

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
School of English

HELAAS  
Hellenic Association  
for American Studies

## Ex-centric Narratives: Identity and Multivocality in Anglo-American Cultures

Date: March 15-18, 2007

Venue: Capsis Hotel

### Conference Programme

#### Thursday (March 15, 2007)

17:00-18:00 Registration

18:00-18:30 Opening Addresses

18:30- 19:30 **Plenary 1 (Rm. Theodora):**

**Yiorgos Kalogeras** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Reading Elia  
Kazan's *America, America*

*Chair: Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni*

19:30-20:00 **Dance Theatre Performance – In Vitro (Culture Tube)**  
"Rythmic Movements"

Directed by Pavlos Kountouriotis(\*)

Performed by Maria Kamaraki, Despina Kapoulitsa, Vayia Kapousidou, Pepi Kei, Pavlos Kountouriotis, Yiannis Ksirotiris, Marianthi Mota, Sofia Tsilfidou, Maria Tsitroudi

Music by Thanasis Papakonstantinou and Nina Simone

Scenography: Fenia Kotsopoulou

(\*) This applies to all Dance Theatre Performances by *In Vitro* throughout the Conference

#### **Performance Happening – Bald Theatre**

"Replica"

(based on Caryl Churchill's play *A Number*)

Directed by Peny Fylaktaki (\*\*)

Performed by Konstantinos Dimitrakakis, Theodosia Galitsiou, Eli Katodritou, Elena Katsikioti, Eirini Kelmali, Eleni Kokova, Anastasis Papadopoulos, Valentina Spyropoulou

(\*\*) This applies to all Performance Happenings by *Bald Theatre* throughout the Conference

20:00-22:00 **Buffet Dinner ("Byzantium" Restaurant)**

## Friday (March 16, 2007)

8:30-9:00 Registration

8:30-10:00

### **Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):**

***Negotiating Space*** Chair: *Virginia Dakari*

**Zeno Vernyik** (Masaryk University & Technical University of Liberec): Sacred-Evil New York: Spatial Structure in E.E. Cummings' *XLI Poems* and &

**Georg Drennig** (University of Vienna): From the City Upon a Hill to the Streets of Gotham: Beatrice Rappaccini, Poison Ivy and the Collapse of the Imagined Center.

**Fani Paraforou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Campus as Heterotopy: Towards an Alternative Reading of University Fiction.

### **Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):**

***Paul Auster*** Chair: *Maria Vara*

**Scott Loren** (University of St. Gallen): Doubles, Others, and the Split Self: A Lacanian Reading of Identity in Paul Auster's *New York Trilogy*.

**Katarzyna Kuczma** (Adam Mickiewicz University): (Ex)centered Remembrance: the Doubly Lensed Subject in Paul Auster's Works.

**Anamaria Schwab** (Spirou Haret University): Murdering Difference: Paul Auster's *Ghosts* and Emmanuel Levinas' *Entre nous*.

### **Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):**

***Identity in Translation*** Chair: *Anna Papavassiliou*

**Maryia Dimitrova Anastasova** (South-West University "Neofit Rilski"): Cultural Transfer of Identity by Means of Translation: Translating Oscar Wilde in Bulgarian.

**Athanasia Teliou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Translation as an Expression of Cultural Synthesis.

**Nelly Bouradani** (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens): The Poet, the Translator and the *Other*: A Study of the Poet's and Translator's Trance.

### **Session 4 (Rm. Ioanna):**

***Reconfiguring National Identities*** Chair: *Dionysios Tzevelekos*

**Georgia Sarikoudi** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Repatriation of the Political Refugees that Lived Between 1949 and 1990 in Czechoslovakia.

**Aikaterini Lygoura** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): "Name Uses": Practices, Rules, and Strategies. The Immigrants' and Repatriated People's Situation in Contemporary Greece.

