

Call for Papers

First Interdisciplinary Languages, Literatures & Cultures Graduate Conference

McGill University, Montréal, Canada

April 20-22, 2012

Europe's Dis/integration Place, Belonging and Identity across and beyond Europe

Keynote Speaker: Jeroen Dewulf, University of California - Berkeley

McGill's *First Interdisciplinary Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Graduate Student Conference* seeks to question and discuss the making of a pan-European identity as well as to reflect on the impact of Europeanism in the world. In discussing these questions, the conference will also yield a forum for examining the proliferation of homeland narratives across and beyond Europe, and for exploring issues uniting or dividing continental, national, and regional loyalties.

Pivotal historical events and experiences, such as colonization, exile, deportation, and the influx of foreign workers both from within and beyond European borders have given rise to an array of discourses on belonging, identity, and the topography of nation in the past century. In recent decades, socio-political and integration-focused events, such as German unification, increasing mobility, and the breakdown of borders as a result of the European Union's expansion, have given rise to optimism about a strong and united Europe. Yet, post-colonial discourses, along with recent waves of nationalism and xenophobia across and beyond EU borders, suggest that nations and subjects who either defend or condemn the notions of Europeanism and pan-European identity still persist. Debating the fate of a dis/integrating Europe seems all the more crucial today, not only for the individual but also for the collective identity, as the debate follows in the wake of an expanding EU whose monetary union is currently threatened by a looming economic – and identity – crisis.

This conference will question and critically debate the limitations and possibilities of homeland and national identity within the past and/or present European context. What are the functions of historical and contemporary discourses on *nation* and *homeland* as being linked to a place where one belongs? How does the nationalistic discourse on nations and homelands apply to the context of an ambitiously growing European Union? What is at stake, economically, politically, and culturally when investing in the normative changes implied by a pan-European identity?

We encourage comparative, transnational, and interdisciplinary approaches to the theme *Europe's Dis/integration* from scholars working in any field of the humanities. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Portrayals of Europe in film, literature and the arts
- National, regional and transnational narratives on Europe
- Clashes of identity: Gender, class, nation
- Transatlantic dis/integration: Colonial and postcolonial perspectives on Europe and the Americas in the literary, cinematic and artistic tradition
- Islam in Europe
- Pan-European policy and its impact on economy, culture and identity
- Europe's East-West / North-South divides
- “From the outside”: Non-European perspectives on Europe and Europeans in literature, film and the arts
- Literary, historical or filmic representations of migration and integration
- Europe's legacy: Multi-linguism, multi-culturalism and plural identities across and beyond Europe
- From myth to reality: Europa’s Greek tragedy

Please submit all materials to michel.mallet@mail.mcgill.ca by no later than January 5, 2012.

Abstracts for 20-minute presentations (in English) should be **no more than 300 words**. Submissions should not bear the author’s name. Please include the following information **as a separate attachment**: name, title of paper, department and university affiliation, phone number and e-mail address. Notification of acceptance will be sent to participants by late January 2012. The conference organizers will do their best to assist in securing accommodations for conference participants, and there will also be the option of staying with McGill graduate students. Further details will be provided at the time of acceptance.