and the relationships amongst them. Her reading illuminates the extent to which LINGOs can be seen as potentially revolutionary transformations of a country's literary scene and argues that these organizations have played a decisive role in the literary landscape of East Africa.

Focusing on two case studies from Kenya and Uganda, the literary NGOs Kwani Trust and FEMRITE, Doreen Strauhs' work first examines the historical conditions of emergence of the two organizations, and then investigates their embeddedness within social, political and literary configurations. In order to assess the power and weaknesses of these LINGOs, Strauhs's work explores the public role of Kwani Trust and FEMRITE as well as that of their associated writers. Thereby the focus lies on the extent to which the LINGOs perceive themselves as platforms of exploring questions of language, society, politics and, thus, pursue a certain interest of public opinion making. Drawing on Pierre Bourdieu, Doreen Strauhs examines the nature of the texts promoted by the two organizations and considers mechanisms of canon formation, revealing the organizations' influence on the contemporary Kenyan and Ugandan literary field. As associates of the LINGOs, the individual writers move to the centre of discussion. They are placed in the contexts of local politics, academic goals and curricula, as well as international development aid. As a result, their publications are highly reflective of

the characteristics and contradictions of their civil societies. The writers, Doreen Strauhs argues, should be seen as active participants in a sociopolitical debate about their societies. *African Literary NGOs* concludes with future scenarios of the African literary NGO and points out the merits of further critical investigation.

In her study, Doreen Strauhs conclusively shows what LINGOs can and cannot achieve, how they function as support network, as interlocutor and control mechanism for writers and readers in Africa and beyond. She provides an innovative literary historiography that sheds new light on African literary production, distribution and reception in a postcolonial and globalised Anglophone world. GAPS congratulates Dr. Doreen Strauhs on her excellent work!

Hanna Straß (Munich)



The recipient of the GAPS-Dissertation Award, Dr. Doreen Strauhs (centre), together with the speaker of the jury, Prof. Dr. Susanne Mühleisen (Bayreuth University), and her supervisor, Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler (Goethe University, Frankfurt).
Photograph courtesy of Dr. Romy Heymann.

GAPS Graduate Award (formerly ASNEL Graduate Award)

Purpose of the Graduate Award:

Each year, the Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien / Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies (GAPS, formerly ASNEL) confers the GAPS Graduate Award for young academics. The aim is to honor outstanding theses (undergraduate and master's theses as well as state examination theses) on Anglophone postcolonial literatures and cultures as well as on the varieties of English submitted to universities and colleges in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Theses that were submitted outside of these countries are eligible for consideration if written by a student member of GAPS. The award winners are chosen by a three-person jury composed of university instructors. The Graduate Award for young academics was first conferred in 2008.

Who can nominate candidates?

Thesis advisors who are GAPS members are entitled to nominate candidates. Eligible for proposal for the Graduate Award to be conferred for 2015 are works submitted in connection with examination procedures that were completed between January 1, 2014, and January 1, 2015. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2015.

How does the nomination process work?

Nominations are to be sent to the GAPS Board of Directors, which then forwards them to the jury. For its work, the jury requires the examination thesis and report both in electronic form (CD or email attachment) and as a hard copy. Please send nominations to:

**Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien
Attn: Prof. Dr. Katja Sarkowsky
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Johannisstr. 12-20
D-48143 Münster, Germany
seksarkowsky@wwu.de**

What is the award's endowment, and where is it presented?

The GAPS Graduate Award is endowed as follows:

- € 500 prize
- Payment of travel expenses (second-class train travel) and one night's hotel accommodation for attending the award presentation at the GAPS annual conference as well as the fees for the conference
- Free GAPS membership (including yearbook) for two years

- Payment of conference fees by GAPS for two additional GAPS annual conferences
- Opportunity to publish the thesis on the GAPS website

In addition to the Graduate Award, two recognition awards are conferred. These are endowed as follows:

- €50 book voucher
- Payment of travel expenses (second-class train travel) and one night's hotel accommodation for attending the award presentation at the GAPS annual conference as well as the fees for the conference
- Free GAPS membership (including yearbook) for two years
- Payment of conference fees by GAPS for one additional GAPS annual conference

The GAPS Graduate Award and the two recognition awards will be presented in connection with the GAPS annual conference at the University of Münster, May 14-16, 2015.

