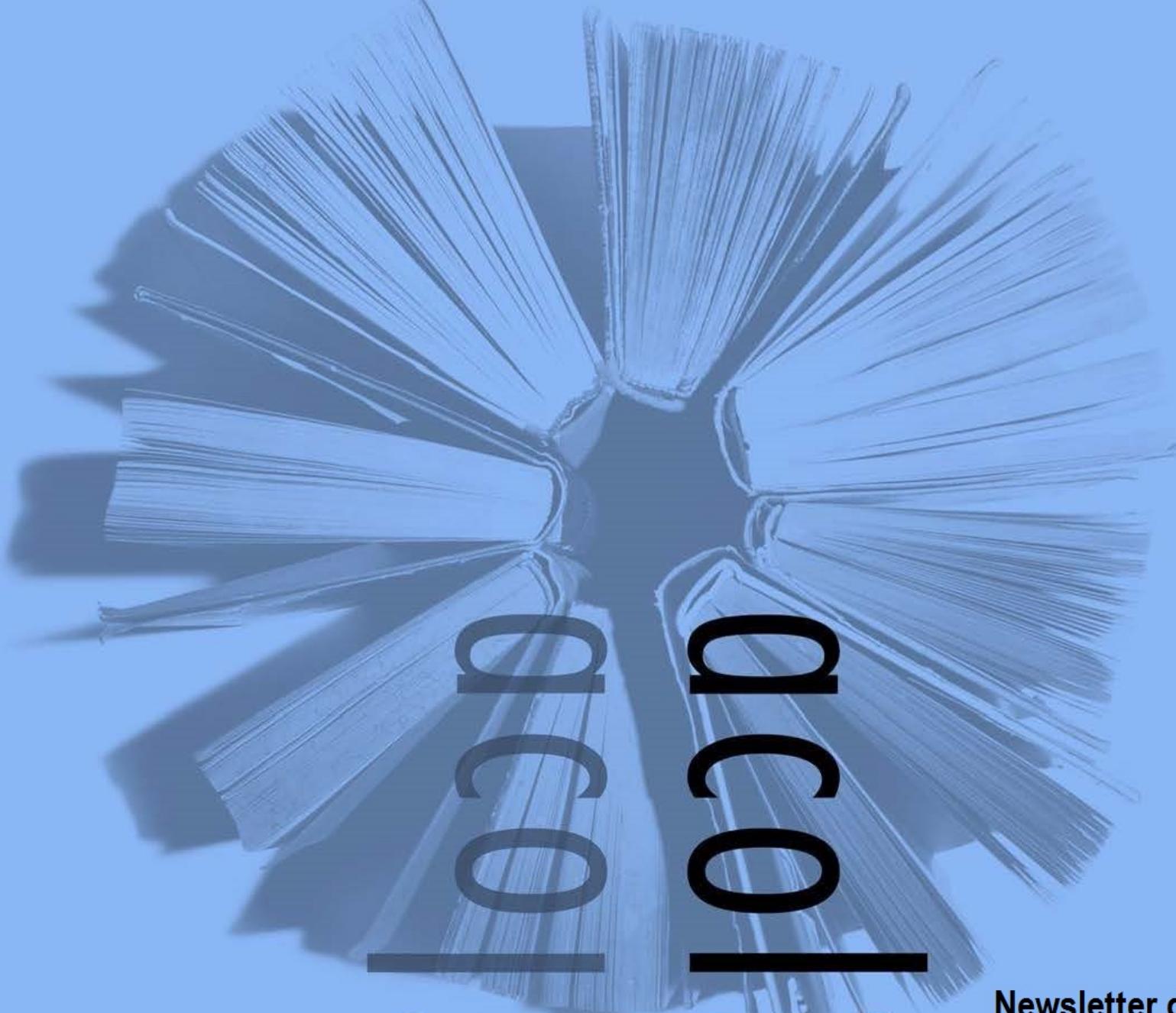


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Newsletter der Gesellschaft für  
Anglophone Postkoloniale  
Studien (GAPS)

**IMPRESSUM:**

ACOLIT – Newsletter der Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien  
(GAPS)

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# Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien / Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies (GAPS)

## Protokoll der ordentlichen Mitgliederversammlung vom 26. Mai 2017 an der Universität Bonn (Hörsaal 17)

Beginn: 15:35 Uhr

Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch die zweite Vorsitzende Annika McPherson in Vertretung der ersten Vorsitzenden Katja Sarkowsky.

Die Mitgliederversammlung wird auf Deutsch abgehalten. Annika McPherson verliest ein Statement von Katja Sarkowsky zur Erläuterung ihrer Abwesenheit aufgrund einer parallelen Verpflichtung. Hanna Straß-Senol ist als Mitglied des Beirats ebenfalls entschuldigt. Der Vorstand gratuliert den GewinnerInnen des diesjährigen Förderpreises, Philipp Meer und Manuela Jasmin Zehnter.

Julian Wacker erklärt sich bereit, das Protokoll zu führen.

### TOP 1: FESTSTELLUNG DER BESCHLUSSFÄHIGKEIT DER MITGLIEDERVERSAMMLUNG

Die zweite Vorsitzende stellt die am 2. Mai 2017 fristgerecht verschickte und ordnungsgemäße Einladung zur Mitgliederversammlung fest. Es sind insgesamt 39 der derzeit 315 ordentlichen Mitglieder anwesend. Da dies weniger als ein Viertel der ordentlichen Mitglieder sind, beschließen die anwesenden ordentlichen Mitglieder einstimmig die Abhaltung der Mitgliederversammlung nach §7, 6 der Satzung. Die Beschlussfähigkeit der Mitgliederversammlung wird festgestellt.

### TOP 2: FESTLEGUNG DER ENDGÜLTIGEN TAGESORDNUNG

Die Tagesordnung wird von den anwesenden Mitgliedern ohne Änderungen oder Ergänzungen einstimmig angenommen.

### TOP 3: PROTOKOLL DER MITGLIEDERVERSAMMLUNG VOM 06. MAI 2016 (AUGSBURG), VERÖFFENTLICHT IN ACOLIT 73 (SEPTEMBER 2016), S. 3-11 <[HTTP://WWW.G-A-P.S.DE/ACOLIT/ACOLIT73-GESAMTTEXT.PDF](http://WWW.G-A-P.S.DE/ACOLIT/ACOLIT73-GESAMTTEXT.PDF)>

Das Protokoll der letzten Mitgliederversammlung wurde in Acolit 73 veröffentlicht. Auf Nachfrage zur Umsetzung des unter TOP 4: Mitteilungen des Vorstandes und Beirates aufgeführten Berichtspunktes zur Erstellung eines vereinfachten *style sheets* für die Jahrbücher erläutert die zweite Vorsitzende, dass die Abstimmung eines derzeit in Arbeit befindlichen Entwurfs mit den HerausgeberInnen der Cross/Cultures-Reihe erfolgen soll.

Das Protokoll der Mitgliederversammlung vom 6. Mai 2016 in Augsburg wird daraufhin ohne Änderungen einstimmig verabschiedet.

#### TOP 4: MITTEILUNGEN DES VORSTANDES UND BEIRATES

Die Mitgliederversammlung 2016 hatte dem Vorstand das Mandat erteilt, eine Stellungnahme zur kontroversen Ausgabe 4/16 der Zeitschrift *Forschung & Lehre* des Deutschen Hochschulverbandes zu erarbeiten. Vorstand und Beirat hatten daraufhin einen offenen Brief formuliert und diesen an *Forschung & Lehre* verschickt sowie in *Acolit* und auf der GAPS Homepage veröffentlicht <<http://www.g-a-p-s.de/pdf/GAPS-open-letter,ACOLIT73-Sept-2016.pdf>>. Der offene Brief war auch an die DGfA, die GKS und den Anglistenverband geschickt und von diesen Verbänden positiv zur Kenntnis genommen worden. Dem Vorstand wird dafür gedankt. Die zweite Vorsitzende berichtet, dass Katja Sarkowsky zudem eingeladen worden war, sich am 4. April 2017 im Rahmen des DHV-Tages in München zum Thema "Political correctness versus Freiheit der Wissenschaft?" an der Paneldiskussion "Konformität versus Kreativität: Wie frei ist die Forschung?" zu beteiligen und dabei die Ausgrenzung von Sprechpositionen ebenfalls thematisiert hat. Des Weiteren haben Kerstin Knopf und Katja Sarkowsky in *Forschung & Lehre* 5.17 den Artikel "Political Correctness gefährdet nicht die Wissenschaftsfreiheit" (S. 402-403) veröffentlicht. Entsprechend dem Wunsch der Autorinnen wurde dabei auf eine thematische Bebilde rung verzichtet.

Die zweite Vorsitzende berichtet über den aktuellen Stand der Jahrbücher. Das Jahrbuch aus Bayreuth befindet sich in der Fahnenkorrektur, für das Jahrbuch aus Münster sind die bearbeiteten Beiträge eingegangen. Die Beiträge zum Jahrbuch aus Augsburg gehen demnächst in den Peer-Review-Prozess.

Peter Marsden weist darauf hin, dass der 200. Band der Cross/Cultures-Serie erschienen ist und würdigt den Erfolg dieser Reihe. Den HerausgeberInnen wird gratuliert und gedankt.

