

International Summer school 2009

"Nuestra América": (Re)approaching the Americas

In 1892, Cuban poet and freedom fighter José Martí published his now famous "Nuestra América" ["Our America"] as a call for solidarity among the fledgling nations of Latin America in the face of Europe's colonial past in the region and the United States' imperial present and future. Over a century later, how have or haven't American relations changed? Can we talk of Latin America – a regional marker which includes nations as disparate as Mexico and Argentina and as dissimilar as Guatemala and Brazil? What is North America? Does it include Canada, the United States, and Mexico? Is it code for English-speaking America, or does it merely function as a non-national way to refer to the United States? And what of the term America itself? When does it include Canada, Ecuador, Haiti, or Chile, and when does it signify the United States?

The tendency to equate America with the United States and the current practices of Latin Americanists, Canadianists, Caribbeanists, and U.S.-Americanists to study their disciplines in national and regional vacuums can be just as parochial as the "prideful villager" whom Martí chastises for believing that "his hometown contains the whole world." We invite you to participate with us as we continue to shift the American dialogue from nation and region to hemisphere, from America to Americas.

ORGANIZATION

The summer school is an Utrecht Network initiative. It will be hosted by the University of Graz, run by the University's Center for the Study of the Americas (C.SAS) in cooperation with the Vice Rectorate for International Relations, and staffed by professors from Europe and the Americas.

VENUE / SEGGAU CASTLE

The venue of the Summer School is "Seggau Castle" located 45 km south of Graz (<http://seggau.com>).

LECTURES & SEMINARS

Two **keynote addresses and seven plenary lectures** will be offered for all students **in English**. The **afternoon seminars** will be taught **in Spanish** by Fernando Moreno (Poitiers/FR) and Josefina Pacheco-Vazquez (Graz/AT) and will cover the topic "La ficcionalización de la historia en la narrativa latinoamericana contemporánea" (see detailed information below).

ECTS / SEMINAR PAPER

Participants will receive a certificate of participation at the end of the summer school. Furthermore, it is possible for participants to gain ECTS credits in this summer school project. To obtain these credits, students have to participate in the full program AND write a seminar paper. This paper has to be written for one of the lecturers of the afternoon seminars.

Student contributions

- € 300 students from partner universities in Joint Degree Program
- € 150 students from partner universities in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe
- € 700 students from all other universities

Student contributions are to be paid in advance and cover summer school program, meals, housing, social program and a printed report.

Co-financing of trips (up to 75 %) is available for students of partner universities within the Joint Degree provided the least expensive arrangement is chosen.

Application Deadline: 27th March 2009 (receiving date)

Applications need to be sent via surface mail. No faxed or mailed applications will be accepted!!!

Application Form online under http://www.uni-graz.at/zas1www/zas1www_summer_school1/zas1www_summer_school1-3.htm

Send your applications to

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La ficcionalización de la historia en la narrativa latinoamericana contemporánea

Este seminario comienza tematizando el cuento latinoamericano y los rasgos que lo caracterizan como producto de un determinado contexto histórico y sociocultural. Un aspecto central del análisis será la identidad como tendencia recurrente de esta literatura. El curso procederá a discutir textos contemporáneos y contemplará la relación entre historia y ficción o más bien las múltiples modalidades de ficcionalización de la historia en la narrativa latinoamericana contemporánea.

The seminar sets out to explore the Latin-American fairy tale and the features which characterize it as a product of certain, determined historical and socio-historical contexts. A central aspect within the analysis will be the question of identity as recurring theme in this literature. Furthermore this course will discuss contemporary texts focusing on the relatedness between history and fiction or rather the multiple ways of fictionalization of history in contemporary Latin-American narrative literature.