Call for Papers

"Ideology in Postcolonial Texts and Contexts"

Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien (GAPS)

[GAPS is the association formerly known as GNEL/ASNEL]

Annual Conference, University of Münster, May 14-16, 2015

Arising initially in the context of the French Revolution as a term to refer to the science of ideas (de Tracy 1796), the meaning of *ideology* shifted when Napoleon Bonaparte used it in a political context to verbally abuse his opponents ('ideologues'). Marx and Engels (1840s) likewise employed a critical notion of ideology – as 'false consciousness' – which also proved influential for the Frankfurt School. A further shift was stimulated by Althusser (1970) who emphasised the productive force of ideology as constitutive of the subject and society. More recently, the concept of ideology has itself come under scrutiny from a range of disciplinary locations. This entails not only the notion of 'post-ideology' but also the rejection of post-ideology as a "cynical, sober attitude that advocates liberal 'openness' in the matter of 'opinions'" (Žižek 1994: 15). While meta-critiques of 'ideology as a concept' have thus gained currency, the criticism of specific ideologies remains a powerful analytical approach.

In postcolonial studies, criticisms of both colonial and post-independence ideological formations have played a central role and linked the field to similar theoretical developments in, for example, cultural studies, feminist studies, and Marxist criticism. However, the deconstruction of colonial ideologies and their political and cultural manifestations have also met with criticism from within and outside the discipline, as the ideological foundations of the field itself have come under scrutiny. As Robert Young has remarked: "Is postcolonialism a critique or is it itself an ideology, and if the latter, what are the ideologies of post-colonial writing, whether literary, cultural, or critical/theoretical?" (1998: 5) These key questions are far from settled. Do postcolonial studies deserve to be slighted as an ideology? Can ideology be equally identified in different kinds of writing, from literary to theoretical, and does this delegitimise the truth claims of postcolonial studies? Can postcolonial studies be understood, perhaps, as a counter-ideology?

Contemporary postcolonial studies is a highly diverse field, methodologically as well as in terms of its multiple sub-disciplines, so that the impact of ideology-related thinking has triggered a broad range of inquiries. This conference thus reflects a wide range of approaches, from linguistics via literary and cultural studies to pedagogy and book studies:

- The global spread of English has not only led to the rise of new varieties of English but also to the emergence of new local and global language ideologies, which are in a constant process of renegotiation. Sociolinguists develop theo-

retical frameworks and analyse national as well as transnational language ideologies which reflect postcolonial linguistic inequalities. Language ideological studies embrace a wide methodological field, which ranges from theoretical examinations of language ideologies and the elicitation of ideologies from language users to the analysis of societal language use.

- Postcolonial literary and cultural studies have been particularly engaged with the critique of colonial ideology and its continuing effects. Racial hierarchies, the assertion of Western exceptionalism and superiority, and the notions of underdevelopment and development, have been interpreted as false consciousness – albeit in hegemonic form. Literary texts and other cultural mediations continue to be either studied as vehicles of oppression or as tools of resistance and emancipation. While these readings and critiques have not lost their relevance, this conference also encourages its participants to move beyond such binary models – a project that may include understanding postcolonialism itself as ideology, as counter-ideology or, indeed, as post-ideology.
- English Language Teaching (ELT) – itself based within a normative framework inherent in all educational settings – addresses issues of intercultural, transcultural, and global learning and their diverse manifestations. Traditional notions of ‘understanding otherness’ are increasingly called into question in a context that seeks to transcend binary models. The current discourses on culture, identity, and literature in ELT reflect shifting paradigms informed by various ideological perspectives that need to be more comprehensively researched.
- In book studies, the production, distribution, and reception of books are shaped by ideological struggles in a variety of ways. Production concerns the book as a physical (and increasingly as a digital) object, strategies concerning authorship, printing, editing, publishing, and translation – including self-censorship; distribution raises questions about distribution channels and networks, rural vs. urban, and metropolitan vs. peripheral access to reading matter, and censorship; finally, reception refers to readers and their choices of reading, institutional selections of books (such as by libraries and book clubs), processes of canonisation, literary awards, and state-funding for the arts. Finally, external influences, like political and legal sanctions, economic and social conditions, are shaped by shifting ideologies and palpably influence the book trade.

In light of the foundational role of both ideology and the critique of ideology, in and beyond postcolonial studies, and given the significant theoretical developments over the past two decades, this conference sets out to revisit ideological configurations in postcolonial texts, contexts, and theories. Thematic foci include but are not limited to:

- De/Construction of colonial ideologies
- Modernisation theories and development theories
- Is there a particular postcolonial critique of ideology?

