



ASSOCIATION FOR LITERARY URBAN STUDIES

Newsletter – March 2016

• **Association for Literary Urban Studies News**

1st ALUS symposium: "Possible Cities"

The first symposium of the Association for Literary Urban Studies, themed "Possible Cities", will be held at the University of Tampere, Thursday 31 March, 2016. Time and place: 11h-16h; B4075 (Pinni B).

For more information on the program see <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/hlc-n/>

• **Calls for Papers**

• **Conferences**

Literary London Conference – London and the Globe

Deadline March 31

While papers on all areas of literary London are welcomed, to acknowledge this year of Shakespearean celebrations, the conference theme in 2016 will be 'London and the Globe'. This event will follow the trace of London's transnational connections through novelistic, dramatic, poetic and other modes of expression. Topics that might be addressed include:

- Geographies of migration, mobility and citizenship in an unsettled city
- The Globe Theatre and new provinces in Shakespearean performance
- London's landscapes of slavery, expenditure and transportation
- Imagining London apart from its 'mother tongue' and the Anglophone canon
- Writing back against metropolitan cultural hegemony and the Imperial *mythos*
- Intercontinental travel, holidays, grand tours and Londoners away from home

- Refiguring Britishness, race identity and statehood in the light of globalization
- Émigrés, foreign correspondents and the passage of global information
- Trajectories of flight, atlases, shipping logs and *Mappae mundi*
- Romances of adventure, paradisaal islands, itinerancy and exoticism
- Exploring otherness through utopian 'elsewhere' and spiritual *terra incognitae*
- The re-territorialisation of the city through poetic and rhetorical appropriation
- The Neo-colonial refashioning and memorialization of London's colonial past
- Global trade networks, mercantile capitalism and taking to the Thames
- Foreign conflicts, skirmishes, rebellions and fictions of domestic in/security

Please submit all proposals for 20-minute papers, comprised panels, and roundtable sessions using the links on the right. If you have any queries, please contact the conference organiser Dr Peter Jones at conference@literarylondon.org

The annual conference of the Literary London Society hears papers, comprised panels, and roundtables that consider every period and genre of literature about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures. While the main focus of the conference will be on literary texts, we actively encourage interdisciplinary contributions relating to film, architecture, geography and theories of urban space. Papers from postgraduate students are particularly welcome for consideration.

The conference location is the Institute of English Studies, University of London. For more information about the institute, please go to <http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/>

Heritage in Transition: Scenes of Urban Innovation

Deadline April 30

4th Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Culture of Cities (IASCC), Ermoupolis, Syros, Greece, July 27-29th, 2016

This conference is hosted by The Culture of Cities Centre and will convene on July 27-29th, 2016 at The Cultural Center in Hermoupolis, on the island of Syros in Greece. It is held in collaboration with York University, St. Jerome's University and the University of Waterloo.

The aim of this meeting is to focus upon how cities create cultural landscapes in which heritage is both tangibly marked by the built environment, by official scripts and policies and also by their seemingly intangible influences of collective memories and collisions in values about the meaning of place that fluctuate over time.

How can the rich and varied approaches of cultural analysis, social theory, and the humanities, arts and social sciences contribute to an interdisciplinary examination of

the ground of heritage in the relationship of the city to time and to the complexity presupposed by such a history of official and unofficial legacies?

The Greek city of Ermoupolis has been chosen because of its particular character as an historically unique city involved in the current process of refashioning its heritage, offering the forum an opportunity to connect this example to research on uses of representations of urban heritage in the modern city. Hermoupolis is a candidate city seeking UNESCO World Heritage Site designation.

