

// GAPS 2021

SCIENCE, CULTURE, AND POSTCOLONIAL NARRATIVES

// Annual Conference of the German Association for Postcolonial Studies (GAPS)

// University of Oldenburg, 13-15 May 2021

Draft Program

April 29 2021

Please note that all times may be subject to change. If any of your details are rendered inaccurately, please contact us at gaps2021@uol.de

We anticipate that all contributions will be delivered live in their time slots.

Technical support and preliminary practice opportunities will be available, both in advance and during the 20-minute set-up period for chairs and presenters. The conference platform will allow you to share your screen, upload a presentation-slides as pdf (without animations) or play a pre-recorded video presentation during your slot (this may be advisable if you are working from an unstable connection).

If you wish to present a pre-recorded video, please contact us at gaps2021@uol.de before May 7.

In all cases, please ensure that you keep strictly within the 20-minute limit for panel papers to allow for a 10-minute discussion on each paper.

All times are given in Central European Summer Time (UTC+2).

Thursday, 13 May

// 9am

Opening

// 9:30 am

**Keynote address: Warwick Anderson, University of Sydney:
Between Postcolonial Histories of Science and Decolonial Science Studies**

// 10:30 am

Short break, setup phase for presenters

// 10.50 am-12:20 pm

Parallel Panels, Session 1

1.1 Digital Narratives and Global Crises: New Perspectives on Literacy and Agency

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Roman **Bartosch**, University of Cologne: 'Distance Learning': Scaling (Digital) Narrative
- Julia **Hoydis**, University of Graz: Climate Change, Literacy, and Serious Games.
- Daniel **Becker**, Postdoctoral Researcher, English Department, University of Münster:
#mystory: Hashtags, Narrative and Global Education

1.2 Science in Speculative Fiction I

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Indrani **Das Gupta**, University of Delhi: Worlding of Worlds: History of Assemblages in Select Postcolonial Indian Science Fiction Texts
- Christin **Höne**, Maastricht University: Jagadish Chandra Bose and the Anticolonial Politics of Science Fiction
- Victoria **Herche** & David **Kern**, University of Cologne: Scientists and their Discoveries: A Postcolonial Reading of Ted Chiang's Speculative Short Fiction

1.3 Narratives of Anthropology

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Arunima **Bhattacharya**, University of Leeds: Anthropology, Ecology and the Indian Nation State: Andaman Islands in *The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali* and *Glorious Boy*.
- Spencer **Shin**, Independent Scholar, New York: Contesting Colonialism: Paratext and British Hegemony in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*
- Anna **Auguscik**, University of Oldenburg: Encountering Strangers in Lily King's *Euphoria*

1.4 Under Construction I

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Guðrun í **Jákupsstovu**, University of Berne: Encountering Time: Understanding Deep Time Through Encounters and Interactions on the Beach
- Sebastian **Jablonski**, University of Potsdam: From Manifest Destiny to "Seagoing Manifest Destiny" – Pitcairn Island as a Case Study
- Narges **Mirzapour**, Semnan University, Iran: Homogenization from Post-Apartheid to Post-Covid19 South Africa (1994-2024): The Infinite Past in Future

// 12:20 pm

Lunch Break

// 1:30 pm

**Keynote address: Banu Subramaniam, University of Massachusetts Amherst:
Decolonizing Botany: From the Herbarium to the Planetarium**

// 2:30 pm

Short break, setup phase for presenters

// 2:50-4:20 pm

Parallel Panels, Session 2

2.1 Extraction, Expropriation, Resistance

(Chair: t.b.a.):

- Rajani **Sudan**, Southern Methodist University: Mines, Minerals, Mimesis, and Memory
- Rebecca **Macklin**, University of Leeds/University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: "Seeing through the end of the world": Storytelling and Environmental Crisis in the Fiction of Leanne Betasamosake Simpson
- Eduardo **Erazo Acosta**, Universidad de Nariño, Colombia: The Power of the Ancestral Philosophy of Alli Kawsay (Buen Vivir) in the Indigenous Movements of Colombia - Ecuador vs. the Exclusion by the Big Mining Development, Contribution to the Rights of Mother Nature from the Global South

2.2 Science in Speculative Fiction II: SF and Indigenous Epistemologies

(Chair: t.b.a.):

- Alessandra **Boller**, University of Siegen: "I'm a patented new fucking life form" - Material Practices of Knowing and Becoming in Larissa Lai's Speculative Fiction
- Julia **Gatermann**, University of Hamburg: Bodies of Knowledge – Discredited Sciences and Technologies of Resistance in Larissa Lai's *The Tiger Flu*
- Christina **Slopek**, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf: Specious Species Taxonomies: Porosity and Interspecies Constellations in Nalo Hopkinson's *Midnight Robber*