- Postcolonialism as ideology
- Globalisation as post-ideological ideology
- The critique of political religions after the post-secular turn
- Gender after ideology
- New spatial ideologies: Ideology and the cartographic imagination
- New totalitarianism and extra-ideological violence
- Ideologies of terror and counter-terror
- Language ideologies in postcolonial speech communities
- Linguistic discrimination and deference in a World Englishes framework
- Language ideologies as reflected in linguistic variation
- Language ideologies as reflected in linguistic landscapes
- Language ideologies as reflected in media
- Language ideologies as reflected in language policy
- Renegotiating standard language ideologies in the 21st century
- Ideological notions of 'otherness,' hybrid identity, and transculturality in postcolonial texts and contexts in English Language Teaching
- Transcultural competence and the critique of ideology in the classroom
- Curricular challenges, ideology in teacher education, and ideology in processes of teacher professionalization
- Ideologies of print and reading
- Postcolonialism and global publishing dynamics
- Ideological shifts during media changes (printing press, industrialisation, digital divide)

Please send abstracts (500 words excl. references) to GAPS2015@uni-muenster.de. Abstracts will be accepted and evaluated from December 1, 2014, until January 15, 2015. Abstracts in linguistics should clearly state the aims, method, and results of the research. Proposals for panels of three papers and for other formats are also welcome before January 15, 2015.

Travel Bursaries are available. Please check the conference website for details:

<http://www.uni-muenster.de/Anglistik/Research/GAPS/>

International Symposium Naming the Future: (Trans)Disciplinary Challenges in Anglophone Postcolonial Studies

18th to 20th February 2015, Friedrichsdorf (Taunus), Germany

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Diana Brydon, Manitoba (confirmed)

Ottmar Ette, Potsdam (confirmed)

Neil Lazarus, Warwick (invited)

For more than 25 years, GNEL/ASNEL has provided a vibrant network and professional forum for researchers, students, and teachers, engaging with the New Literatures in English and Postcolonial Studies. In May 2014, GNEL/ASNEL members have voted to change the organization's name to GAPS: Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien. The many debates held in the context of this re-naming process have also highlighted the importance of Postcolonial Studies as a key frame of reference for GNEL/ASNEL. The purpose of this international symposium is to explore how and why the postcolonial remains such a productive and contested conglomerate of perspectives for academic debate in the 21st century. Where does its specific relevance lie for Anglophone Studies in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and beyond?

As a label for research, 'Postcolonial Studies' has remained controversial. Its diversity and transdisciplinary impact have been widely acknowledged – it has been incorporated into disciplines as wide-ranging as Literary and Cultural Studies, Political Science, and Theology – but there remains a certain opacity concerning which approaches can be considered to be 'postcolonial' within individual disciplines. It seems that in transdisciplinary translation and adaptation processes Postcolonial Studies have often been unduly reduced to, for example, the meaning of cultural emancipation of the formerly colonized, or focussed on the output of its most influential scholars. In turn, there are signs that transdisciplinarity has been taken for granted, or indeed that it has been limited to the casual exchange between individual scholars, rather than being conducted more broadly and more systematically.

When any conceptual field interacts with various disciplines, both confusion and new diversification can result. During this symposium, we seek to reflect on

these translation processes and to intensify communication on perceptions of the postcolonial across different branches of GNEL/ASNEL's core disciplines, Literary Studies, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics. Whilst these disciplines are clearly the focus of this symposium, we also seek to incorporate perspectives from scholars who work on postcolonial themes in related disciplines such as History, Media Studies, and Social Sciences. These contributions will provide a wider frame of reference for postcolonial topics in and beyond GNEL/ASNEL.

Such reflection and exchange is, however, not only needed in terms of disciplinarity and cross-disciplinarity, but also on the topic of location and translocation: what are Postcolonial Studies - and what can they become - in the context of Austrian, German, and Swiss Anglophone academia? How does GNEL/ASNEL relate to Anglophone postcolonial debates in Europe and beyond; and what is the capacity for their specific contributions? These questions are the more topical in the context of recent claims about the end of Postcolonial Studies or postcolonial theory. Examples are the *PMLA* round table "The End of Postcolonial Theory?" held in 2007 and the debate on "The Future of Postcolonial Studies" in *New Literary History* in 2012.

How, finally, can GNEL/ASNEL's specific position be understood in the context of other institutions that specialize in Postcolonial Studies or related theories, regions, and themes? How can this process of institutionalization itself be contextualized and understood, given the persistent notions of avant-garde and anti-establishment that pervade the discourse?

Through a format that avoids parallel panels and is instead based on speaker-response dialogues, round tables, and open discussions, we wish to initiate exchange amongst participants on the following themes:

- Disciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinarity in Postcolonial Studies
- Postcolonial Studies and Regional Studies: American Studies, Australian Studies, Canadian Studies, and Caribbean Studies
- The impact of postcolonial theory on Literary and Cultural Studies as well as Linguistics
- Comparative perspectives in Anglophone studies
- Conflicting definitions of the postcolonial
- Trends in the institutionalization of Postcolonial Studies: GAPS in context
- The canonization of postcolonial theory
- Specificities of postcolonial debates in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland
- New developments in postcolonial theory
- The end of Postcolonial Studies?