Timo Müller berichtet in Vertretung von Hanna Straß-Senol über die regelmäßige Aktualisierung und Pflege der Webseite. Sollten Fehler oder Unstimmigkeiten festgestellt werden, wird um Meldung an den Vorstand gebeten. Thematisch einschlägige Stellenausschreibungen mit hinreichenden Bewerbungszeiträumen werden auf der Website veröffentlicht. Die GAPS-Map ist funktionsfähig und verlinkt auf die Webseiten der jeweiligen Fakultäten/Universitäten. Die geplante Umstellung auf ein Content-Management-System (CMS) zur Einrichtung eines Membership-Bereichs, der von den Mitgliedern selbst gepflegt werden kann, scheiterte aufgrund des Mangels an Bewerbungen auf die 2016 in Münster ausgeschriebene Tätigkeit als studentische Hilfskraft (Werkvertrag). Es soll eine erneute Ausschreibung erfolgen und es sollen ggf. Angebote von Firmen eingeholt werden. Daniel Blenke wird für seine derzeit ehrenamtliche Tätigkeit als Webmaster gedankt. Die GAPS-Facebook-Seite hatte im Mai 468 *likes* (überwiegend aus Deutschland, Indien, dem UK und den USA, hauptsächlich aus der Altersgruppe 24-35 Jahre, davon 60% Frauen und 30% Männer) und weist eine recht stabile Entwicklung mit leichtem Aufwärtstrend auf. Stellenausschreibungen und Ankündigungen generieren dabei am meisten Interaktion.

Die Schatzmeisterin Caroline Kögler berichtet über die ACLALS-Spende für den Fördertopf für Reisestipendien afrikanischer NachwuchswissenschaftlerInnen für die ACLALS-Tagung 2016 in Stellenbosch. Hierfür waren insgesamt 5.250€ an Spenden durch GAPS-Mitglieder eingegangen; diese beachtliche Spende wird von der Mitgliederversammlung gewürdigt.

Elena Furlanetto begrüßt die 27 seit der Jahrestagung 2016 in Augsburg neu hinzugekommenen GAPS-Mitglieder Christian Anieke, Habib Ben le Taief, Lyam Bittar, Jason Blake, Silvia Gerlsbeck, Leonie John, Melih Kökcü, Sue Kossew, Yann Le Gall, Sieglinde Lemke, Anna Lienen, Carly McLaughlin, Philipp Meer, Maryam Mirza, Maitrayee Misra, Chidiebere Mariagoretti Njoku, Fannel Obala Musumba, James Odhiambo Ogone, Hannah Pardey, Jan Rupp, Stefanie Schäfer, Daniel Schönbauer, Hanna Teichler, Dele Maxwell Ugwanyi, Nicole Waller, Janet Wilson und Helen Yitah. Mitgliederzahl (Stand 26.05.2017): 315 ordentliche Mitglieder.

Es wird gefragt, ob die Sitzung auf Englisch weitergeführt werden kann. Aufgrund der vereinsrechtlichen Grundlagen wird nach Diskussion davon abgesehen. Es wird jedoch angeregt, dass die Anwesenden den Personen, die eine Übersetzung benötigen, die wichtigsten Inhalte per Flüsterübersetzung zusammenfassend erläutern. Für zukünftige Sitzungen sollen zweisprachige Einladungen bzw. Erläuterungen erstellt werden, wie bereits für die *membership models* und den *treasurer's report* umgesetzt.

#### TOP 5: JAHRBÜCHER UND MITGLIEDSBEITRAGSMODELLE

Die Schatzmeisterin verteilt die gemäß Beschluss der Mitgliederversammlung 2016 vom Vorstand und Beirat erarbeiteten Beitragsmodelle, die mit der Einladung zur Mitgliederversammlung verschickt worden waren. Die zweite Vorsitzende erläutert die Notwendigkeit der Diskussion der Beitragsstruktur aufgrund der Preissteigerung für die Hardcover-Jahrbücher bei Brill.

Das aktuelle Modell kann nur für die MyBook-Variante beibehalten werden, während sowohl Hardcover als auch Open-Access-Jahrbücher eine neue Beitragsstruktur erfordern. Zudem sind die Kosten für Open Access bei Brill seit dem Versand der Modelle von ca. 5.000 € auf ca. 8.500 € erheblich gestiegen, wodurch die vorliegende Kalkulation nur noch für die Hardcover-Variante mit Subskriptions-Modell tragbar wäre. Die Kosten pro Band würden sich dabei je nach Seitenzahl auf 35 € (bei max. 250 Seiten) bis 45 € (bei max. 350 Seiten) plus MwSt. belaufen, mit 4% Preissteigerung alle 3 Jahre. Dadurch ergibt sich eine Übergangsphase von drei Jahren, welche den fest stehenden nächsten drei Bänden (Jahrbücher aus Münster, Augsburg und Bonn) entspricht.

Es folgt eine Diskussion auf Basis des Ist-Zustandes, wonach nur die MyBook-Variante ohne Anpassung der Beiträge möglich ist. Die Marktpreise der Brill-Bände schwanken individuell von 36 € bis 162 €; es gibt keinen festen Hardcover-Preis für die Reihe und nur das MyBook (*print on demand* des E-Books mit geringerer Papierqualität und einheitlicher, nicht für jeden Band individuell gestalteter Cover) als Softcover-Version. Beitragende und Volume-HerausgeberInnen würden weiterhin das Hardcover erhalten, das inzwischen auch als *print on demand*

erscheint, d.h. die Grundlage der ursprünglich auf der Druck-Auflage basierenden Vereinbarungen mit dem Verlag und des resultierenden Subskriptions-Modells hat sich auch diesbezüglich verändert.

Angesichts der Diskussion zu einem möglichen Umstieg auf Open-Access-Publikationen im Rahmen der letzten beiden Mitgliederversammlungen wird diese Option weiter diskutiert. Es wird darauf hingewiesen, dass Open-Access-Publikation für viele Mitglieder sowie die thematische Ausrichtung von GAPS eine hohe wissenschaftspolitische Bedeutung hat. Auf Rückfrage wird geklärt, dass die DFG-Förderung von Tagungen bislang keine Open-Access-Policy umfasst, sondern sich dieses Kriterium auf DFG-geförderte Drittmittel-Projekte bezieht.

Zunächst wird daher über das zukünftige Format der Jahrbücher diskutiert. Die zweite Vorsitzende weist darauf hin, dass im Falle eines Mandats zur Einholung von finanzierten Open-Access-Angeboten nur Verlage mit Qualitätskontrolle durch *peer review* und *technical editing* sowie internationaler Sichtbarkeit durch Datenbank-Verknüpfungen etc. berücksichtigt werden sollten. Die auf Basis eines Solidaritätsmodells kalkulierte Variante Open-Access c) wäre mit Kosten in Höhe von 8.500 € nicht leistbar. Allerdings sind bei Verlagen mit gleichzeitiger Printpublikation inzwischen ähnliche sowie teils noch höhere Beträge durchaus üblich.

## 5.1 ZUKÜNTIGES FORMAT DER JAHRBÜCHER: SUBSKRIPTION VS. OPEN ACCESS

Sollten die nächsten drei Bände im Hardcover erscheinen, wäre eine Preissteigerung um 15 € für die Subskription nötig (OMREYB auf 65 € und OMYB auf 95 €). Alle anderen Möglichkeiten bewegen sich in Richtung Open Access unter Aufgabe des Subskriptionsmodells. Von den vorab eingegangenen sechs Stellungnahmen von abwesenden Mitgliedern haben sich fünf für Open Access ausgesprochen und eine für die Beibehaltung des derzeitigen Subskriptions-Modells. Das an die Mitgliederversammlung gerichtete Statement von Kerstin Knopf, welches sich im Sinne der Dekolonialisierung des Wissens für den allgemeinen Zugang und eine kombinierte Buch/Open-Access-Lösung ggf. auch bei einem anderen Verlag ausspricht, wird verlesen. Das Statement trifft auf Zustimmung aus der Mitgliederversammlung.

Geoffrey Davis weist darauf hin, dass Brill vergünstigte Konditionen für Regionen des Globalen Südens anbietet. Diese beziehen sich allerdings bisher auf Journal-Subskriptionsraten. Es wird der potentielle Umstieg auf ein Journal diskutiert, was jedoch angesichts der Konferenzbände kritisch gesehen wird und eher auf Ablehnung trifft.

Die Möglichkeit der Nachverhandlung mit Brill auf Basis der langen Tradition in der Zusammenarbeit soll überprüft werden. Parallel dazu sollen Alternativen mit einem kalkulatorischen Betrag von ca. 5.000 € eruiert werden. Diese sollen zur Mitgliederversammlung 2018 vorgelegt und entschieden werden. Frank Schulze-Engler empfiehlt, dem Vorstand einen Spielraum für Verhandlungen auch über 5.000 € hinaus einzuräumen.

Die zweite Vorsitzende schlägt vor, zunächst über eine Beibehaltung bzw. die Einstellung des Subskriptionsmodells abzustimmen und ggf. in einem zweiten Schritt über Open-Access-Modelle bzw. über die Staffelung der Beiträge. Für die nächsten drei Bände in der MyBook-Variante könnten die bisherigen Beiträge gehalten werden und dann ab dem Band zur Jahrestagung 2018 angepasst werden. SubskribentInnen erhalten für diese drei Bände das MyBook, HerausgeberInnen und BeiträgerInnen das Hardcover, welches im Handel zu Marktkonditionen weiterhin verfügbar ist.

In der weiteren Diskussion werden Selbstveröffentlichungen wie PDF-Versionen oder Open Access über Bibliotheksserver ohne Verlagsanbindung abgelehnt, da die bisherige Qualitätssicherung sowie internationale Sichtbarkeit auch weiterhin gewährleistet werden sollen. Verlage, die wie Brill auch weiterhin gedruckte Varianten im Hardcover und/oder Softcover anbieten und langfristige Lösung und Stabilität ermöglichen, sollen vorrangig angefragt werden. Als weiteres Kriterium wird der steigende Druck zur Open-Access-Publikation für Mitglieder aus dem Ausland genannt.

