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 Kalogeris (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 Kountouriots(*)
Performed by Maria Kamaraki, Despina Kapoulitsa, Vayia Kapousidou, Pepi Kei, Pavlos Kountouriots, 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
  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. Filippou)
  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): Mussolin i as a “Transnational” Myth in the US “Little Italies.”


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.


**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


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

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.


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

*Henry James* Chair: Fani Paraforou

Rosalin 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.


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
Zsofia 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
Athina Toutsi (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. Filippos)

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: Peny 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 Tubingen): 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 reformative role of an ‘Unspeakable’ feminist literary genre.
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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