We invite contributions addressing the above topics from senior as well as from junior scholars in the field.

Please send a 500-word statement to postcolonialfutures15@gmail.com. Full papers (10 pages maximum) will be pre-circulated amongst participants ahead of the conference. In order to generate a productive discussion, papers will be summarized and commented on by respondents.

Please submit your statement by 31 October 2014.

Grants towards travel cost and accommodation will be made available to speakers - pending our main sponsor's funding decision. Further details will be announced.

Friedrichsdorf (Taunus) is easily accessible from both Frankfurt airport and Frankfurt main station.

The conference is organized on behalf of GAPS by an organizing committee. The members of this committee are Barbara Buchenau, Caroline Kögler, Annika McPherson, Susanne Mühleisen, Frank Schulze-Engler, Mark Stein and Hanna Straß.

Conference website: postcolonialfutures.wordpress.com

Border Stories: Narratives of Peace, Conflict and Communication in the 20th and 21st Centuries

12th GAPS Summer School

Augsburg, Germany 7th-11th September 2015

Despite the fact that the concept of borders is often initially associated with tangible and often geographical instances thereof, the very notion of borders is abstract—if not ambiguous—as many borders go above and beyond their concrete, albeit incomplete interpretation.

The summer school ‘Border Stories: Narratives of Peace, Conflict and Communication in the 20th and 21st Centuries’ will take precisely these manifold metaphorical borders and the narratives thereof—which have emerged and continue to emerge within the realm of postcolonial literatures and theory—as a starting point to re-examine issues related to the postcolonial concepts of place, space and sense of self, in addition to exploring factual as well as fictional accounts concerning conflict, communication and coming to terms with displacement.

The title of the summer school echoes an essential aspect of Augsburg’s own storied past that has hallmarked it as a hub of peace, conflict and communication, since antiquity. In an endeavor to interconnect the city’s renowned role in important historical events—such as the Religious Peace of Augsburg (1555)—and the significance that the New English Literatures ascribe to space and place and the narratives that have either emerged from these perimeters or permeated them, we have decided to use the terms peace, conflict, communication as tools to shape the thematic structure of our summer school.

Created for students by students, the GAPS (formerly ASNEL/GNEL) summer school is a biennial event that is hosted at German, Austrian and Swiss universities. These summer schools aspire to enable an active intellectual exchange between students and established scholars from all over the world and focus on discourses within the realm of the New English Literatures. We genuinely hope that you will join us as we set out to explore our ideas in a series of keynote lectures, seminars, workshops and other interesting cultural events.

While we are still in the process of communicating with potential contributors from the fields of academia and art, we are thrilled to announce a few confirmed aspects of our summer school.

- Katja Sarkowsky will give a keynote entitled “Negotiating the Boundaries of Self and Community in Indigenous Life Writing”
- The Canadian poet, Henry Beissel will read from his works *Seasons of Blood & Coming to Terms with a Child*

- Hubert Zapf will start off the summer school with an introduction entitled “Cultural Ecology: The Inviolability and Porosity of Borders”
- Timo Müller will juxtapose borders in his talk “National Borders versus the Border Crossing Impact of Environmental Pollutants”

Planned seminars and workshops include but are by no means limited to the following topics:

- Afrofuturism
- Postcolonial Pathologies: Double-Consciousness and Fiction
- Capetown-Jo’burg-Durban: Place and Space in Contemporary post-apartheid Fiction
- Energy Security and the War on Terror: Ecoterrorism in the Postcolonial World
- Queer Postcolonial Film

We, the Border Stories Team, are an enthusiastic group of students who hope that you will not hesitate to contact us with any questions that you may have. Please contact us at borderstories2015@gmail.com or visit our dynamic website which will be regularly updated:

www.borderstories2015.wordpress.com

Conference Reports



“Postcolonial Justice” Joint Conference of GNEL/ASNEL and GASt Potsdam and Berlin, 29 May – 1 June 2014

This year's conference of GNEL/ ASNEL was a very special one. Firstly, this was because it was the first joint conference of GNEL/ ASNEL and GASt (Gesellschaft für Australienstudien/ Association for Australian Studies), which made it more interdisciplinary and generated with a great variety of topics and events. The second reason was that it was the 25th anniversary of the ASNEL/GNEL, and lastly, after 25 years of its existence, the association changed its name to GAPS (Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien).