**Christel Peek** (University of Utrecht): Greek Students and the National Identity: An Anthropological Research.

10:00-11:00 Coffee Break - Norton Publications Presentation. (Rm. Filippos)

Ben Dorning (Academic Sales Representative)

Shannon Farrell (Senior Sales Representative)

11:00-12:30

**Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):**

**Minority Discourse in the U.S.** Chair: Maria Grounidou

**Matteo Pretelli** (University of Trieste): Mussolini as a “Transnational” Myth in the US “Little Italies.”

**Irina Diana Madroane** (The University of the West, Timisoara): Hybrid Identity? – Representations of Social Actors in the Romanian American Press.

**Sonia Caputa** (University of Silesia): Polish Themes in Anthony Bukoski’s Polish-American Short Stories.

**Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):**

**Greek Cultural Ex-centricities** Chair: Anna Koustinoudi

**Sotirios Souloukos** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): The Greek Painter Theofilos Hatzimihail: A “liminal persona.”

**Dimitris Kitis** (King’s College, UK): Mediterranean Cosmos: Going Glocal- Towards a Thessalonikian Aesthetics.

**Betty Kaklamanidou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Giannaris’ *Omiros*: Immigration and Racial Identity.

**Session 3 (Rm Vergina II):**

**Canadian Writings II** Chair: Sofie de Smyter

**Vicki Hallett** (York University, Toronto): Continuous Erosion: Women’s Life Writing in Newfoundland.

**Robert McGill** (Harvard University): “A Displaced Book”: The Strange Case of Elizabeth Smart and the Limits of Literary Nationalism.

**Lydia Efthymia Roupakia** (University of Oxford): Family Matters: Negotiating Intimacy, Identity and Belonging in some Contemporary Canadian Women’s Fiction.

**Session 4 (Rm. Ioanna):**

**Female Politics of Ex-centricity** Chair: Despina Kalaitzidou

**Charis Xinari** (University of Cyprus): Bodies in the Middle: Angela Carter and the Identity Politics of Ex-centricity.

**Vassilis Manoussakis** (University of Peloponnese): A Triumph Over *Ennui* in the Margins of Creation: Sylvia Plath’s Creative Response to F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*.

**Aylin Atilla** (Ege University): De-gendered Narrative Voice in *Written On the Body*.

12:30-14:30

**Complimentary Lunch (Students’ Catering Service)**

14:30-15:30

**Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):**

**Multivocality in the EU** Chair: Athanasia Teliou

**Christina Vamvouri-Dimaki** (Ionian University): The Contribution of the European School Programmes Socrates-Comenius in the Realization of the European Spread and Unity.

**Dimitra Papadopoulou** (University Paris12): The Mediatic Treatment of the International Women’s Day: The Case Study of the Greek Press.

### Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):

**Scottish Literature** Chair: Dimitris Vardoulakis

**Özlem Türe** (Middle East Technical University): "Wi mekin histri/ wi winnin victri": Politicizing Black Literary Production by Creolizing History and the Self.

**Ema Jelinkova** (Palacky University): James Hogg and His Collaborators: Dual Personalities in Contemporary Scottish Literature.

### Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):

**Re-interpreting History** Chair: Andreas Droulias

**Gokcen Ezber** (Istanbul University): Tapestry of Identities: Moris Farhi's *Young Turk*.

**Mustafa Kirca** (Middle East Technical University): Ex-centric Historiography in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight Children*.

15:30-16:30

### Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):

**Web Cultures** Chair: Theodora Valkanou

**Banu Toral** (Ege University): Beyond Borders: recentralization@internet.com

**George Gaitanos** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Are We Members of "Multicultural" or "Webcultural" Societies?

### Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):

**African-American Cultural and Literary Influences**

Chair: Carmelita Wright

**Clem Gorman** (University of Sydney): African American Cultural Influences in Australia, 1940s-1950s: Performative.

**Emma Jeffery** (University of Sussex): Collecting the broken pieces in Clarence Major's *Reflex* and *Bone Structure*.

### Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):

**Canadian Writings I** Chair: Lydia Efthymia Roupakia

**Sofie de Smyter** (Catholic University of Leuven): Michael Ondaatje's *Coming Through Slaughter*: Disrupting Boundaries of Self and Language.