Es wird vorgeschlagen, angesichts der Bedeutung der Reihe auch mit den HerausgeberInnen von Cross/Cultures mit Brill zu verhandeln, wobei von einem eher geringen Verhandlungsspielraum auszugehen ist.

Eine erste Abstimmung (ohne Vorstands- und Beiratsmitglieder) zwischen Subskriptionsmodell und Open Access ergibt 30 Ja-Stimmen für Open Access bei fünf Enthaltungen. Für eine Beibehaltung des Subskriptionsmodells werden keine Stimmen abgegeben. Die Mitgliederversammlung entscheidet somit, die nächsten drei Bände in der MyBook-Version an die SubskribentInnen zu verschicken, wobei BeiträgerInnen und HerausgeberInnen weiterhin ein Hardcover-Belegexemplar bekommen. Dem Vorstand wird das Mandat erteilt, Nachverhandlungen mit Brill zu führen sowie unter den genannten Voraussetzungen der Qualitätssicherung konkrete Angebote für eine Open-Access-Variante ab dem Jahrbuch zur Jahrestagung 2018 bei anderen Verlagen einzuholen. Bei leistbaren Konditionen soll die Möglichkeit geprüft werden, die ASNEL/GAPS Papers weiterhin in der Cross/Cultures-Reihe zu verlegen.

Es wird noch einmal nachgefragt, ob eine Journal-Variante in Frage kommt, was jedoch als nicht zu leistender Aufwand angesehen wird.

## 5.2 MODELLE MITGLIEDSBEITRÄGE

Es sollen mögliche Einstufungen für Open-Access-Modelle diskutiert werden, d.h. Varianten a), b) oder c). Frank Schulze-Engler beantragt, diesen Punkt auf die nächste Mitgliederversammlung zu verschieben. Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt diesem Antrag zu. Ein Meinungsbild ergibt bei fünf Enthaltungen die generelle Befürwortung einer Staffelung nach Einkommensgruppen mit Selbstzuordnung. Konkrete Einkommensstufen sollen nach Vorliegen der Angebote erarbeitet und auf der Mitgliederversammlung 2018 abgestimmt werden.

## TOP 6: ENTGEGENNAHME UND GENEHMIGUNG DES GESCHÄFTS- UND KASSENBERICHTS 2016/2017

Die Schatzmeisterin verteilt den Finanzbericht 2016/2017 mit der Bilanz und der Gewinn- und Verlustrechnung des Kalenderjahres 2016 sowie der Zwischenbilanz zum 31.3.2017 an die anwesenden Mitglieder und stellt den Bericht vor. Die Ausgaben entsprechen dem üblichen Umfang. Es gibt keine Nachfragen.

## TOP 7: BERICHT DER KASSENPRÜFER

Frank Schulze-Engler verliest in Vertretung den Bericht der beiden abwesenden Kassenprüfer Tobias Schlosser und Jörg Heinke. Es gibt keine Beanstandungen an den Buchungsvorgängen und den Abrechnungen. Frank Schulze-Engler schlägt daraufhin die Entlastung des Vorstandes vor.

## TOP 8: ENTLASTUNG DES VORSTANDES

Der Vorstand wird von der Mitgliederversammlung einstimmig bei 5 Enthaltungen entlastet. Der Vorstand dankt den Kassenprüfern.

## TOP 9: NEUWAHL VON VORSTAND UND BEIRAT

Mark Stein wird als Wahlleiter vorgeschlagen und übernimmt unter Zustimmung der Mitgliederversammlung die Wahlleitung. Für den Vorstand sind nacheinander in drei separaten Wahlgängen zu wählen: ein/e erste/r Vorsitzende/r, ein/e zweite/r Vorsitzende/r sowie ein/e Schatzmeister/in. Im Anschluss sollen entsprechend der auch von der diesjährigen Mitgliederversammlung befürworteten Regelung der Satzung erneut drei Beiratsmitglieder in einem Wahlgang gewählt werden.

Als erste Vorsitzende wird Annika McPherson vorgeschlagen, als zweite Vorsitzende Cecile Sandten und als Schatzmeisterin Johanna Pundt. Es erfolgen keine weiteren Nominierungen. Die nominierten Kandidatinnen stellen sich kurz vor. Es nehmen insgesamt 39 Mitglieder an der Wahl teil.

Es wird die geheime Wahl des Vorstandes durchgeführt. Mit 38 Ja-Stimmen und einer Enthaltung wird Annika McPherson als erste Vorsitzende gewählt. Mit 38 Ja-Stimmen und einer Enthaltung wird Cecile Sandten zur zweiten Vorsitzenden gewählt. Mit 38 Ja-Stimmen und einer Enthaltung wird Johanna Pundt zur Schatzmeisterin gewählt. Alle drei Kandidatinnen nehmen die Wahl an und bedanken sich bei der Mitgliederversammlung für das Vertrauen.

Für den Beirat sind folgende Nominierungen eingegangen: Elena Furlanetto, Dunja Mohr, Timo Müller, Hannah Pardey, Antonia Purk, Christine Vogt-William, Julian Wacker. Weitere Nominierungen werden nicht genannt. Die anwesenden Nominierten stellen sich kurz vor, das Profil von Dunja Mohr wird in Abwesenheit verlesen. In Anbetracht der großen Anzahl an KandidatInnen wird gefragt, ob der Beirat auf vier Personen vergrößert werden soll. Die Mitgliederversammlung spricht sich für eine Beibehaltung der drei bisherigen Positionen aus.

In den Beirat werden in geheimer Wahl gewählt: Elena Furlanetto (27 Stimmen), Timo Müller (24 Stimmen) und Christine Vogt-William (17 Stimmen). Auf

Hannah Pardey entfallen 14 Stimmen, auf Julian Wacker 13 Stimmen, auf Antonia Purk 10 Stimmen und auf Dunja Mohr 6 Stimmen bei insgesamt drei Enthaltungen in diesem Wahlgang. Mark Stein stellt aufgrund der Tatsache, dass unter den drei Personen mit den meisten Stimmen kein studentisches Mitglied ist, den Antrag auf Erweiterung des Beirats auf vier Personen. Diesem Antrag wird von der Mitgliederversammlung einstimmig stattgegeben und der Beirat wird somit für die kommende Amtszeit um Hannah Pardey auf vier Personen erweitert. Die gewählten KandidatInnen nehmen die Wahl an.

Caroline Köglers langjährige Arbeit im Vorstand wird gewürdigt. Katja Sarkowsky und Hanna Straß-Senol wird in Abwesenheit ebenfalls für ihre langjährige Arbeit in Vorstand und Beirat gedankt, eine persönliche Würdigung soll im Rahmen der nächsten Mitgliederversammlung stattfinden.

Entsprechend der bisherigen Praxis führt der alte Vorstand die aktuelle Sitzung zu Ende.

#### TOP 10: WAHL DER KASSENPRÜFER

Laut Satzung erfolgt die Wahl der KassenprüferInnen für zwei Jahre. Tobias Schlosser und Jörg Heinke haben im Vorfeld erklärt, für zwei weitere Jahre zur Verfügung zu stehen. Die anwesenden 39 Mitglieder bestätigen diesen Vorschlag einstimmig. Die beiden Kandidaten hatten ihre Bereitschaft für den Fall ihrer Wahl bereits vorab bestätigt.

#### TOP 11: WAHL DER JURY ZUR VERGABE DES DISSERTATIONSPREISES 2018

Frank Schulze-Engler, Christian Mair und Anja Schwarz haben sich für die Jury zur Vergabe des Dissertationspreises 2018 zur Verfügung gestellt. Frank Schulze-Engler stellt sich kurz vor. In Abwesenheit werden Christian Mair und Anja Schwarz ebenfalls kurz vorgestellt. Die Jury wird von der Mitgliederversammlung einstimmig gewählt. Frank Schulze-Engler bestätigt seine Bereitschaft zur Juryarbeit. Christina Mair und Anja Schwarz hatten ihre Bereitschaft für den Fall ihrer Wahl bereits vorab bestätigt.

#### TOP 12: WAHL DER JURY ZUR VERGABE DES FÖRDERPREISES (2018, 2019)

Für die Jury zur Vergabe des Förderpreises 2018 haben sich Peter Marsden, Kylie Crane und Susanne Mühleisen zur Verfügung gestellt. Die Jury wird von der Versammlung einstimmig gewählt. Peter Marsden bestätigt die Annahme der Wahl; Kylie Crane und Susanne Mühleisen haben ihre Bereitschaft für den Fall ihrer Wahl bereits vorab bestätigt.

#### TOP 13: GAPS-TAGUNGEN

##### 13.1 Jahrestagung 2018

Rainer Emig stellt den Vorschlag für die GAPS-Jahrestagung vom 10. bis 12. Mai 2018 in Mainz zum Thema "Nationalism and the Postcolonial" vor. Es wird voraussichtlich auch einen Teacher-Workshop geben. Die Mitgliederversammlung

beschließt die vorgeschlagene Ausrichtung der Jahrestagung 2018 in Mainz einstimmig und bedankt sich bei Rainer Emig für die Organisation.

### 13.2 Jahrestagung 2019

Die Jahrestagung vom 30. Mai bis 1. Juni 2019 soll in Bremen in gemeinsamer Organisation von Kerstin Knopf und Eeva Sippola zum Thema "Postcolonial Oceans: Histories, Cultures, Languages, Discourses" als gemeinsame Jahrestagung der International Association for Colonial and Postcolonial Linguistics (IACPL) und GAPS stattfinden. Dies stößt auf breite Zustimmung in der Mitgliederversammlung. Über die Ausrichtung der Jahrestagung 2019 wird turnusgemäß auf der Mitgliederversammlung 2018 abgestimmt.

