

**The Postcolonial City**  
**Annual Conference of the Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies**  
**18-19 November 2011**  
**Institut Français, London**

**Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**  
**Jim House (Leeds), Sherry Simon (Concordia)**

**Call for Papers**

One of the classic tropes of Francophone fiction of the mid-twentieth century was the movement of the main protagonist from village to colonial capital and onwards to the metropolitan centre of Paris, as he (they were almost invariably men) worked his way through the colonial education system. These works posited the colonial as primarily 'urban' while the colonised was primarily 'rural' but the past half-century has witnessed a major transformation and the majority of the population in most former colonies now lives in towns and cities. The aim of this conference is to explore the Francophone postcolonial city from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives (film, literature, urban studies, sociology, anthropology, geography, architecture, for example). What is the nature of the urban cultures that have emerged? Is national or ethnic 'authenticity' still located in the countryside? How has the arrival of postcolonial populations transformed the cultures of European cities such as Paris, Marseilles and Brussels?

We welcome proposals for papers/panels on specific cities: e.g. Paris, Montréal, Dakar, Kinshasa, Algiers, Port-au-Prince, etc. We also welcome more general theoretical reflections on Francophone postcolonial urban spaces. Potential topics for papers include:

- Writing/Filming the City
- The city as utopia/The city as dystopia
- Shantytowns/slums
- Nostalgia for the rural
- Travelling and dwelling in the city
- Arrivals and departures
- Means of transport
- Urban edgelands
- The multilingual city and its linguistic landscapes
- The city as post/colonial palimpsest
- The urban travelogue
- The city as commemorative space
- The city and the senses

Please send abstracts of 250-300 words, plus 50-100 words of bio-bibliography, to SFPS Conference Secretary, Georgina Collins ([sfpsconference@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sfpsconference@hotmail.co.uk)). Papers can be in either French or English.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is **Monday, 20 June 2011**.