**Andreas Droulias** (University of Alaska): Old Aspirations, New Ideas: Comparing the Paths to Self Government in Alaska and Nunavik, Canada.

16:30-17:00

**Coffee Break**

**Performance Happening – Bald Theatre**

"The Cutting of my Long Hair"

(based on Zitkala Sa's *Impressions of an Indian Childhood*)

17:00-18:00

### Plenary 2 (Rm. Theodora):

**Barbara Godard** (University of York, Toronto): Contested Memories: Canadian Women's Writings in and out of the Archives.

Chair: Tatiani Rapatzikou

18:00            **Dance Theatre Performance – In Vitro (Culture Tube)**  
                       “N.Y. Lon(don) 2 - The sequel”  
                       **Complimentary Dinner (Students’ Catering Service)**

### **Saturday (March 17, 2007)**

8:00-12:00        **Visit to Vergina Archaeological Site.**

12:00-12:30      **Coffee Break**  
                       **Dance Theatre Performance – In Vitro (Culture Tube)**  
                       “Post Minimalistic Constructions”

**Ongoing Installation Project – Videoart: Dsonar Ensemble**  
                       “Sleeping Experience with a Stranger”  
                       (This project will be running throughout the whole day of the conference)

12:30-14:30

#### **Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):**

***Exploring Myths***    Chair: Vassiliki Vassiloudi

**Theodora Patrona** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): “Every Woman Needs a Story, and Perhaps This Is How the Story Should Go”: Mythic Wanderings in Catherine Temma Davidson’s *The Priest Fainted*.

**Despina Kalaitzidou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Lilith, the Pariah: A Re-appraisal of her Myth by Contemporary Poets and Theologists.

**Tanja Cvetkovic** (University of Nis): “The Same Old Story Once Again”: Robert Kroetsch’s *The Studhorse Man* and Margaret Atwood’s *The Penelopiad*.

**Zuleyha Cetiner-Oktem** (Ege University): From Pan to the Pied Piper and Beyond: Negotiating the Centre with China Mieville’s *King Rat* and Terry Pratchett’s *The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents*.

#### **Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):**

***Cultural Exchanges***    Chair: Maria Schoina

**Daniela-Lucia Carstea** (University of Bucharest): Fragmentariness and Multiplicity: A Case Study of *Cosmopolitanism*.

**Theodora Valkanou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Locality Achieved Through Globality: The Irish Paradigm.

**Ruxandra Radulescu** (University of Bucharest): Reaching Out Beyond the “Reservations of the Mind”: Cosmopolitanism in Sherman Alexie’s and Gerald Vizenor’s Short Stories.

**Dionysios Tzevelekos** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): *Don Giovanni*: The Space-less Bum.

#### **Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):**

***Identity in the Theatre***    Chair: Ewa Macura

**Maria Ristani** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): “In the beginning was the chaos . . .”: Ex-centric Images in Robert Wilson’s Theatre.

**Antonia Tsamouris** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): No (Wo)man’s Land: Female Characters in Harold Pinter.

**Roula Tsitouri** (Panteio University, Athens): Fiction and Identity in the Work of Samuel Beckett.

**Sophia Valanis** (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens): August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* and David Henry Hwang's *FOB*: Fighting for Difference.

**14:30-15:30 Light Lunch and Coffee/Refreshments**

**Performance Happening – Bald Theatre**

“And they lived happily ever after”

(based on Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* and Edward Albee's *The Goat or Who's Sylvia?*)

**15:30-16:30**

**Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):**

**Transgressing Boundaries** Chair: Ekaterini Koutsimani

**Stamatia Koutsimani** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Identity Formation in Biracial Female Authors' Narratives of Passing: Transgressing Racial and Sexual Boundaries in Nella Larsen's *Passing* and Danzy Senna's *Caucasia*.

**Firat Karadas** (Middle East Technical University): Dialogism and the Role of Female Figures in the Dissemination of Authority in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*.

**Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):**

**African Literary Voices** Chair: Sonia Gertzou

**Ewa Macura** (Warsaw School of Social Psychology): Helon Habila's "Waiting for an Angel" and the Politics of the Ex-Centric.