Die Jahrestagung 2020 soll unter Leitung von Frank Schulze-Engler in Frankfurt stattfinden.

### TOP 14: SUMMER SCHOOL 2017

Robyn Doty stellt im Namen des gesamten Teams den Stand der Planungen zur 13. GAPS Summer School vor, die vom 4. bis 8. September 2017 in Frankfurt zum Thema "Performing Postcolonialisms" stattfinden wird, und bittet um breite Bewerbung und um Verteilung der Flyer an den Universitäten. Die Mitgliederversammlung dankt dem Frankfurter Team für die Organisation der Summer School.

Die zweite Vorsitzende fragt, ob Bedarf zur Diskussion des Summer-School-Formats besteht. Da dies nicht gewünscht wird, soll eine entsprechende Diskussion ggf. im nächsten Jahr stattfinden.

### TOP 15: NACHWUCHSFORUM POSTCOLONIAL NARRATIONS 2017

Antonia Purk stellt den Planungsstand des von ihr und Kerstin Howaldt organisierten 5. Postgraduate Forum *Postcolonial Narrations* vor, das vom 5. bis 7. Oktober 2017 in Erfurt zum Thema "Memory and Media: The Making of Postcolonial Histories" stattfindet. Es wird auch hierfür um breite Bewerbung und Verteilung der Flyer gebeten. Geplant ist u.a. auch ein Career-Coaching. Ein Zuschuss in Höhe von 500 € wurde gemäß Beschluss der Mitgliederversammlung 2016 bereits gewährt. Die zweite Vorsitzende bittet entsprechend der bisherigen Foren um Erweiterung des *Call for Papers* auf Master-Studierende.

2018 soll das Postgraduate Forum auf Initiative von Hanna Teichler in Frankfurt stattfinden. Die zweite Vorsitzende regt aufgrund der besonders positiven Rückmeldungen zum Postgraduate Forum 2016 in München und des generellen Erfolges dieses Nachwuchsförderformates an, bei entsprechender Finanzlage zukünftig eine stärkere finanzielle Förderung in Betracht zu ziehen. Dies soll ggf. bei der nächsten Diskussion des Finanzplans 2018/19 berücksichtigt werden.

### TOP 16: VERSCHIEDENES

Die Möglichkeit von einjährigen Konferenz-Mitgliedschaften besonders für internationale Vortragende wird diskutiert, da alle Vortragenden auf GAPS-Jahrestagungen (mit Ausnahme von *Under Construction Sessions* und eingeladenen Vortragenden) Vereinsmitglieder sein und ihre Mitgliedsbeiträge bezahlt haben müssen,

bevor sie in das Programm aufgenommen werden können (s. Protokoll der ordentlichen Mitgliederversammlung vom 19. Mai 2012 in Acolit 69, S. 5 <<http://g-a-p-s.de/acolit/Acolit69-Gesamttext.pdf>>). Auf Rückfrage erläutert die zweite Vorsitzende, dass diese Regelung auch 2016 in Augsburg Anwendung fand und bei zukünftigen Planungen ebenfalls zu berücksichtigen ist. Es wird als Alternative vorgeschlagen, die Beiträge für Nicht-Mitglieder deutlich zu erhöhen. Konferenz-Mitgliedschaften sollen auf der Mitgliederversammlung 2018 unter Berücksichtigung etwaiger neuer Beitragsstrukturen diskutiert und dazu ein TOP formuliert werden.

Die zweite Vorsitzende dankt den OrganisatorInnen und dem Team der Jahrestagung 2017 und schließt die Mitgliederversammlung um 17:50 Uhr.

Gezeichnet:

**Prof. Dr. Annika McPherson (1. Vorsitzende)**  
**Julian Wacker (Protokollant)**

## GAPS Graduate AWARD 2017 Citations

It was no easy task for the jury to make this year's pick. There were more sub-missions than we had had for a few years, covering quite a wide range and cross-section of topics and the competition was stiff. Nevertheless, two equally excellent theses stood out way ahead of the field. Unable – despite protracted consideration and deliberation – to decide between them, we ended up feeling that this unusual situation called for an unorthodox solution. We decided – after due consultation with the Board – to emulate Solomonic wisdom by splitting the prize money 50/50 and conferring the Award proper jointly on these two candidates. The corollary of this arrangement was not to confer either of the recognition or "complimentary prizes". To put it more positively, all the recognition and all the compliments in the jury's gift go to our two joint Award-winners – in equal measure, needless to say.

By the verdict of the jury, the joint winners of this year's GAPS Graduate Award are: Manuela Jasmin ZEHNTER for her Master of Arts thesis: "Narrative Constructions of Post-Colonial Digitalized Worlds and Identities in Selected Short Story Cycles", supervised by Professor Barbara Schmidt-Haberkamp at the Rhei-nische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn and Philipp MEER for his Master of Education thesis: "Attitudes toward Accents of English in Trinidadian Secondary Schools", supervised by Professor Dagmar Deuber at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster.

Both these theses are of absolutely outstanding quality. This is scholarly work on a very high level, extending the frontiers of the known. The excellence and originality of the two contributions manifests itself in somewhat different ways in each case, owing at least in part to the fact that they are the fruit of two distinct, indeed discrete fields, namely literary studies and linguistics, respectively. Obviously many criteria of scholarly excellence apply to both fields, but what constitutes an excellent linguistic paper may still differ in some significant respects from what constitutes an excellent literary studies paper. By splitting the Award two ways, the jury is as it were honouring the best apple and the best pear of this year's crop. The jury sees Philipp Meer's thesis as an exemplary piece of truly scientific rigour, impressively under-pinned by empirical evidence; the jury sees Manuela Zehnter's as a highly sophisticated and sensitive analysis of literary (specifically narrative) technique in cutting-edge fiction. Each study makes a very original contribution to its respective field, thereby opening up fruitful perspectives for further scholarly work.

One of the significant differences in the *modus operandi* of literary analysis *vs.* descriptive linguistics is reflected in the external structure of the two theses. Manuela's text is a good hundred pages in length. In Philipp's study, sixty pages of *Fließtext* are followed by fifty pages of "Appendix", comprising statistical evidence (data, graphs, tables) and phonetic transcriptions.

Let's now take a longer, closer look at the two theses, starting with Philipp Meer's. The author of this brilliant thesis argues lucidly, elegantly, and convincingly and handles his complex material in an impressively – indeed enviably – professional manner. Having ascertained the state of the art via a thoroughgoing examination of existing research, he postulates a solid hypothesis and designs a well thought-out sophisticated empirical study with which to test it. A judicious combination of a wide knowledge of the available theoretical material with tailor-made personal fieldwork leads to a conclusive verification of the hypothesis.

Philipp's thesis makes his own notable contribution to ongoing research, closing a crucial gap, establishing a missing link, as it were, in the research conducted so far. Specifically, he challenges the seminal Dynamic Model of postcolonial Englishes proposed by Schneider, according to which language evolves as a process of "competition-and-selection," as a "sequence of characteristic stages of identity rewritings and associated linguistic changes" by the former colonizers and colonized. Philipp is not in the business of demolishing the model, but his findings do demonstrate unequivocally and graphically (in more than one sense of the word) that the model may not be universally applicable. At least as far as the Caribbean is concerned, the situation is somewhat more complex than this model might suggest and is not (or not yet) characterized by a clearcut straightforward linear, "monodirectional", emancipatory development away from the dominant influence of the former colonial British English towards an independent local variety of the language. Among other factors, the growing influence of American English in the region plays an important part, too, with the result that a number of different standards coexist side by side. So what we have here is not a two-way but a three-way system – in a state of flux.

It is axiomatic in the current study of language varieties that the attitudes of members of a given speech community towards language can be significant indicators of which norms are influential in shaping local standards. In this context Philipp cites an extremely helpful point made by Milroy, namely that a language standard can be understood as "an idea in the mind" of local speakers rather than an absolute linguistic norm. Hence, it makes sense to try and establish what ideas, opinions and judgments local speakers associate with the locally available standards.

The tried-and-tested tool used by Philipp to elicit context-specific covert language attitudes is the verbal-guise technique (VGT). Informants were asked to listen to the voices of eight different teachers from Trinidad, other anglophone Caribbean countries, Great Britain and the United States, to rate them according to various criteria, and to identify the nationality of each speaker.

One of the factors that make Philipp's conclusions so convincing is the sheer size of the data base from which he draws them. Another is the consummately competent way he handles and marshals such a huge volume of information, not to mention scrupulously heeding all manner of statistically necessary checks and balances. In both the design and the evaluation of his survey, Philipp couples meticulous attention to detail with an uncanny ability to carry on seeing the wood despite all those trees. No fewer than 800 subjects (students at a dozen different

Trinidadian secondary schools) took part in his study – a staggeringly above-average figure powering and underpinning the significance and validity of his findings. Yet another credibility factor is the author's painstaking attention to the groundwork of test design and analysis in order to do full justice to the nuanced complexity of the material. With this outstanding thesis, Philipp Meer makes a dynamic corrective addition to the Dynamic Model, thereby making a significant contribution to the ongoing description of evolving varieties of English.