Topics to be addressed can include:

- How cities can and do use their past heritage in the present as part of their cultural capital.
- The connection of innovative methodologies and emergent practices for engaging the relation of urban pasts to present and future.
- Latest advances in the development of technological applications for representing the past in images of the built environment, narratives and the visual representation of local topographies.
- Representations of cultural capital that includes official traditional heritage designations, historical neighbourhoods and landmarks, the preservation of art or masterpieces, the contents of museums and deposits of artefacts and the practice of art and artists and the evolving 'art worlds' that become part of the aura of the city as its affective infrastructure.
- Relations to traditions of any and all kind (from linguistic to aesthetic), including modification, rejection, preservation as in fundamentalist and enlightenment gestures and actions.
- Narratives about the urban past produced in any present by descendants, survivors, witnesses, informants.
- Redefinitions of work through archival material.
- Issues of conservation and preservation.
- Ways different societies mark their inheritances whether through mechanistic repetition, vandalism, obfuscation, and innovative reinvention.
- Use of heritage criteria for conferring identity of persons and groups through rituals for designating membership such as purity or impurity of blood line, affiliation, citizenship, classification, genre.
- Policy discussion relating to cultural identity and memory, cultural regeneration and collective biographies.
- Dissonant registers and controversies of historical past(s).

The normal presentation format will be a 20-minute talk as part of a panel of 3-4 speakers followed by questions and discussion. Proposals for other forms of participation (performances, exhibitions/screenings) will also be considered as part of the conference exhibition and events. If you would like to propose a roundtable or panel, please submit a detailed application.

SCHEDULE

Registration Open: March 1st, 2016

Deadline for Abstract Submissions: April 30th, 2016

Acceptance Letters Sent: May 15th, 2016*

Early Registration Closes: June 15th, 2016

Contact information: info@cultureofcities.com

*Please note that the selection committee will consider presenter abstracts in advance of the May 15th acceptance date. Please indicate whether or not you require an early review in order to make travel arrangements or applications for funding to your institution.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstract (approximately 250 words): Prospective authors are invited to submit abstract proposals here. Abstracts must include a minimum of three keywords. All abstracts will be reviewed through a double-blind process. Due to formatting limitations of the conference program, abstracts longer than 250 words will not be included. *

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.cultureofcities.com/iascc-conference-2016-heritage-in-transition-july-25-28-syros/#schedule>

The IAFOR International Conference on the City 2016

Deadline May 15

NH Collection Barcelona Constanza, Barcelona, Spain; Saturday, July 16 - Monday, July 18, 2016

Different cities have very different personalities, influenced, for example, by history, government, climate, and geographical location – from uptight financial powerhouses to relaxed tourist resorts, they are governed in different ways, and compete against each other for attention and resources, sometimes domestically, but also with other foreign rivals. This conference encourages interdisciplinary and comparative reflections from the world's cities, from small cathedral city, to sprawling metropolis.

The city has always been a center of creativity and imagination. The many cultures that are formed within the city have become definitive of the development of human civilization in different eras. From the cities that were the product of the ancient river civilizations on the Nile, the Tigris Euphrates or the Ganges and the Yellow River through the classical and medieval city states, to the modern cities of the industrial revolution, the city provides an exciting object of study. The conference is set up to encourage the exploration of the city in all its variations and to provide a further context for reflections on globalisation as the wave of today and tomorrow.

This conference will be held in parallel to a conference on Global Studies, and will provide a counter to the localised perspectives that can easily obscure the simple fact that many of the world's major cities have now become, more than ever, global portals and places of international exchange.

We invite academics from around the world to join us in the fascinating historical, cultural, and artistic center of Barcelona, to exchange ideas and participate in the continuing story of this city.

One of the conference's sub-themes is **The Artistic & Literary City**. Please see website for details about possible topics and the application process: <http://iafor.org/city2016-call-for-papers/>

- **Book Chapters**

Sustainability and the City: Urban Poetics and Politics

Deadline April 1

To be considered for "Sustainability and the City: Urban Poetics and Politics," an edited collection under contract with Lexington Books, an imprint of the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, for its Ecocritical Theory and Practice Series (<https://rowman.com/Action/SERIES/LEX/ETAP>), we invite chapters of 6000-8000 words on the relationship between sustainability and the city as represented in literature, film, or other art of any period and culture. We are especially interested in chapters that speak to urban communities of the Global South or to minority or marginalized populations in the United States, Canada, or European Union. Interested authors should send their full chapter of no more than 10,000 words (including notes), a brief biography of about 75 words, and a CV in Microsoft Word files to lcurtright@gsu.edu and dorisbremm@gmail.com by April 1, 2016. The final chapter, formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style, and required permissions will be due by May 9, 2016.