**Georgia Axiotou** (University of Edinburgh): Ayi Kwei Armah's *Fragments* *Fragments*: Resisting Forgetfulness, Re-staging Slavery.

**Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):**

**Short Story Writings** Chair: Theodora Patrona

**Carmelita Wright** (Fort Lewis College): Reminiscing: Short Story Fiction.

**Dimitris Vardoulakis** (Monash University): Origin or Reproduction? G. K. Chesterton Between Walter Benjamin and Martin Heidegger.

**Session 4 (Rm. Ioanna):**

**Henry James** Chair: Fani Paraforou

**Rosali Sinopoulou** (Panteio University, Athens): Identity and Strangeness on the Verge of Reality and Imagination. A Case Study of H. James' "The Turn of the Screw".

**Maria Pirgerou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Bachelors as Marginal Identities in the Novels of Henry James.

**16:30-17:30**

**Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):***Southern Identity Chair: Stamatia Koutsimani***Gabriela Dumbrava** (The University of Petrosani): The South or "The South"?:  
Reconstructing Southern Identity In Post-modern America.**Sonia Gertzou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Soti Triantafyllou's  
*Synhoresy* (Forgiveness): Envisioning Southern Identity from  
Overseas.**Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):***Writing From Beyond Chair: Stefania Tarbu***Maria Dalamitrou** (University of Essex): Dwelling on the Distance: Modern  
Poetry and The Tradition of Exile.**Joshua Parker** (Fatih University): "Little America": Twain and Hawthorne  
Writing in Rome.**Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):***Staging Pain Chair: Sophia Sotiriou***Virginia Dakari** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Cancerous Landscapes  
and Decaying Bodies: Staging Cancer in Octavio Solis's *Prospect*  
and Beth Herst's *Dark Room/Gray Scale/White Noise*.**Stella Bolaki** (University of Edinburgh): "In the Name of Grand Asymmetries":  
The Ex/centric Body in Audre Lorde's Work.**Session 4 (Rm. Ioanna):***Children's Literature Chair: Tanja Cvetkovic***Vassiliki Vassiloudi** (Democritus University of Thrace): Hybridization of a  
Genre and its Metalanguage; the Case of Picture-Books: A Liminal  
Genre.**Ekaterini Koutsimani** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Racial Politics  
and the Construction of Identity in White American Children's  
Literature: The Case of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *To  
Kill a Mockingbird*.**17:30-18:00****Coffee Break****Dance Theatre Performance – In Vitro (Culture Tube)**

"Manga Volleyball"

**18:00-19:00****Plenary 3 (Rm. Filippos):****Matthew Jacobson** (Yale University): Contesting "We the People":  
Inclusion, Exclusion, and the Structure of Identity Politics in the United  
States. *Chair: Savas Patsalidis***19:00-20:00**

**Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):****Contemporary Conceptualization of Selfhood***Chair: Maria Dalamitrou***Zsafia Anna Toth** (University of Szeged): The Evolution of the Concept of American Identity in the Various Versions of *Chicago*.**Stefania Tarbu** (University of Bucharest): Postmodern Theories of the Self and Contemporary Identity in Kazuo Ishiguro's Novel *Never Let Me Go* and in A.S. Byatt's *Possession*.**Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):****Ethnic/Gender Identity** *Chair: Makrina Chrisopoulou***Maria Grounidou** (University of Vienna): Being in the Middle: Ethnic and Gender Identity in Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex*.**Tomoko Koyama** (Waseda University): Place and Identity in Andrea Levy's *Fruit of the Lemon*.**Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):****Colonial Writings** *Chair: Georgia Axiotou***Nagihan Haliloglu** (Heidelberg University): The Amateur and the Horrid Colonial: The Narrative Staging of Female and Colonial Subjectivities in Jean Rhys's Novels.**Athina Toutsis** (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens): Attitudes towards Colonisation and Royal Authority in Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave* (1688) and in Thomas Southerne's *Oroonoko: A Tragedy* (1695).**Session 4 (Rm. Ioanna):****Female Identities** *Chair: Antonia Tsamouris***Evangelia Kyriakidou** (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens): Women in the American City of the Fin-de-Siecle: Access Denied.**Tasos Lazarides-Paschalia Patsala** (University of Maryland, College Park – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Exploring Female Identity: Evidence from Literary Works and Dictionaries.**20:00-20:30****Performance Happening – Bald Theatre**