Turning now to Manuela Zehnter's thesis, hers is an extremely ambitious project, skilfully implemented. She does more than justice to her own plan. The thesis is bold, courageous, broad in scope and extensively researched, fruitfully bringing together a number of somewhat disparate fields to make an impressive original contribution to research on the "short-story cycle". Manuela set herself the challenging task of tackling a hitherto relatively unploughed field. An increasingly rare phenomenon – which clearly cuts both ways. On the one hand, she didn't have much to go on. On the other hand, the relative absence of critical literature gave her the freedom to take the initiative and develop her own ideas. The short-story cycles selected by Manuela for investigation are: *Tokyo Cancelled* (2005) by Dasgupta Rana, *Look Who's Morphing* (2009) by Tom Cho, and *Transactions* (2013) by Ali Alizadeh, all three of which can, from both a narratological and a thematic point of view, be seen – as Manuela convincingly demonstrates in the course of her astute, incisive and perspicacious analysis – to exemplify a new "global genre". Despite this generic classification, she succeeds in maintaining a clear sense of the distinct individual differences between the three texts.

This genre is well suited to giving expression to contemporary culture with its massive movements of people around the world that can be understood as long-term effects of colonization, and by the transnational spread of images (the "global imaginary"). Such works can productively use modern methods to articulate modern experiences (both external and internal). They no longer frame character and plot within broadly national settings of the kind familiar from the traditional novel. On the contrary, their locus is more often than not a "*non-place*", such as an international airport; the protagonists are almost by definition or default travellers, constantly on the move: latterday globetrotters – who are also digital natives. They belong less to any physical place than to imagined communities; their focus correspondingly transcends national boundaries; their communication takes place via digital networks on a global scale; context is established through patterns of coherence. These works often rely on the collaboration of the reader, who in such cases tends to morph between passive and active participant, a hybrid role, for which Landow has coined the term "Wreader". This blend of reader and writer is defined as a reader who interacts with a work of hypermedia in such a way as to take on some of the functions of a writer. The thesis shows that the short-story cycle is indeed a highly appropriate genre for the expression of post-colonial digitalized worlds and identities, rendering storytelling in oral, written and digital form in books possible via transcultural and transmedial forms of narration.

The central focus of Manuela's thesis is an exploration of what specific literary means, cohesive elements or "linking devices" these works employ in order to cre-

ate a sense of interconnectedness and global unity amounting to a “storyworld”. Her own analysis of the primary texts is embedded in an impressively broad and deep awareness of theoretical works on narrative, on genre, on the postcolonial, on globalization, literary and otherwise. This awareness is informed by intelligent cross-checking, by comparing, contrasting and compellingly integrating various approaches while still maintaining extremely clear threads of argument. The many sources Manuela has drawn on and absorbed range from Nünning (various works), via Lacan (*Ecrits*), Bhabha (*The Location of Culture*) and Butler (*Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*) to Bolter & Grusin (*Re[-]mediation*) and Sonnenburg (“Mensch-Medien-Hybride: Auf dem Weg zu einem neuen Da-Sein”). Manuela Zehnter’s thesis is sophisticated and mature, intellectually challenging and stimulating – a creative and constructive charting of new territory.

Both theses are written in lucid, impeccable and polished near-native English and are eminently readable (vividly demonstrating that scholarly rigour is by no means incompatible with accessibility). They provide joint testimony to the excellence that can be achieved in our field, while at the same time reminding us just how satisfyingly broad and diverse that field actually is.

**Kylie Crane, Dagmar Deuber and Peter Marsden**

## Call: GAPS 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 2017 are works submitted in connection with examination procedures that were completed between January 1, 2017, and January 1, 2018. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2018.

### 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. Annika McPherson**  
**New English Literatures and Cultures**  
**Universität Augsburg**  
**Universitätsstr. 10**  
**D-86159 Augsburg, Germany**  
**[annika.mcpherson@philhist.uni-augsburg.de](mailto:annika.mcpherson@philhist.uni-augsburg.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 which, in 2017, will take place in Mainz.

## GAPS Dissertation Award

The GAPS (formerly ASNEL) Dissertation Award is granted every two years and recognizes an outstanding doctoral thesis that advances and expands in an exceptional manner analytical and/or theoretical approaches to Anglophone literatures around the world, to the study of the varieties of the English, or to other post-colonial cultural forms, practices, and media.

The award is endowed with € 2,000 and can be split among several doctoral theses. The prize will be awarded for the third time at the annual convention of GAPS in May 2018. In addition to the monetary prize, the award covers expenses for travelling to the conference (via train, economy class), hotel accommodation for the night of the award ceremony, and the conference fee for the annual GAPS conference.

### Who can nominate candidates for the award?

Doctoral advisors who are members of GAPS can nominate candidates for the award. Submissions by the candidates themselves are also possible, provided that they are themselves members of GAPS. Eligible for submission are excellent dissertations in the field of Anglophone postcolonial studies that were completed in the years 2016 and 2017 (the crucial date is that of the last doctoral examination).

The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2017. Dissertation projects completed between December 1 and December 31, 2017 can be nominated belatedly until January 4, 2018 by submitting all necessary documents.

### How does the nomination process work?

Nominations should be addressed to the GAPS executive board who will transfer them to the respective jury-members. A nomination includes:

- a copy of the doctoral thesis and a copy of the Ph.D. certificate or a confirmation of the completion of the doctoral examinations from the dean's office,
- an academic c.v. of the nominee together with a list of publications,
- the advisors' reports,
- a short summary of the doctoral thesis in English (1,000 words).

All documents should be submitted in electronic form (CD or email attachment) as well as in printed form after October 1st, 2017 to

**Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien  
Attn: Prof. Dr. Annika McPherson  
New English Literatures and Cultures  
Universität Augsburg  
Universitätsstr. 10  
D-86159 Augsburg, Germany  
[annika.mcpherson@philhist.uni-augsburg.de](mailto:annika.mcpherson@philhist.uni-augsburg.de)**



gesellschaft für anglophone postkoloniale studien  
association for anglophone postcolonial studies

JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



## Call for Papers

Annual GAPS Conference 2018

### Nationalism and the Postcolonial

10 – 12 May, 2018

Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

Nationalism is an ambivalent phenomenon. Until recently, it appeared to be a relic of the past in the Western hemisphere, where it was associated with the emergence of the modern nation states in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but was also regarded as instrumental in colonial and imperialist endeavours (Colley, 2005). After the demise of traditional colonisation and in the context of an assumed globalisation, however, it signalled to many more liberal-minded thinkers a form of backwardness in a world that, for many, had become ‘transnational’.

The picture is strikingly different for formerly colonised countries. In them and for them, nationalism frequently features significantly in processes of decolonisation (Hodgkin 1957; Chrisman 2004). Indeed, the celebration of postcolonial achievements in politics, the arts and literature very often assumes a decidedly nationalist flavour, though often with very different connotations than those associated with the Western world’s post-eighteenth-century nationalisms. At the same time, old colonial attitudes flare up again in contexts such as the United States of America’s search for their position in the twenty-first century or Britain’s self-assessment after the initiation of Brexit. In the latter context, nationalisms from the so-called Celtic fringe begin to play a role again in debates about devolution and independence.

All this signals the importance of reassessing nationalism in colonial discourses, in processes of decolonisation and in the supposedly transnational world of globalisation. Symbolic forms in art, literature, but also practices of everyday life are used for the expression of nationalist ideas and therefore provide manifold examples for analyses that might ascertain whether nationalism is generally problematic, sometimes strategically useful, prone to subversion, or perhaps even inescapable.

The conference invites contributions from Literary and Cultural Studies, but also related disciplines such as Political Science, History and Art History, Music, Media Studies, Linguistics, etc.

Possible areas of inquiry include:

- Nationalism in postcolonial literature, the arts, music, and popular culture
- The language(s) of nationalism in postcolonial contexts
- The histories of nationalism in postcolonial environments
- Nationalism and postcolonial cultural and political identities
- Pan-Africanism, Pan-Asianism, Socialism, Communism, Fascism, etc. and their relation to nationalism
- Figureheads of postcolonial nationalism
- Nationalism and / vs. globalisation
- Contradictions within postcolonial nationalisms
- Indigenous nationalisms

**Abstract submission and participation:**

Please submit abstracts (300-400 words) of individual papers or suggested panels of three papers together with a biographical note by **December 31, 2017**.

Work in progress in Anglophone Postcolonial Studies – including MA/MEd, PhD and postdoctoral projects as well as ongoing research projects in general – can be presented in the “Under Construction” section of the conference, for which poster presentations are also welcome. Please submit abstracts for project presentations (250 words) indicating your chosen format (paper or poster) by March 1, 2018.

For special requirements, please contact the organisation team:

Rainer Emig, Sandra Dinter, Wolfgang Funk (all Department of English and Linguistics, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany)

**Contact: emigr@uni-mainz.de**

## Conference Reports



**"Representing Poverty and Precarity in a Postcolonial World", GAPS Annual Conference, May 25-27, 2017,  
University of Bonn, Germany**

**Representing Poverty and Precarity in a Postcolonial World? "Mind the GAPS, please, mind the gaps"**

"I used to find myself saying, I can't imagine.  
But I've since found out, you can – it's just a  
case of wanting to." (Lloyd Jones, *Hand Me  
Down World*, [2010], 312)

In the present context 'mind the GAPS/gaps' can be read in at least two ways: A report of, or a reflection on, the 2017 conference of the Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies (GAPS) at the University of Bonn can necessarily only address a far too small selection of contributions and discussions. In other words, issues or questions that will surface in the following always hint simultaneously at the 'gaps' constituted by the presentations that I could not attend, voices that I could not listen to – it was one of the conferences where I wished I could have participated in different panels at the same time. The expression "please mind the GAPS" also resonates because with 'representing poverty and precarity' the organising team in Bonn and Tübingen (Marion Gymnich, Uwe Küchler, Barbara Schmidt-Haberkamp and Klaus P. Schneider) and the Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies decided on a highly relevant topic for the conference that could hardly have been more urgent or timely.