However, let us start at the beginning: On the first day, May 29, the conference was opened by the leaders of the Potsdam organising team, namely Anja Schwarz, Nicole Waller, Lars Eckstein and Dirk Wiemann. They stressed that having a conference on postcolonial justice was the perfect match for the location of Potsdam/ Berlin, since historical events like the slave trade actually happened there. Thus, everybody's appetite was whetted for a joint conference which promised challenging and stimulating debates.

After the GASt greetings, Katja Sarkowsky, president of the GNEL/ ASNEL association, greeted everyone and expressed how happy she was that so many young scholars as well as established researchers would be able to make a contribution to the conference. She was proud of having so many participants from all over the world, such as Indian scholars as well as South Africans, Canadians and Australians. She expressed her gratitude towards the keynote speakers, artists and filmmakers who would all constructively work on topics such as environmental justice, land rights or economic justice – just to name a few.

The opening ceremony was followed by the first keynote speaker Ratna Kapur who shared her thoughts about sexuality and gender in relation to human rights. Her examination started from current developments of Indian society such as the anti-rape protests in December 2012 and the Supreme's Court decision to recriminalize gay sex. In that context she discussed how “precarious desires” in relation to postcolonial justice operate within the legal framework, namely that justice is only claimed from a structure that is already in place.

After the wonderful keynote lecture there was a wide range of various panels. With up to seven different panels at the same time, participants could choose from

a wide variety of subjects. Topics included – among many others – the politics of representation, biopolitics, and the politics of reconciliation. Another highlight that sweetened the first day of the postcolonial justice conference was the reading of a short story from and by the widely known Australian writer Gail Jones. With a following wine reception, the keynote of contemporary Australian Aboriginal artist Fiona Foley, and a subsequent plenary, the day was full of enlightening, inspiring and thought-provoking events.

The second day was the day of GNEL/ASNEL's annual general meeting. Besides many topical issues and many ongoing projects which needed to be discussed, such as the changing of the publisher, the most important decision to be made was the eventually successful renaming of GNEL/ASNEL to GAPS, which was supported by the members of the association with an overwhelming majority.

After the intense AGM, the floor was opened for a poster session in which young scholars presented their work on their dissertation projects. By talking to the five presenters, I must say that the poster session is a very effective and fruitful forum. The presenters appreciated the constructive feedback and it helped them to find many new aspects for their research. Moreover, they gained further inspiration for their dissertation by talking to different experts in a supportive atmosphere. In that sense, I can highly recommend to every young scholar to present their ideas for a dissertation project in such a session.

This was followed by the keynote of Paul Gilroy who examined the race struggles in Great Britain which took place during the last four decades. He elaborated on the impact of the race riots of 1981 and argued that all institutions in Britain responded to these riots. However, Paul Gilroy also analysed the – from my view slightly ironic – tendencies that the people who were once protesting are now selling their attitudes and convictions. By conducting diversity training for the corporations, they now belong to the structure they wanted to fight in former times. Furthermore, Paul Gilroy also shared his thoughts on current and very topical developments such as the rise of Muslims as a pan-racial category that reminded him on the past struggles of racism in Britain.

This very enlightening contribution was followed by a plenary about post-colonial justice and the city in which – mostly but not exclusively – Berlin was used as a discussing space. Indeed, the discussion was a wonderful forum to put Germany's colonial past on the agenda, a history which Germans tend to be not even aware of. The discussion was very vivid and brought up many different issues such as the renaming of the "Gröbenufer" in the district of Berlin-Kreuzberg which was named after a Prussian officer who was involved in the German slave trade. The new name of the place is now "May-Ayim-Ufer", and it honours the Afro-German activist and acknowledges the African heritage and activism of the capital city. The discussions were very vivid and lively and it was a joy to listen to all the different contributions. I overly enjoyed the talk of Nikita Dhawan who is a highly passionate speaker and who demonstrated how the master's tool can be used to dismantle the master. Moreover, ideas and thoughts were shared about how recent insurgencies of Nazi terrorism can also be seen in correlation with Germany's lack of acknowledgement of its colonial past. The second day of the

conference ended with readings from Rajeev Balasubramanyam, Priya Basil and Helon Habila, making a perfect conference day complete.

Besides another intense and fruitful day of panels on the third day of the conference, a roundtable discussion on American Studies as Postcolonial Studies, and a wonderful keynote of Suvendrini Perera I appreciated the opportunity to watch the film documentary *Dhakiyarr vs the King*. In a sensitive and impressive manner, the film brought up the issue of a murder trial which caused a lot of controversies in the Northern Territory between the Australian Aboriginals and the legal system established by the non-indigenous population, thus showing the conflicts which arise when different laws collide. After the screening of the documentary, everyone had a chance to talk to the director Tom Murray who was more than happy to answer every question which came up.

