

Dislocating Literature

Transnational Literature and the Directions of Literary Studies in the Baltic Sea Region

We are gathering international scholars to discuss literature that deals with geographical as well as conceptual border crossings within the Baltic Sea Region. As the choice of subject already suggests, intersections between literature and history will make up a key aspect of the symposium. In the international debate over the last decades, scholars of postcolonial literature have most often examined the issue of comparison in relation to history and context. How does literary criticism in the Baltic Sea Region relate to these debates? Transnational and transregional literary studies are bound to challenge the idea of cultures, languages and philologies as closed entities. How does this affect the whole concept of comparative literature? What happens when we focus on the aspect of trauma and dislocation in the literature of the Baltic Sea region?

Participants are invited to either present their research on specific literary works that deal with multilinguality, migration and cultural as well as personal dislocation, or to contribute to the theoretical debate on how literary relations in the region can be rethought. Crossing the boundaries between countries, cultures and languages in this region inevitably involves crossing the tracks of vikings and traders, smugglers and duty free ships, politicians and armies, nomads and crusaders, working-class activists and aristocrats, fascists and communists, esperantists and feminists, refugees and economic migrants, scholars and artists, diplomats and spies. Any literary protagonist, author, motif or stylistic device that can be argued to reflect such modes of movement is of potential relevance for the discussion. We also welcome destabilizing approaches to literary texts that have so far been seen in a national or regional context.

An abstract (max. 300 words) and a short cv should be sent to dislocatingliterature@sh.se no later than December 1st 2010.

Symposium language: English

Preliminary date: The symposium will take place at Södertörn University in Huddinge, Sweden in May, week 20, 2011, during one full day.

Accommodation for one night and traveling expenses within Europe will be funded. For further inquiries please turn to dislocatingliterature@sh.se or to one of the organizers.

Organisation:

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