Poverty certainly is one of the most crucial challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and it can hardly be disputed that the current situation of refugees as well as issues such as gender-specific forms of exploitation, the dispossession of Indigenous peoples and the correlation of 'poverty and environment' constitute topics that are negotiated and represented in a complex network of literary, linguistic and other discourses we encounter every day and all over the globe. In response, the GAPS conference in Bonn not only brought together academics from Australia, the U.K., Nigeria, Uganda, India, Germany and other nations for over 60 presentations and discussions in panels that covered a broad range of core areas, but the 350 participants also had the chance to listen to papers and readings by authors Patience Agbabi, Susan Kiguli, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor and E.E. Sule.

In an attempt to provide more space for non-Anglophone contexts, two panels (Regional Focus: Latin America I and II) introduced perspectives provided by

scholars working in the field of Latin American Studies. While the first panel covered a broad spectrum of topics ranging from the depiction of poverty in Latin American documentary films in the paper by Elmar Schmidt to Monika Wehrheim's discussion of forms of femicide in Bolaños 2666, the second panel introduced Indigenous perspectives by focussing, for example, on 'Two Sides of the Same Coin: Discursive Representations of Poverty in Yucatán, Mexico' (Catherine J. Letcher Lazo), an analysis which correlated Bhabha's concept of hybridity with contemporary stereotypes of the Indigenous population in Yucatán and forms of Indigenous self-representation.

In the context of Indigenous (here: First Australian) voices there is another panel that I am grateful for. As my teaching has a focus on Indigenous perspectives on poverty this semester, it was advantageous that my students and I could listen to Dorothee Klein's paper which illustrated how innovative narrative techniques (in, for example, Tara June Winch's *Swallow the Air* [2006]) may undermine "paternalistic discourses", to Viktoria Herche analysing adolescent agency in the films *Beneath Clouds* (2002) and *Toomelah* (2011) by Ivan Sen, and to Jan Alber's discussion of the functional potentials (for example, the "strategic utopianism") of a performance by the First Australian dance group *The Chooky Dancers*. The weeks after the GAPS conference have shown that these papers and the ensuing discussions keep providing us with helpful reference points for our in-class discussions.

But not only Latin American and/or Indigenous perspectives contributed to the variety of themes presented in Bonn. Furthermore the framework of the conference was complemented by a workshop with a program specifically designed for teachers (organised by Uwe Küchler and his team in Tübingen) which aimed at facilitating the transfer of poverty issues into schools. That the discussion of (representations of) poverty and precarity with younger generations can be fruitful as well as challenging was addressed by Maria Eisenmann in her keynote on "The Potential of Postcolonial (Poverty) Literature in the EFL Classroom" which highlighted not only the difficult task of defining 'post-colonial young adult literature' but also processes of transcultural learning.

Transcultural interpretations were also a core issue in Neil Lazarus' keynote "Stone upon Stone: Land, Labour and Consciousness in World-Literary Perspective", a talk that concentrated not only on dominant conceptualisations of life in rural areas and its discursive positioning but also on manifold questions of representation, such as the influence of social class on the narration process. The topic of 'representations' was also addressed in Yvonne A. Owuor's keynote "Returning that Gaze: Phantoms in the Mirror" which argued that "'universalised' representations of poverty, marginalisation [and] precarity [were] merely a continuation of a coloniality" that dehumanised and commodified its objects. It is only adequate to say that with and after this keynote the stars came out over the Brunnenhof, one of the courtyards of the main university building, during a summer night's reception which concluded the first day.

On the second day Susan Kiguli discussed the work of FEMRITE (the Uganda Women Writers Association) in her talk on "Voices of Ugandan Women Writers: Positioning FEMRITE since 2006" and some of her questions, such as 'who

narrates?', 'who can narrate?' and 'from where?', were also addressed by E.E. Sule who described the role of the African writer as lying in "imagining alternative instruments of positive development" in the continent and in "developing [a] home-based aesthetics". During the lunch break writer Patience Agbabi fascinated her audience with her readings, or rather, performances from her *Telling Tales* (2014) and *Refugee Tales* (2016).



Lara Schnitker and Jule Lenzen (students at the University of Bonn) with two of Patience Agbabi's publications. Foto: Christoph

In a very different sense Christopher Hart's keynote on "Fire and War in Discourses of Disorder" also illustrated the power of words, especially metaphors. By discussing two case studies (the 1984-85 British miners' strike and the 2011 London riots) as well as an experimental study on fire metaphors, he could not only show that "[m]edia metaphors can influence public opinion" but also illustrate in what way they may "[c]ontribute to [the] demonization of already marginalised communities and [the] legitimization of harmful social practices directed toward them".

Other papers, to mention but a few, explored (self-)representations of refugees and immigrants in a variety of media (Janet Wilson, Caroline Kögler, Carly McLaughlin, Johan Jacobs, Cecile Sandten, Andreas Musolff), novel conceptualisations of the victim in Australian women's texts and South African crime fiction (Sue Kossew, Sabine Binder), questions of voice and agency in the context of street theatre in the slums of Ahmedabad (Geoffrey V. Davis), the ethics and aesthetics of representing poverty and the poor in Indian and Nigerian literature and film (Nilufer E. Bharucha, Rashmi Varma, Sridhar Rajeswaran, Stuti Mamen, Clelia

Clini, Oyènìyì Okùnøyè), gender-specific forms of precarity (Chidiebere Maria-goretti Njoku, Nirja Vasavada, Shola Adenekan, Christine Vogt-William) or the correlation between environmental and social precarity (Jan Rupp, Timo Müller).

On Saturday morning the conference concluded with a further highlight, the readings by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, Susan Kiguli and E.E. Sule from their literary works. As it is impossible to find adequate words to describe this impressive event – I would rather like to express my sincerest gratitude to the authors and report that in talks with colleagues and students in recent weeks it has become clear that these readings are still reverberating. So thank you to all speakers and readers for this outstanding conference and ... yes, please mind the GAPS.

### Hanne Birk (Bonn)

## Conference Report

The topic of this year's GAPS conference, held in Bonn, was important and timely. "Representing Poverty and Precarity in a Postcolonial World" turned the critical attention to some of the most pressing issues in the global South today; issues that had nevertheless been relatively underrepresented in postcolonial studies for some time. The event was splendidly organised – from what might easily have been the best coffee bar at a conference to brown-bag-poetry-reading-lunches and wonderful speakers – by Barbara Schmidt-Haberkamp, Marion Gymnich, Klaus P. Schneider, Uwe Küchler, and a well-organised and strikingly cheerful team. With panels on "Representing Refugees", "Politics and Precarity", "Postcolonial Remembering", "Gender and Subalternity", "Violence and Crime", "Aesthetics, Media and Performance" and "Environment" (amongst several regional focus areas) as well as a workshop on "Teaching Poverty and Precarity", the conference considered its topic through different prisms. The resulting picture was so multi-faceted that we can only capture parts of it here. Instead of presenting a chronology of events we focus on some recurring themes and trace them in selected papers.

Keynote addresses are nominally the highlights of conferences, but they are also often its most underwhelming talks. In Bonn, none of the keynotes failed to live up to expectations, and two of them we found positively overwhelming. Neil Lazarus's talk "Stone upon Stone: Land, Labour and Consciousness in World-Literary Perspective" and novelist Yvonne Owuor's "Returning the Gaze: Phantoms in the Mirror (*or, Outsourcing Misery as a Process of 'Post'coloniality*)" must have kept echoing in the minds of anyone who heard them.

Lazarus offered nothing less than a revision of what we call Modernism. Instead of premising Modernism on literary techniques such as stream of consciousness, the decline of the omniscient narrator or a particular treatment of metaphor, Lazarus proposed reading modernist texts concerned with hunger *literally* rather than as existential metaphors.

Straddling continents and languages, Lazarus demonstrated the relative underrepresentation of rural life vis-à-vis the city in modern literature, and pointed out critics' relative lack of interest in the literary representation of the rural in modern literature – despite the fact that the countryside pushes people towards the city as much as the city pulls them. A number of problems beset the representation of the rural according to Lazarus. The dominant popular imaginary – and critical imaginary – of the rural is one of an unchanging area outside the realm of production that is destined to disappear: the peasant ploughs just as the birds sing. In fact, the countryside is just as much the field where the wheels of capitalism change the earth which people tread. Nothing illustrates this fact better than novels concerned with hunger in the countryside: a literature that presents local effects of capitalism as effects of the capitalist world system and thus deserves a label much in use these days: 'world literature'.

What made Lazarus' talk so intriguing was its successful combination of close reading with Marxist theory of capitalism and globalization. This allowed for the intriguing re-definitions of modernism and 'world literature' and a re-appreciation of African novels such as Ayi Kwei Armah's *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*. To its critic Chinua Achebe, Armah's novel seemed formally to imitate a Eurocentric understanding of the genre. In fact, Lazarus argued, the novel belongs with a 'world literary', transnational modernism concerned with hunger and poverty as effects of the capitalist world system. As he brought different literatures into conversation, Lazarus impressively illustrated the productiveness of a comparative approach, which, despite an increasing interest in aspects of transculturality, seems rare within the traditional disciplines.

If there is a limitation to the model of world literature proposed by Lazarus, it is the extent to which literature is seen as a reflection of the material conditions and class structures of society. In Lazarus's account of narratives about peasants, the literary portrayal is *always* only representative of a certain class's thoughts about peasants, never of the peasants themselves. Within its theoretical framework, Lazarus's arguments were so compelling and coherent that it was tempting to buy the picture with the frame. What is more, its density and pace were as energizing as you could wish for an opening keynote. And it did strike the keynote for many of the papers that were to follow.

