



Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies

Between Utopia and Dystopia: The Afterlives of Empire
Friday 19 & Saturday 20 November 2010

*In association with Liverpool University Press
and the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni*

Institut Français du Royaume-Uni
17 Queensberry Place
LONDON SW7 2DT

PROGRAMME

Friday, 19 November 2010

9.30-10.30 Registration

10.30-10.45 Opening Remarks – David Murphy

10:45-12:15 **Panel 1: Utopian Literary Futures**

- “The Global Mediterranean: Literature and Migration” (Dominic Thomas)
- Speech and Utopia. Senghor's Poetic Universalism (Michael G. Kelly)
- Decolonizing culture, decolonizing the intellectual: The First Congress of Black Writers and Artists (Paris, 1956) (Lucie Mercier)

12.15-2.00 Lunch/AGM

2.00-3.30 **Panel 2: Parallel Sessions**

Panel 2a: Caribbean

- Hopes and Frustrations of Departmental Life: the Ambiguities of Martiniquan Attitudes towards the Colonial Inheritance (Sam Coombes)
- Social Dispossession in Dystopian Guadeloupe: *Nèg maron*, *Lettre ouverte à la jeunesse* and the Strikes of 2009 (Louise Hardwick)
- “Returns to the native land”¹: Dany Laferrière’s unresolved dilemma (Gabrielle Parker)

Panel 2b: Post-imperial Melancholia

- The afterlives of the national: Mediterranean melancholia in the contemporary Algerian novel (Edwige Tamalet Talbayev)
- From Melancholia to Utopia?: on the paradox of recent theory (Lucy Brisley)
- Historicizing the ‘Playground’: The Beach and Empire in Diasporic Island Literatures (Namrata Poddar)

3.30-3.45 Coffee

3.45-4.45 **Panel 3: Parallel Sessions**

Panel 3a: The Afterlives of the Ancien Régime's Empire

- 'Imagining the post-slavery future: travel writing and the afterlives of the Haitian revolution' (Kate Hodgson)
- After 'Loss': Utopian Visions of French India during the Indian 'Mutiny' (1857–58) (Nicola Frith)

Panel 3b: Afro-pessimism and Disillusion

- Utopia/Dystopia: Williams Sassine and Afro-Pessimism (Charlotte Baker)
- La nation anti-impérialisme: désillusion et utopie dans *Allah n'est pas obligé* (2000) d'Ahmadou Kourouma (Nadra Hebouche)

5.00-5.45 **Keynote Speaker: Kate Marsh**

'Nous étions évidemment inspirés par l'exemple de l'Inde': Idealization of 1947, the end of the Union française, and les ultimes confettis de l'Empire de Duplex

6:00-7:30 Vin d'Honneur

8:00 Dinner

Saturday, 20 November 2010

10.00-11:00 **Panel 4: Parallel Sessions**

Panel 4a: Bande Dessinée

- Memory and Postmemory in Morvandiau's *D'Algérie* (2007) (Ann Miller)
- Paradoxical Paradises: Gendered Interweavings of Utopia and Dystopia in the (Post-) Colonial Bande Dessinée (Catriona MacLeod)

Panel 4b: Sexuality and Narcissism

- L'affect mélancolique et la sexualisation des hautes aspirations d'indépendance africaine dans *Juletane* de Myriam Warner-Vieyra (Anna-Leena Toivanen)
- On a Politics of Narcissism in the African Postcolony: Maryse Condé's *Hérémakhonon* (Kaiama L. Glover)

11.00-11:15 Coffee/Tea

11:15-12:45 **Panel 5: Parallel Sessions**

Panel 5a: Algeria

- Albert Camus' defence of a French Algeria as a utopian idea of nation or empire building and cultural merging (Heidi Bojsen)
- Postcolonial Algerian cinema: from a 'constellation of revolt' to the 'crushed state of melancholia' (Guy Austin)
- Shades of Grey: Challenging Utopian and Dystopian Representations of the Algerian War of Independence (Claire Eldridge)

Panel 5b: Africa

- Ironie, satire, allégorie : la rhétorique de la contre-utopie postcoloniale chez Sembène et Ngũgĩ (Ousmane Ngom)

- Le néocolonialisme littéraire: la réception des “Soleils des indépendances” (1968-1970) d’Amadou Kourouma par les éditeurs et les critiques périphériques (canadiennes) et métropolitaines (Vivan Steemers)
- Alternate History and the Disunited States of Africa (Taiwo Adetunji Osinubi)

12.45-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 **Panel 6: Utopian Pasts, Utopian Futures**

- The Union Française, Éurafrique, and the fate of French late-colonial utopias (Stephen Tyre)
- La vision panafricaine de Kwame Nkrumah : de la réalité à l’utopie? (Amzat Boukari-Yabara)
- Past glories and oppressive tradition. Empires in European textbooks (Susanne Grindel)

3.30-3.45 Tea/Coffee

3.45-4.30 **Keynote Speaker: Ferdinand de Jong** (Chair: David Murphy)
Postcolonial Heterotopia: The Monument of the African Renaissance.

4.45 Close of Conference

To register for the conference, please email sfpsconference@googlemail.com before Monday 8 November 2010.