2.3 Science, Technology, and Postcolonial Nationalisms

(Chair: t.b.a.):

- Luz-Maria **Gasser**, University of Potsdam: Reaching for the Stars: Postcolonial 'Science', Progress and Irony
- Fabian **Hempel** & Krutika **Patri**, University of Bremen: Manu Joseph's *Serious Men* as a Subaltern Prism on Modern Science and Indian Society
- Souvik **Kar**, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad: The Empire Bombs Back: The Indian Nuclear Tests of 1998 and the curious case of *Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran* (2018)

2.4 Under Construction II

(Chair: t.b.a.):

- Fabienne **Blaser**, University of Berne: Trouble in Paradise: The Beach as the Site of Disaster. Coastal Disaster Representations in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction
- Indrani **Karmakar**, TU Chemnitz: Mother in the Making: Commercial Surrogacy and the Politics of Motherhood in the Fictions of Two Indian Women Writers

// 4:20 pm

Coffee break

// 5:30 pm

GAPS Graduate and GAPS Dissertation Award Ceremony

// 6:30 pm

Reading and discussion with Petina Gappah, author of *Out of Darkness*, *Shining Light* and *The Book of Memory*

Friday, 14 May

// 9 am

Keynote address: Josie Gill, University of Bristol:
Black Literature and Science in the Age of Coronavirus

// 10 am

Short break, setup phase for presenters

// 10:20 -11:50 am

Parallel Panels, Session 3**3.1 Narratives of Science, Narratives of Race**

(Chair: t.b.a.):

- Paula **von Gleich**, University of Bremen: Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* and the Genealogy of "black is black is black"
- Gigi **Adair**, Universität Bielefeld: Technologies of Race and Identity and the Social in the Globalized Caribbean
- Wolfgang **Funk**, University of Mainz: "They were all blondes": Intersections of Racism, Feminism and Eugenics in Mary Bradley Lane's *Mizora*

3.2 Science in Speculative Fiction III: Postcolonial Posthumanisms

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Haydar Jabr **Koban**, Al-Ma'moun University College, Baghdad: Representations of Science: Questions of Postcolonial Biotechnology and Dehumanization in Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*
- Hasan Serkan **Demir**, TU Chemnitz: Post-Human Other: Kazuo Ishiguro's Science Fiction Novel *Never Let Me Go*
- Md Abu Shahid **Abdullah**, East West University, Bangladesh: Interplanetary Colonisation, Isolation and Overdependence on Technology: Depicting Crisis in the Aftermath of Nuclear Fallout in Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

3.3 Science, Power, Knowledge, and the State

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Harshana **Rambukwella**, Open University, Sri Lanka: 'Patriotic' Science: The COVID 19 Pandemic and the Politics of Indigeneity
- Anton **Kirchhofer**, University of Oldenburg: From the "danger of truth" to the "long truthful dance"?: On Cosmopolitan Science and Cultures of Violence in Michael Ondaatje's *Anil's Ghost*
- Rovel **Sequeira**, University of Pennsylvania: Scandals of the State: Prison Architecture and the Sciences of Pederasty in Late Colonial India

3.4 Under Construction III

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Sára **Bagdi**, Kassák Museum Budapest: Primitivism and Class Consciousness, the Representation of the "Other" in the Hungarian Workers' Movement
- Beatrice **Faluccci**, University of Florence & Gianmarco **Mancosu**, University of Warwick: Exploring the Former Colonies: Safari (Visual) Cultures in Post-colonial Italy
- Vahid **Aghaei**, University of Münster: Poster Presentation: Moral Indeterminacies and Discernments pertaining to Colonialism in Africa: From Joseph Conrad to J. G. Ballard

// 11:50 am

Lunch break

// 1 pm

Setup phase for presenters

// 1:20 pm-2:20 pm

Parallel Panels, Session 4

4.1 Science and Postcolonial Environments I

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Dominic **O'Key**, University of Leeds: 'From the Other Side of Millions of Years': Narrating the Sixth Extinction
- Alexa **Weik von Mossner**, University of Klagenfurt: (Neo)colonial Histories and Scientific Futures in Fernando A. Flores's *Tears of the Trufflepig*

4.2 Negotiating Indigenous Knowledges

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Ana Carolina **Torquato**, Federal University of Paraná, Brazil: Scientific and Popular Healing Practices: Complementary and Antagonistic Relationships in Works by J. Guimarães Rosa, Jorge Amado, and Pepetela
- Sandra **Neugärtner**, University of Erfurt: Lena Meyer-Bergner's Teaching of Weaving Technology in Mexico: Attempts to Abolish Post-Colonial Rule

4.3 Under Construction IV

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Rita **Maricocchi**, University of Münster: Intermedial Manifestations of (white) German Identity via Transnational and Postcolonial Contexts in Birgit Weyhe's *Madgermanes* and *Ich Weiß*
- Francesco **Costantini**, Jagiellonian University, Kraków: An Anti-Colonial and Inter-Imperial Literary Criticism of Scientism as a Post-Enlightenment Façade of Colonial Modernity

// 2:20 pm

Coffee break

// 3 pm

GAPS-members assembly

Conducted by the board of GAPS, access through separate invitation.