Conventional deployments of the term "sustainability" emphasize "avoiding the long-term depletion of natural resources," as the Oxford English Dictionary defines this word. However, the emergent idea of "comprehensive sustainability" considers the so-called natural environment and human politics in equal measure and means not only reconciling preservation and development but also achieving social justice and equality. Does this altered definition of sustainability mark or require a profound shift in perceptions of cities? Or might we trace concepts of sustainability in past ideas about cities? For example, we may interpret landscape painter Thomas Cole's *The Course of Empire* and Edgar Allan Poe's "A City in the Sea" as evincing an American fascination with the seeming impossibility of cities' sustainability in their representations of the inevitability of urban demise. However, in light of Bernard Rosenthal's argument that the notion of early 19th-century Americans' "deep antipathy to the city" is a "modern myth" and that, in fact, "the great vision of the age was preeminently urban," we may also discern symbioses between the human and nonhuman elements in Cole and Poe's meditations on sustainability and the city (1978, 119).

Today, the place where comprehensive sustainability might occur is increasingly figured as the city if only because cities are where the future of humanity is predicted to lie. As Gary Hustwit's 2011 documentary film *Urbanized* highlights, "over half the world's population now lives in an urban area, and 75% will call a city home by 2050." However, cities are also recognized as key sites of sustainability because, as environmentalists have come to focus on the relationship between energy consumption and climate change, most now believe cities hold the advantage by all definitions of sustainability. For example, echoing David Owen's 2010 book *Green Metropolis: Why Living Smaller, Living Closer, and Driving Less Are the Keys to Sustainability*, architect and author Ellen Dunham-Jones points out, "the average urban dweller in the U.S. has about one-third the carbon footprint of the average suburban dweller"; she concludes, "from a climate change perspective, the cities are already relatively 'green'" (Dunham-Jones 2010, n.p.). In addition to these reasons, "Sustainability and the

City: Urban Poetics and Politics” considers the ways in which urban environments define sustainability because cities are the primary home of: the circulation of excess capital; class divisions; political resistance; friction between human and nonhuman worlds; and the confluence of art, policy, and social psychology in place-making.

Co-editors of “Sustainability and the City: Urban Poetics and Politics,” Doris Bremm is area coordinator for culture and literature at the Familienbildungstätte, Bonn, in Germany and Lauren Curtright is Assistant Professor of English at Georgia State University, Perimeter College, in Atlanta, Georgia.

• **Book Spotlight**

Deep Locational Criticism: Imaginative Place in Literary Research and Teaching

By ALUS member **Jason Finch, Åbo Akademi**

John Benjamins Press, 2016

A lively series of spatial turns in literary studies since the 1990s give rise to this engaged and practical book, devoted to the question of how to teach and study the relationship between all sorts of literature and all sorts of location. Among the many concrete examples explored are texts created between the early seventeenth and the early twenty-first centuries, in genres ranging from stage drama and lyric poetry to television, by way of several studies of fiction definable in a broad way as realist. Writers and thinkers discussed include Michel de Certeau, Edward Casey, Gwendolyn Brooks, Christina Rossetti, Dickens, J. Hillis Miller, Lynne Reid Banks, Heidegger, Shakespeare, Thomas Middleton, Thomas Dekker, Stephen C. Levinson, Bernard Malamud, E.M. Forster, Thomas Burke and Samuel Beckett. The book is underpinned by the philosophical topology of Jeff Malpas, who insists that human life is necessarily and primarily located. It is aimed at students and teachers of literary place at all university levels.

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<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/hlc-n/>

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