Nevertheless, the highlight of the third day of the conference was the celebration of 25 years of GNEL/ASNEL. The occasion was celebrated on a warm sunny summer day outside the university and everyone toasted with sparkling wine to the work which has been accomplished during a quarter of a century. Frank Schulze-Engler presented a vivid and personal overview of the associations' contributions, above all, focusing on Anglophone Studies beyond Great Britain and the USA. The association has made an important move in shifting scholarly attention beyond eurocentrism, and supporting a transformation in research, namely from the view of national literature to a transnational dimension. That also has a political dimension because it is a matter of justice that all English literatures can be studied. During the celebration former presidents and vice-presidents of the association who are now retired, namely Liselotte Glage, Konrad Groß, Norbert Platz, Dieter Riemschneider, Gerhard Stilz and Peter Stummer, received an honorary GNEL/ASNEL membership in order to acknowledge their contributions to the development of the association. The second highlight of the day was the conference dinner at the *Braumanufaktur* in Potsdam. During the evening, everybody could enjoy a nice barbecue, sitting and chatting at a fireplace, and on top, everybody was invited to dance to Balkan Swing music.

On the last day of the conference keynote speaker Ann Curthoys shared her insights about indigenous dispossession in Australia and how the settler history continues to affect contemporary Australia and Britain. After another round of panels, there was a closing discussion on postcolonial justice. During that discussion Polynesian artist Rosanna Raymond expressed her feelings that she was not entirely convinced of the whole frame of the conference and that she felt uneasy. Despite being really thankful of seeing Aboriginal participants at an international conference, she put forward some essential questions which – from my point of view – have to be faced by every scholar: "Who is benefitting from this research? How much of this talking will lead to action?" She still sees the process of decolonisation as in progress, so she argues that we cannot even use the term post-colonial – much less the term postcolonial justice. Thus, she reminded us as scholars that our research also has an ethical dimension.

The conferences ended with a big thank you to the organisers. The stage filled with so many people who all made a contribution to make the conference a suc-

cess. Katja Sarkowsky expressed her thanks on behalf of GNEL/ASNEL, and Geoff Rodoreda on behalf of GASt. After the farewell everybody left with more insights and anticipation of next year's conference in Münster.

Tobias Schlosser (Chemnitz)

"Postcolonial Justice", 25th Annual Conference of the Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies (GAPS), a joint conference with GASt (Gesellschaft für Australien-Studien), Potsdam and Berlin, 29 May-1 June 2014

As a member of both GAPS and GASt, I was particularly looking forward to discovering areas of overlap in the content of the speakers, and in the discussion and debate around the conference. Plenty of guest speakers were invited from Australia, and Australian themes made up a considerable portion of the program. Given that there were often seven parallel panels, not all Australia-related papers could be heard.

What follows, then, is a report on a selection of talks I did hear on Australia. I deliberately invoke journalistic jargon here, because as a former journalist I have decided to experiment with format: I will use straight journalistic reportage for keynotes and academic conference reportage for panel sessions.

DE-LINK JUSTICE FROM THE LAW, SAYS LEGAL EXPERT

A leading academic has cautioned against seeking justice and legal remedies in a neo-liberal political environment.

Issues of injustice are not satisfactorily dealt with "when the power to define justice is monopolised" by neo-liberal thinking, said Ratna Kapur, a professor at Jindal Global Law School in India.

Delivering the opening keynote address at the GAPS/GASt Postcolonial Justice conference in Potsdam, Kapur critiqued largely Western models of justice that are often imposed on India and countries in Africa, especially in the areas of gender, sexuality and human rights.

"We need to be aware and to be wary of how justice operates," she warned. "Justice cannot always be captured in a progressive narrative."

Kapur referred to events in India, in particular, to make her point. The widely-reported gang rape and bashing to death of a woman on a bus in Delhi in December 2012 led to calls for the death penalty to be imposed on the perpetrators of the crime. Death resulting from rape had not been a crime punishable by death, but the Indian Penal Code was duly amended in 2013 to allow the imposition of the death penalty on the adult perpetrators of the Delhi assault.

Kapur said the "do-something-about-it narrative" that seemed to prevail in this instance and that is often linked to calls for justice, needed to be reconsidered.

"A problem emerges when the death penalty is equated with justice," said Kapur. "We need to delink justice from the law – this is a huge project! But we ought to seek non-liberal forms of justice that create real change."