"The Patriot"

(based on *The Lieutenant of Innismore* by Martin Mac Donagh)**Dance Theatre Performance – In Vitro (Culture Tube)**

"N.Y. Lon(don)"

**20:30****Gala Dinner (Rm. Filippou)****Sunday (March 18, 2007)**



- 8:30-11:30      **City Tour - Visit to the Archeological Museum**
- 11:30-12:00      **Coffee Break**  
**Dance Theatre Performance – In Vitro (Culture Tube)**  
 “Music Box”
- 12:00-13:00      **Plenary 4 (Rm. Filippos):**  
**Chris Gair** (University of Birmingham): The Beat Generation Reconsidered.  
*Chair: Eleftheria Arapoglou*
- 13:00-14:30      **Light Lunch and Coffee/Refreshments**
- 14:30- 16:30      **Session 1 (Rm. Alexandros):**  
*The (Im)Possibility of Language*      *Chair: Kalliopi Katsika*  
**Paschalia Patsala** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): ‘Literature’ as a  
 Lemma within a De-centric Approach.  
**Dwight Holbrook** (Adam Mickiewicz University): Anti-matter in Language.  
**Ruxandra Visan** (University of Bucharest): Negotiating the Boundaries  
 of Authority in Samuel’s Johnson’s *Dictionary* 1755.  
**Stavroula Tsopouridou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki):  
 A Sociolinguistic Examination of Greeklish.
- Session 2 (Rm. Vergina I):**  
*Chicana Literature*      *Chair: Penny Fylaktaki*  
**Makrina Chrisopoulou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): The Magical  
 Realist Construction of Chicano Folklore in Rudolfo Anaya’s *Bless Me, Ultima*: An Ex-centric Paradigm.  
**Nadia Rodriguez** (University of Tübingen): The Politics of Self: Negotiating  
 Identity and Defining Experience in the Chicana Feminist Narrative.  
**Tom Idema** (University of Utrecht): A Critique of Americanization:  
 Transfigurative Performances in Chicana Utopian Writing.
- Session 3 (Rm. Vergina II):**  
*Trauma Literature & Film*      *Chair: Stella Bolaki*  
**Yiorgos Dimitriadis** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): The Director’s Cut:  
 The Heritage of Post War Trauma in Tim Burton’s Films.  
**Sophia Sotiriou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): “Ex-centric” Personal-  
 Trauma Narratives Redefine Rape Reality: The restorative and  
 reformatory role of an ‘Unspeakable’ feminist literary genre.  
**Eugene Radetsky** (Minsk State Linguistics University): In Search of  
*Eye/Identity*: the Correlations between ‘Eyes’ and ‘Is’ in Patricia  
 Grace’s Novel *Baby No Eyes*.  
**Marinella Rodi-Risberg** (University of Vaasa): Trauma in Jane Smiley’s  
*A Thousand Acres*: Landscape and Narrative.
- 16:30-17:00      **Closing Remarks**  
**Multimedia Project: “Silencing the Center - Voicing the Ex-centric”**

Farewell event prepared by the Graduate Student Group of the  
Department of the American Literature and Culture, School of English,  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
(Co-ordinator: Dionysios Tzevelekos)

***End of the International Graduate Student Conference***

**Members of the Organizing Committee**

Dr. Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni  
Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou  
Dr. Eleftheria Arapoglou

**Graduate Student Representatives**

Virginia Dakari  
Stamatia Koutsimani  
Paschalia Patsala  
Dionysios Tzevelekos

**Volunteers**

Georgia Coules  
Melpomeni Gkola  
Eirini Kelmali  
Thomas Mantzaris  
Hara Topa

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