In one of the first panels, Caroline Kögler echoed Lazarus's opposition of the rural and the urban, highlighting the significance of 'urbanity' – albeit in a rather different context – as a highly pertinent marker in current discourses about migration. Frequently used synonymously with 'modernity' or even 'humanity', the urban can be seen to function as a flexible label that works as a mechanism of inclusion and exclusion. Unlike the keynote by Lazarus, this paper did not so much range across continents as focus on Europe and the anxiety caused by migrants that laid claim to recognition by performing urbanity in the infamous refugee camp in Calais. The very name of that camp – "The Jungle" – and a widespread refusal on the part of the police and the media to recognise or allow the construction of urban structures are reminders of the significance of 'urbanity' as a concept that is used to deny people the right of citizenship, or indeed, human rights.

Carly McLaughlin's paper in the same panel interestingly made a similar point about notions of childhood. Recalling changes in UK legislation that granted special rights to child asylum seekers and the massive media coverage that accompanied the arrival of the first groups in Britain, it demonstrated how childhood could be redefined under the pressure of anti-immigration anxiety. McLaughlin showed how public sympathy and the right for special protection can be withdrawn from children whose bodies, marked by the hardships endured in their home countries or on their ways to Europe, may not conform to our expectations of childhood. The chilling question lurking behind such debates was brought home by a brief discussion of the controversial photograph in which Ai Weiwei poses as the boy Alan Kurdi, who was found dead on the coast of Turkey and whose picture has become emblematic for refugees' desperate attempts to reach European shores. The paper ultimately stimulated enquiries into an iconography of migration and the economy of sympathy, empathy, and antipathy; into how media coverage affects notions of childhood and how images of children can be framed and reframed in the media to influence a public economy of sympathy. Where do we draw the line between children's rights and human rights? Similar questions were addressed by Cecile Sandten's paper about 'asylum accounts' that seek to revise hegemonic media representations – and they powerfully resonated with the later keynote by Yvonne Owuor.

Another panel focusing on Europe and the relation between Brexit and British attitudes towards migration approached related issues from the perspective of linguistic analysis. The papers by Andreas Musolff and Karin Ebelin both grappled with ways to analyse patterns in contemporary discourses about migration. Musolff essentially illustrated the difficulties of quantitative analysis to arrive at relevant heuristic items (in this case a comparison of metaphors that frequently feature in debates about immigration), whereas Ebeling sought to trace the relation between poverty, immigration, and the support for a Brexit in recent political speeches.

A reconsideration of the critical theory and its vocabulary was at the centre of another panel. Sieglinde Lemke offered a semantic analysis of the concepts of the precariat, precarity and precariousness, and presented her own ideas on precarity as a form of consciousness, and on precarious aesthetics as a politics of representation located between the Scylla of exoticism and voyeurism and the Charybdis of didacticism. Divya Dwivedi asked why we have postcolonialism but not precarism, and pointed out postcolonial theory's inability to account for precarity. She illustrated her claims by reference to the political cartoonist O.V. Vijayan's critique of the 'poverty line' as a form of sanitized language in neoliberal India. Dwivedi cited Simon During's suggestion that we should shift our perspective from the subaltern to precarity, as did other presenters. Malcolm Sen, for instance, referenced this idea in his talk on sovereignty and the subaltern, adding an ecocritical dimension to the topic by enquiring into the impact of climate change and its relation to precarity and the nation state.

Yvonne Owuor's keynote did not conclude the conference, but left us, and apparently other listeners, asking how to go on after such eloquence and such vivid

illustrations of cruelty and neglect. The Kenyan novelist (*Dust*) and Winner of the Caine Prize had already announced that she would play the role of an Old Testament prophetess in her keynote. Owuor's was an angry accusation of Western colonialism that has not stopped with the 'liberation' of the colonies. Her critique was reminiscent of Walter Mignolo's critique of Western modernity, but told in its own affecting voice and accompanied by slides that documented instances of cruelty that the sanitized language of 'precarity' and 'developing countries' covers.

Owuor's talk oscillated between horrifying particulars from the ongoing history of Western colonialism and archetypical narratives of enslavement, humiliation and murder. The Biblical story of Job, in which friends accuse the disease-stricken Job of being responsible for his own misery, illustrated the West's cynical berating of Africa. Owuor's talk has lingered in our minds because it left it to the audience to figure out whether and how the stranglehold of Western epistemologies producing and 'justifying' violence and oppression can be overcome; whether there is a foothold for political action against the injustice her slides illustrated, or whether hers was a theological rather than political talk, illustrating our irredeemable fallenness – Since when, exactly? How, exactly? – that manifests itself in starving children, murder and indifference to both. And who was the 'we' that Owuor addressed throughout her talk? Leaving the question open, she forced her audience to consider themselves. At one point, she defined 'us' as 'the advantaged'; yet her performance left ample room for reconsidering that question again and again as it confronted 'us' with a slideshow of recent human failings. At the end of her talk, she addressed the audience as her "fellow humans".

**Lukas Lammers (Erlangen-Nürnberg) and Kai Wiegandt (Berlin)**

## Conference Report

The 28<sup>th</sup> GAPS Annual Conference (May 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) was hosted by the Department of English, American and Celtic Studies of the University of Bonn. To discuss the topic of this year's conference, "Representing Poverty and Precarity in the Postcolonial World", the organizing committee had assembled an impressive three-days programme, where the subject has been analysed with perspectives from South Asia, Australia, Latin America, Nigeria and North America – and with a particular attention to how questions poverty and subalternity intersect with issues of gender, class and race. As Barbara Schmidt-Haberkamp pointed out in her welcoming address on Thursday morning, the gap between rich and poor has been widening by the day in the past fifteen years and, in parallel, a growing number of works (fictional and not) has been focusing on the representation of poverty and precarity. Discussing the politics of these representations is indeed a timely challenge for postcolonial scholars, who during the conference have addressed in particular the ethics and aesthetics of re-presenting disenfranchised people.

On the first day of the conference, two keynote lectures opened and closed the sessions. In the morning, Neil Lazarus offered a compelling analysis of literary works which, built around the countryside-to-town theme, rather than following the lives of countrymen moving to the city focus on the lives of those who stay put and keep working in farms and in the fields. By focusing on the popular idea of the countryside as a place outside modern history and on questions of representation, voice and ideology (who speaks for whom? In what way?), Lazarus put these works in dialogue with postcolonial studies, offering a fitting introduction to the panels that followed, which tackled these questions in relation to the condition of refugees and asylum seekers and/or focused on specific regions such as Australia and North America. In the afternoon session, panellists carried out their analysis of representations of poverty and precarity in literature and films with panels dedicated to specific regions (Latin America, Nigeria, South Asia) and themes (from gender and subalternity to violence and crime). As it happens at conferences, one has to face the arduous challenge of choosing which panels to attend, thus missing out on other equally interesting talks. In my case, apart from the panel on South Asia where I was presenting my own paper, I decided to attend the one on violence and crime. Notwithstanding the fact that papers addressed the topic from different angles, they all blended in very well and promoted a stimulating discussion which referred to and simultaneously expanded on Judith Butler's work on precarity (a reference which inevitably recurred throughout the conference). Sue Kossew's paper, which analysed a number of Australian women's texts tackling domestic violence, addressed the question of precarity in terms of vulnerability and interdependency; Megan Jones's presentation, which addressed the representation of poverty and junk in Johannesburg and Mumbai, provided an interesting analysis of how the representation of those people whose lives depend on the recycling of junk, often portrayed as "disposable humans" (thus leading to the question, going back to Butler, of who is entitled to a "good life" and who is not), can open up spaces of subversion and resistance. Finally, Sabine Binder's paper discussed South African crime fiction that centres on the female victim, arguing for creativity as a way to challenge the precarity that comes with violence.

The keynote speech that closed the first day of the conference, delivered by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, virtually carried on the discussion on violence, interdependency and vulnerability, for it offered a reflection on the human condition and the classification of human beings. In particular, Owuor discussed the meaning of being human and the violence of being excluded, and of excluding someone, from the realm of humanity from a social, cultural and economic perspective.

Friday morning opened with the keynote speech from Maria Eisenmann, who made a case for blending EFL teaching with global concerns like poverty and precarity. Eisenmann proposed that teaching English can be an opportunity for raising political awareness and nurturing social responsibility. By focusing on the commonalities between young adult literature and postcolonial literature (both deal with questions of identity and belonging, just to name two), she suggested that bringing postcolonial texts into the classroom enhances transcultural learning and offers the possibility to discuss issues such as global inequalities, precarity,

poverty, xenophobia and racism. Apart from a theoretical discussion of her thesis, Eisenmann also proposed a series of activities that could be done with students before, during and after the reading of these texts, thus providing some practical guidance on how to run a class that would combine EFL teaching with postcolonial studies.

For those who were not attending the teachers' workshop, the day continued with a number of interesting panels, which spanned from questions of gender and subalternity to language politics, media and the environment. I attended the panel on aesthetics, media and performance, where the notion of precarity was effectively unpacked by the first speaker, Siegliende Lemke, who then proceeded with a discussion of the pivotal role that arts can play in promoting social consciousness about precarity. Kai Wiegandt proposed a reflection on the postcolonial graphic novel by focusing on the work of the Indian graphic novelists Sarnath Banerjee, whose work engages with issues such as the commodification of water and land. This was the second talk I attended on the graphic novel – the other one was delivered the previous day by Marianna Ferrara, in the South Asia panel – and given the response of the audience I would not be surprised to see more of them in the future. The panel closed with Divya Diwedi's paper on precarity and postcoloniality, which provided a compelling comparative analysis of different texts, from O. V. Vijayan's *The Saga of Dharmapuri*, to Ravish Kumar's *Ishq Mein Shahar Hona* to Dave Eggers' *The Circle*.