// 6:30 pm

Snack break

// 7:30 pm

Reading and discussion with Jaspreet Singh, author of *Helium* and *Chef*

Saturday, 15 May

// 9:30 am

Panel discussion: The Place of Anglophone Postcolonial Studies in Germany

Kylie Crane (Universität Rostock), Smaran Dayal (New York University), Dirk Götttsche (University of Nottingham), Mark Stein (Universität Münster), Elahe Hashemi Yekani (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)
Chair: Lars Eckstein (Universität Potsdam)

// 11 am

Short break, setup phase for presenters

// 11:20 am-12:20 pm

Parallel Panel, Session 5

5.1 Science and Postcolonial Environments II

- (Chair: t.b.a.)
- Virginia **Richter**, University of Berne: A Theatre of Decay: The Aesthetics of Zoology in Jim Crace's *Being Dead*
- Kanak **Yadav**, JNU New Delhi: Writing the Space of Postcolonial Environment: *Latitudes of Longing* (2018) and the Quest for the Non-Human

5.2 Science in Speculative Fiction IV: Colonial Histories, Postcolonial Futures

- Baldeep Kaur **Grewal**, University of Potsdam: 'Problems of control at a distance': Delayed Transmissions and Other Colonial Velocities
- Paul **Hamann-Rose**, Goethe University Frankfurt: A New Poetics of Postcolonial Relations: Global Genetic Kinship in Amitav Ghosh's *The Calcutta Chromosome* and Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*

5.3 Postcolonial Narratives of/and Space Exploration

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Hedley **Twidle**, University of Cape Town: From the Edge of Representation: Radio Astronomy, Postcolonial Memory and South Africa's Square Kilometre Array (SKA)
- Jens **Temmen**, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf: "My Battery is Low and It's Getting Dark": Posthuman Imaginaries of Life on Mars and the NASA Rover Missions

5.4 Under Construction V

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Mahtab **Dadkhah**, University of Erfurt: Power of Media in Forming Cultural Identities of Immigrants from India and Africa to Germany
- Stefanie **Kemmerer**, Goethe University Frankfurt: Yogascapes

// 12:20 pm

Lunch break

// 1:30 pm

Setup phase for presenters

// 1:50-2:50 pm

Parallel Panels, Session 6

6.1 Forgotten Histories of Science

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Jennifer **Leetsch**, University of Würzburg: "I trust England will not forget one who nursed her sick": Nursing the Empire in *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands* (1857)
- Laura **Zander**, University of Münster: Blank Spaces and Hidden Figures – Rewriting the Gendered History of Science

6.2 Body, Mind, Diaspora

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Lara **Choksey**, University of Exeter: Interiority after Genealogy: States of Somnambulance in Claude McKay's *Romance in Marseille*
- Karsten **Levihn-Kutzler**, University of Oldenburg: *Transcendent Kingdom*: Yaa Gyasi's Transcultural Neuronovel

6.3 Science and Fiction in Postcolonial Counterfactuals

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Hayley G. **Toth**, University of Leeds: The Limits of Postcolonial Counterfactual Histories: Responses to Malorie Blackman's *Noughts & Crosses* (2001) and the BBC television adaptation *Noughts + Crosses* (2020)
- Alena **Cicholewski**, University of Oldenburg: Science as an Empowering/Exploiting Force in Esi Edugyan's *Washington Black* (2018)

6.4 Postcolonial Hybridities and Narratives of Science

(Chair: t.b.a.)

- Lobna **Ben Salem**, Manouba University, Tunisia: "More Crop per Drop?": Tribalism and Revolution in Bessie Head's Fiction
- Andrew **Ash**, University of Alabama: How the Present Is Translated Into the Future: Bhabha, Achebe and Latour

// 2:50 pm

Coffee break

// 3:30 pm

Keynote address: Graham Huggan, University of Leeds:
"What's in a Colony? Invasion Science, Eco-Narrative and the (Mis)Uses of Alien Species."

// 4:30 pm

Concluding roundtable

Chairs: Anton Kirchofer and Karsten Levihn-Kutzler

// 5:30 pm

End of conference