Kapur expressed concern about a framework of neo-liberal thinking that had led to the re-criminalisation of queer lives in India. In December 2013, India's Supreme Court upheld a law criminalising homosexuality.

"We need different understandings of subjectivity, we need *non*-neo-liberal philosophical understandings of happiness and freedom," said Kapur. "We need to expand our epistemological field," in relation to concepts of justice.

A conference linking Australian Studies with the theme of postcolonial justice was inevitably going to consider the Mabo decision of 1992. In this landmark ruling, Australia's highest court decided in favour of a claim led by indigenous Australian Eddie Mabo, that he was entitled to customary 'native title' rights over land in the Torres Strait that he had always considered his own. In recognising these property rights, the High Court created history by rejecting the conventional legal doctrine that Australia had been a *terra nullius* – a land belonging to no one – before British settlement in 1788. Aborigines were officially declared to have been the first legal owners of the land. The court also ruled native title rights might have survived in other parts of Australia where indigenous people could still prove an attachment to the land. The Mabo decision forced white Australia to reconsider dominant narratives of the largely peaceful settlement of a quiet, empty, cultureless land.

The Australian stream of panels at the conference began with two consecutive sessions on Mabo. The speakers considered not so much the political and legal implications of the decision but its impact on Australian culture. Kathrin Althans examined the ways in which two Aboriginal-authored novels, one written before Mabo (Sam Watson's *The Kadaitcha Sung*, 1990) and one published in 2011 (Nicole Watson's *The Boundary*), both thematise Aboriginal land rights struggles. The latter Watson, who is a lawyer (and Sam's daughter), problematises the sometimes frustrating, often opaque procedures involved in native title applications by Aboriginal people, and thus uses fiction writing to fill in a discursive gap not adequately plugged by legal analysis of these processes. Patricia Plummer, in her presentation, revealed ways in which indigenous artists have laid *terra nullius* to rest and celebrated the victory of native title in post-Mabo Australia. Lioba Schreyer considered how the Mabo legacy is finding voice in indigenous poetry. Peter Kilroy, in his talk on concepts of recognition and redistribution since the Mabo decision, reminded his listeners that while Mabo provided recognition of Aboriginal rights to the land, it did not provide closure on Aboriginal claims for justice. The struggle for what might be termed 'postcolonial justice' is an ongoing process.

MORE PUBLIC TESTAMENTS NEEDED TO ABORIGINAL PASTS

Acclaimed Aboriginal artist Fiona Foley has called on public institutions in Australia to commission more art by indigenous artists, testifying to Aboriginal deeds and deaths in the nation's history.

White society has built itself plenty of monuments to those who died fighting in overseas wars, said Foley, but next to nothing in remembrance of those who died in Australia's own internal colonial wars, namely indigenous people who had been killed defending their territory from invasion.

"There is a yearning to have our dead remembered. We need our own monuments in public, visible spaces," said Foley, in a keynote address.

The Brisbane-based artist, famous for her photography, sculpture, etchings and installations, called on museums, galleries and other public bodies to do more to ensure indigenous artists are commissioned to create public artworks commemorating Aboriginal stories and histories.

Australian film came under scrutiny in the panel sessions. Venessa Castejon, Oliver Haag and Anna Cole presented preliminary results of their collaborative investigation into the reception in France, Germany/Austria and the UK of the internationally acclaimed film *Samson and Delilah* (2009). Made by Aboriginal director Warwick Thornton, the film is an unusual love story set against a backdrop of poverty and the seeming hopelessness of life in a remote Aboriginal community. The three scholars were interested in considering the impact the film may have had on European imaginings of indigenous Australia. The ensuing discussion revealed, among other things, the difficulties involved in 'measuring' and evaluating the reception of film among diverse audiences.

In a different panel, Kerstin Knopf considered the ways in which Ray Lawrence's 2006 film *Jindabyne* examines the strained relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australia, particularly in the years before Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's 2008 national apology to indigenous people for the child removal ('Stolen Generations') policies of twentieth-century Australia. *Jindabyne* offers rich pickings for scholarship. It is based on Raymond Carver's short story "So Much Water So Close to Home" (1981). Stuart and his buddies, on a fishing trip in a remote mountain area, refuse to call off their holiday after discovering a woman's body in the water. Their lack of respect for the dead causes public outrage later on. In Lawrence's film, the dead woman is Aboriginal. The men's behaviour thus fuels racial tension in the small town of Jindabyne. Knopf focussed on the way Claire, the wife of 'Stewart' in the film, seeks to say sorry to the local Aboriginal community for her husband's behaviour. Claire did not commit the injustice but she feels responsible and wishes to apologise *without* expectations of the apology being accepted. Lawrence suggests here that an apology cannot be genuine if it is offered with conditions attached.