The second day of the conference closed with Christopher Harts' keynote speech, entitled "Discourses of Disorder: Representations of Riots, Strikes and Protests". In his paper, Hart provided a comparative analysis of the ideology which informed the representation of the 1984-1985 Miners Strikes and of the 2011 London Riots in the British press. By providing an analysis of especially right-wing newspapers, Hart argued that the language used to frame both events was deliberately used with the purpose of legitimising the government's politics (could we talk of newspapers as Ideological State Apparatuses?) leaving little space to critical debate. He also discussed the results of empirical online-research conducted to evaluate the impact of these representations on their readers, which confirmed his hypothesis. The second day closed with the conference dinner, which gave us the possibility to reconnect with old friends and find new ones, in a very warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Saturday morning, the last day of the conference, began with another great keynote speech delivered by E.E. Sule, who spoke of African writers and argued that writers should be at the forefront of the political fight for social change. Sule argued that the African writer as activist should promote social change from within, and that s/he should challenge the (still) dominant exoticisation of Africa for western readers. Following the keynote, I attended the panel on India, which was opened by Nilufer Bharucha's analysis of the ethics of the representation of poverty in Indian literature in English, and the questions of authenticity they often raise. She provided in particular an insightful analysis of Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance* (one of my favourite novels ever!) and of its representation of precarity, one that cuts across caste, gender and class. The second paper, delivered by

Sridhar Rajeswaran, offered an analysis of the representation of poverty in Indian postcolonial cinema from independence (the golden years of Indian cinema, with filmmakers such as Mehboob Khan, Bimal Roy and Raj Kapoor) up until the present day. The paper traced the social and economic roots of these representations, and analysed the “aesthetic of the abject” that emerged from them. This theme was then also discussed also by Rashmi Varma who explored the representation of poverty in Indian public culture, arguing that a failure in representing the poor is a failure in democracy. The paper also questioned the categories of “poor” and “subaltern” and their current (de)politicisation.

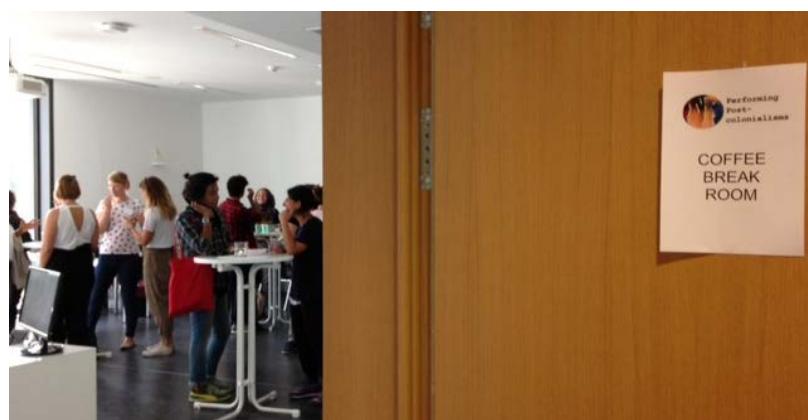
Finally, the conference closed with a series of beautiful readings offered by Yvonne Adhiambo, Susan Kiguli and E.E. Sule. I would not do justice in attempting to capture the words of these writers, and I already know that I haven’t done justice to the wonderful papers I had the pleasure to attend (my apologies for that). It was the first time I attended a GAPS conference and it has been a greatly informative experience, also characterised by openness for debate and discussion, which is of course all the more crucial given the times we are living in. So, to conclude, I am grateful to the organisers for putting up such a great conference and for choosing such a timely topic. I can’t wait to see what comes up next.

**Clelia Clini (London)**



## “Performing Postcolonialisms” 13<sup>th</sup> GAPS Summer School, Goethe University Frankfurt, September 4-8, 2017

The theme of this year’s GAPS Summer School was “Performing Postcolonialisms”, which aimed at emphasising “doing” and “action” within postcolonialisms. The organization group, comprised of Masters students from the Moving Cultures and Anglophone Literatures, Cultures, and Media studies programs at Goethe University, sought to explore the academic research into the current flourishing of creation



coming from the global postcolonial landscape. Borrowing from Butler and Bhabha, the group thought of performativity as the 'stylized repetition of actions' and the 'doing' rather than 'being' of someone or something. Performativity was paired with locations of performance within a culture: theatre, dance, youtube, sports, food, the state, language, acknowledgement of suffering, and more.

Participants attended a keynote speech from Prof. Frank Schulze-Engler on "When and Where Were Postcolonialisms? Transcultural Notes on Academic and



Other Performances", eight morning lectures throughout the week, and two week-long seminars. Abraçâe, a Brasilian Culture association, gave a Capoeira course and the author, poet and musician Anthony Joseph gave a reading from his upcoming unpublished novel. Joseph, a transcultural author who was born in Trinidad and currently lives in London, uses elements of his Trinidadian upbringing to write simultaneous narratives into his novels

and poetry. The evening program complemented the 25 academic hours to offer participants the ability to interact with current performative manifestations of transculturality and postcoloniality. Via the week-long event, participants were able to receive either 5 or 10 credit points from their Universities depending on how long a paper they plan on writing. At first glance the program ranging from Cricket to the African Diaspora on Youtube to the Performance of the State by ISIS appears varied and diverse, but by the end of the week the program approached the shared search for authenticity, complicity, and representation within postcoloniality from different angles and facets.

Participants, lecturers, and seminar leaders came together for a week-long knowledge and nuances share to discuss the complex understandings of what it means to perform postcolonialisms. The group chose postcolonialisms as a way to



Critical Re-Configuration of the Hottentot Venus (Cecil Sandten), Performing Authen-

ticity in *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* (Hanna Teichler), Cricket: Sport, Ritual, and Collective Memory in the Postcolony (Jan Rupp), From Kabul to the Congo: Humanitarian Aid Workers in British Drama (Christiane Schlotte), Lively Remains of Postcolonialism? (Karsten Levihn-Kutzler), Playing God: Gurus, Yogis, and Post-secular Cults (Pavan Malreddy), States on Stage: Performance, Sovereignty and Journalism in the Syrian War (Enrique Galvan-Alvarez), Dancing in the In-between: Black Choreographers in the British Dance Industry (Tia-Monique Uzor), Sufferings in Wor(l)ds: Illnesses, Traumas, and the Postcolonial (Anirban Halder), The African Diaspora on Youtube: Narratives of 'blackness' in postcolonial, trans-local worlds (Mariam Muwanga), Graphic Design in South Africa: A Postcolonial Perspective (Deirdre Pretorius), and Vernacular Pakistani Literature as a Vehicle for Social Change (Saima Khan).

**Roby Doty and Viktoria Kampfmann (Frankfurt)**

## 5 Years Postgraduate Forum ‘Postcolonial Narrations’

2017 marks the fifth anniversary of ‘Postcolonial Narrations’, the postgraduate forum of GAPS, which offers a space for (post-)graduate students to discuss their current research projects (and potentially the problems they encounter while working on them) outside of their usual workspaces, among peers working in related fields of study.

The idea to found such a forum came to me when I was working on my own PhD, more than six years ago; born of the wish to talk about my own work in a peer group working on postcolonial literature. Although most postgrads and graduate students today experience a fruitful working environment in their own departments, graduate schools or universities, many still find it useful to receive focussed feedback from people outside of their own universities but inside their disciplinary field. The idea behind the Postgraduate Forum’s annual conferences is to engage with each other in a tolerant and open though professional atmosphere that lacks hierarchical pressures. Such were – and are – the main targets of “Post-colonial Narrations”.

Together with Hanna Straß-Senol, whom I had convinced of my idea in a split second, I approached GNEL’s advisory board, who not only supported the concept but also encouraged our initiative and has kindly helped to organise and finance the event since then. The first conference, which took place in Göttingen in 2013 (“Challenging Boundaries”, organised by Hanna Straß-Senol and Katharina Nambula) was followed by three further conferences in Frankfurt (“Reading Across Cultures”, Chair: Magdalena Pfalzgraf), Duisburg-Essen (“Empire & Neurosis”, Chair: Dr. Elena Furlanetto) and Munich (“Expressing the Postcolonial”, Chair: Laura Zander). This year’s conference will take place at the University of Erfurt, this time on “Memory and Media: The Making of Postcolonial Histories” (Chair: Antonia Purk). Next year the conference is planned to return to the University of Frankfurt, this time organised by Hanna Teichler.

The conferences are always hosted by the chair of the forum. Each year we elect a new vice chair and the former vice chair automatically takes the position of the new chair. In this way, the vice chair profits from the current chair’s experience and gains practical information for hosting a conference two years later.

Even though the main focus lies on the discussion of individual projects, the conference provides a mixture formats and events. The discussion of individual projects is paired with topical input from experienced researchers as well as coaching sessions on topics that are of general interest for an academic career (e.g. time management, networking, career funding, publishing, etc.). There is also space to discuss individual problems or general challenges concerning academic careers today.

Participant feedback after the conferences has always been outstanding, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the hosts for putting so much effort and dedication into the Forum and its conferences. We might have given birth to the idea, but they have helped it find its feet! Furthermore, we are ex-

tremely grateful to GAPS for regularly supporting and co-funding the conferences.

Each year towards the end of the conference, the panel on the future of the forum shows that the participants have many more ideas on options for further development of "Postcolonial Narrations". This obvious interest in not only the survival of the forum but its expansion, makes us proud and happy.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the forum or in chairing the forum and hosting a conference, visit us on <https://postcolonialnarrations.wordpress.com/> or feel free to contact us at [postcolonial.narrations@gmail.com](mailto:postcolonial.narrations@gmail.com).

**Katharina Nambula (Bayreuth)**

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