COLONIALISM ALIVE AND WELL IN LONDON, SAYS BLACK ATLANTIC SCHOLAR

Renowned academic and activist, Paul Gilroy, has highlighted the links between metropolitan centres and colonised margins, and stressed the importance of archiving the struggles of the recent past in the pursuit of justice today.

At a public lecture in Berlin focussing on the struggle against racism in Britain, Gilroy said the riots that erupted in 1976, 1981 and 2011 in London made strong statements about black settlements in Britain, and revealed much about Britain's colonial legacy.

"We need to see that the colonies were laboratories in which the colonial power tested legal technologies, killing technologies," said Gilroy. These technologies were then put into practise in the metropolitan centre.

In colonised areas of London, "the practice of the police shooting first and then dealing with the consequences afterwards was a product of old colonial and racial habits," argued Gilroy.

"The law is absent in these areas of the city. The law operates here as if it were in a remote colony."

However, these colonised spaces were also productive places of resistance, said Gilroy. "Colonised peoples created alternative centres of justice and developed resistance movements. With decolonisation, these strategies were exported and absorbed into black and colonised urban settlements in Europe."

Gilroy pointed out that in 1981 young people in Brixton, in stand-offs with the police, revealed what they'd learnt from activists in the colonised margins when they'd shouted "Soweto! Soweto!" at the police – referring in this instance to the racism of white police attacking black students in Apartheid South Africa.

This period of black struggle in history and its links with British colonial practice, said Gilroy, need to be remembered and archived.

In the USA, the so-called Culture Wars of the 1990s focussed on whether the study of American history in schools was too celebratory or too critical. In Australia, similar public debates were known as the History Wars. They started in the mid-to-late 1990s and raged for about a decade, involving historians, politicians and others in often acrimonious discussion over whether Australian history was too positive (downplaying Aboriginal dispossession) or too negative (highlighting dispossession). Martina Horakova, in her paper, examined a largely uninvestigated body of writing that emerged from the History Wars: the historian's memoir. These self-reflective narratives, written by non-Aboriginal Australian historians, transgress conventional historiography with their subjectivity, and with their expressions of complicity, spatial anxiety and a lack of a sense of belonging to the land. Horakova considered two narratives in particular, Mark McKenna's *Looking for Blackfellas' Point* (2002) and Peter Read's *Belonging* (2000), for the ways in which they attempt to transcend an apparent impasse in the white intellectual's search for an ethically correct relationship to the land and with Australia's first peoples.

In the same panel, the writings of a prominent and largely revered historian of Aboriginal dispossession, Henry Reynolds, came in for critique. John Docker questioned Reynolds' rejection of the application of the term genocide to describe the destruction of Aboriginal societies in Australia. Reynolds does this in his 2001 book *An Indelible Stain? The Question of Genocide in Australia's History*. Docker argued that Reynolds focusses too much on juridical discourse and on British government policy directives of intent (or non-intent) in relation to the destruction of Aboriginal societies, rather than considering what happened, in practice, on the ground. While applying the prickly term genocide to processes of colonisation remains contentious, Docker argued many historians now accept that genocide – as the United Nations defines it – can be applied to what occurred in many parts of Australia where Aboriginal peoples and cultures were ruthlessly destroyed.

BRITAIN MUST 'SHARE RESPONSIBILITY' FOR ABORIGINAL DISPOSSESSION

The United Kingdom should be held more accountable for its role in the destruction of Aboriginal cultures during colonisation, according to a leading Australian historian.

Ann Curthoys, in the closing keynote address in Potsdam, scrutinised the responsibilities of modern nations for imperial and colonial wrongs. She said government apologies for sorrowful events that took place generations ago are increasingly being sought and offered. Yet apologies required more careful consideration of what happened and who was responsible.

With regard to nineteenth-century Australia, Curthoys said although Britain gradually handed over political control of the country to settler colonial governments these governments were British creations. "British colonial agency was there all the time," she said.

The six regional colonies differed in the way they treated Aboriginal people, said Curthoys. Some had a more humanitarian bent, others were more destructive of Aboriginal lives. These colonies became states when Australia became a nation in 1901, and both state and federal governments in Australia remained morally responsible for the ill-treatment of indigenous peoples.

However, Curthoys argued that Britain had yet to adequately consider its role in the dispossession, exploitation and institutionalisation of Aboriginal people in its Australian colonies.

"Metropolitan Britain shares a moral responsibility to acknowledge Aboriginal dispossession," said Curthoys.

Geoff Rodoreda (Stuttgart)

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