

Snapshot Traveller #140, September 2, 2009  
Monthly Newsletter of the International Society for Travel Writing  
<http://istw-travel.com>

This time -

Conference papers: Medieval chronicle (Sept 6). Highway and Location (Sept. 25), Sea literature (Dec. 15), (Auto)mobility (Dec. 15), Across cultures (Feb. 1), Conflict (April 19)

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AND recent publications

Regular venues

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## CALLS FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

Medieval Chronicle Society at IMC Leeds, 12-15 July 2010 (deadline: 6 September 2009)

••Additional to its own international conferences, and following successful sessions at Kalamazoo 2008 and 2009, the Medieval Chronicle Society is sponsoring two sessions at the seventeenth International Medieval Congress in Leeds, 12-15 July 2010.

Session one: Travel and Exploration in Medieval Chronicles

Abstracts are invited for papers dealing with descriptions of travel, exploration, migration and/or conquest in medieval chronicles, and with relations between chronicles and travel accounts in other texts.

Possible subjects may include, but are not limited to:• \* Travel chronicles• \* Maps and chronicles• \* Relations between chronicles and travel accounts• \* Geography and ethnography in chronicles• \* Utopian narrative in chronicles• \* Descriptions of discovery in chronicles• \* Chronicles written by travellers or migrants• \* Travel as means of information gathering for chronicles• \* Chronicles as source of information for travelers

We particularly welcome papers with either interdisciplinary or cross-cultural approaches, and papers that reach beyond the conventional chronological and geographical borders of the European Middle Ages.

Session two: The Medieval Chronicle

Abstracts are invited for papers dealing with any aspect of medieval chronicles. We particularly welcome papers addressing one or more of the themes of the Medieval Chronicle Society:

1. Chronicle: history or literature?
2. The function of the chronicle
3. The form of the chronicle
4. The chronicle and the 'reality' of the past
5. Art and Text in the chronicle

We particularly, but by no means exclusively, welcome papers with interdisciplinary and/or diachronic approaches, and papers relating to chronicles from regions other than Western Europe.

Please send proposals for twenty-minute papers in English, French or German (title and an abstract of about 250-300 words, with a short bibliography) by e-mail to Sjoerd Levelt (s.levelt@seh.oxon.org) by September 6, 2009. Inquiries are welcome.

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Down the Highway, Down the Tracks/ Poetics, Geography & Location  
2010 Northeast Modern Language Association Convention •  
April 7-11 2010, Montreal PQ, CANADA (Seminar Session)

The National Road, Inside Passage and Trans-Canada Highway are entry points to Charles Olson's "American Space." Narrative and lyric impulses in poetic movements across North American geography ask: What measures the land they survey? How do geopoetic readings of this SPACE locate coordinates formed in various grids of culture, identity or nation? These questions emerge from Olson, Rukeyser, C.S. Giscombe, Walcott, Ondaatje, Plump, Anzaldua, and Kerouac, to name only a few 20th century and contemporary poets.

Submit 400 word abstracts of seminar paper to Michael Antonucci ([mantonucci@keene.edu](mailto:mantonucci@keene.edu)) by September 25, 2009; • completed seminar papers submitted by March 4, 2010.

For more information about NEMLA's Convention & the • seminar session format see: <http://nemla.org/convention/2010/index>.

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SEA LITERATURE, HISTORY & CULTURE

National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations • 2010 Conference

• March 31-April 3, 2010 St. Louis, Missouri

For more information on the PCA/ACA, please go to

<http://pcaaca.org/conference/national.php> .

DEADLINE: December 15, 2009 •

Sessions are scheduled in 1½ hour slots, with four papers or speakers each. You may propose individual papers, special panels, or sessions organized around a theme.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

\* Maritime themes in film, music, and television • \* Historical events • \* Maritime literature • \* Sea sagas from non-western cultures • \* Contemporary works on seafaring  
Submit a 100-250 word proposal or abstract (via regular mail or e-mail)

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(Auto)Mobility and Road Culture

Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Association (31st Annual Meeting;  
Albuquerque FEB 10-13 2010)

The growing area of (Auto)Mobility and Road Culture focuses on the cultural significance of motorized transport (cars, motorcycles, scooters, or buses) and roads, ranging from the study of road stories in all forms of media (videogames, films, TV, fiction) to the role of car culture in identity formation to transportation politics and urban history. Join us on Route 66 for vibrant, interdisciplinary investigations of the ongoing popularity of narratives of autonomy and mobility, emerging pedagogy in this area, new methodologies for studying road and map histories, and the impact of digital tools on road stories, images, travel, networking, and scholarship. Our goal is to leave the conference with an anthology project in hand. Albuquerque is centrally located and inexpensive. SWTX welcomes scholars at all levels. Graduate students are especially encouraged and will be assisted in accessing any and all award opportunities the conference and/or associations provide. Some possible topics for panels or papers:

- road films and road fiction -- analysis and close readings of key texts; ideas about teaching road texts; college classes set on the road
- videogames – the role of cars, driving, radios, and drivers in the Grand Theft Auto series or any other videogames
- lowriders, hot rods, custom cars and racial or ethnic identity OR car or biker clubs (self-representation in car clubs, exploitative representations of clubs, role of gender and/or ethnicity, gangs and territory)
- Jack Kerouac’s On the Road and/or Beat or post-Beat expressions of mobility
- genre theory – can classical genre theory accommodate road narratives and/or do justice to postwar popular genres like road films? How to recognize the unique characteristics of road stories and the influence they have on scholarship and/or identity?
- “intermediary theory” – how do road stories “travel” or transfer from one medium to another? from one “rebel” group to another? How does the increasing transmedia nature of road stories affect these narratives?
- histories of roads, routes, highways, and traffic
- transportation politics; road infrastructure; conflicts between jurisdictions; federal, state, and local funding and upkeep; road and gasoline taxes; smart roads; toll roads•-- the potential of geocaching and GPS in creating/telling road histories; Google Maps and mobility
- traffic and mayhem; accidents; surveillance on the road
- drivers as citizens; bus boycotts and/or the role of mobility in civil rights and social justice•5•--road travel by Others (queers, ethnicity, class, gender)

contact email: mills@oxy.edu

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INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE  
 COMPARISONS, INTERACTIONS AND CONTESTATIONS WITHIN/ACROSS  
 CULTURES

17 – 20 June 2010 – Bucharest, Romania, and Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURAL  
IDENTITY, UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES,  
ST. CYRIL AND ST. METHODIUS UNIVERSITY OF VELIKO TARNOVO, BULGARIA

The conference aims at exploring comparisons, interactions and contestations within and across cultures by bringing together scholarship in literary and cultural studies, linguistics, translation studies, history, sociology, geography, film, media, political science and other related areas of the humanities and social sciences. Topics include (but are not limited to) basis and mechanisms of intercultural comparison, intercultural comparison and/in cultural identity construction, intercultural comparison and language politics, cross-cultural interactions and their theorization, interactions and/in intercultural encounters, interactions and/in/through cultural exchange, cross-cultural interactions in/and architecture and town planning, cross-cultural interactions in/and culinary and sartorial practices and customs, contestation and/in socio-cultural practices, contestations of "tradition" and their representations in literature, the visual arts and the media.

While the conference is targeted at scholars working in the broad area of English, it is also hoped that it will attract colleagues in Irish and Celtic studies. Comparisons and interactions between Irish culture and Eastern/Central European cultures will be of particular interest as well as parallels between Celtic and Eastern/Central European languages and literatures.

The conference will start in Bucharest, the capital and key cultural centre of Romania, will include a visit to Ruse, Bulgaria, the birthplace of Nobel prize laureate Elias Canetti, and will conclude in Veliko Tarnovo, "the ancient capital of Bulgaria, famous for its old university and monasteries, its storks and its frescoes, its castle and its ancient Arabesque merchants' houses" (Malcolm Bradbury).

Abstracts (ca 500 words) and short bios (ca 7-8 lines) are due by 1 February 2010. Please e-mail to both Mihaela Irimia, [mirimia2003@yahoo.com](mailto:mirimia2003@yahoo.com), and Ludmilla Kostova, [lkostova@mbox.digsys.bg](mailto:lkostova@mbox.digsys.bg).

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Open University Postcolonial Literatures Research Group: Reading Conflict  
Open University Postgraduate Conference •  
Keynote Lecture by Sarah Brouillette (MIT) • 19 July 2010 • Institute of English Studies,  
University of London, Senate House, London WC1

This one day-conference aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum for postgraduate students. As a critical discipline postcolonial studies has challenged traditional ways of reading and engaging with the canon, but has also often been in conflict with other literary disciplines. This conference examines the role of postcolonial studies in relation to other critical disciplines, and asks what is the role of the creative voice in conflict

zones? How do we read during conflict? And what is the role of publishing during conflict? We invite 20-minute papers, as well as 60-minute panel proposals, from postgraduate students and early career researchers that engage with, but are not limited to, the following topics:

\* Conflict and the Creative Voice • \* Reading during Conflict • \* Conflict and Publishing • \* Conflict and the History of the Book • \* Conflict and Travel Writing • \* Conflict and the Canon • \* Conflict between Literary Disciplines • \* Conflict between Literary Genres • \* Conflict within Postcolonial Studies • \* Conflict, Empire and Postcolonialism

The deadline for individual abstracts (250 words) and panel proposals (600 words) is 19 April 2010. Postgraduate students and early career scholars who wish to attend but not present a paper will need to register by e-mail as places are limited.

Please send submissions and enquiries to Ole Birk Laursen at [O.B.Laursen@open.ac.uk](mailto:O.B.Laursen@open.ac.uk)

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## RECENT WRITINGS

Journeys: The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing

Volume 9, Number 2, Winter 2008

Special Issue: Senses of Spatial Equilibrium and the Journey: Confounded, Discomposed, Recomposed.

Guest Editors: Andrew Irving, Atreyee Sen, Nigel Rapport

## ARTICLES

Introduction - Andrew Irving

Ghosts in the Head and Ghost Towns in the Field: Ethnography and the Experience of Presence and Absence - Jonathan Skinner

Walking Auschwitz, Walking Without Arriving - Nigel Rapport

Sex, Sleaze, Slaughter, and Salvation: Phoren Tourists and Slum Tours in Calcutta (India) - Atreyee Sen

Walking Without Purpose: Sensations of History and Memory in Nagasaki City - Rupert Cox

The House and Embodied Memory: Sharing and Negotiating Social Knowledge Through Space and Bodily Practice - Andreas Dafinger

Recapturing Space: Production of Intersubjectivity among the Central Kalahari San - Akira Takada

Journey to the End of the Night: Disillusion and Derangement among the Senses - Andrew Irving

Afterword: Progress - Nigel Rapport

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## REGULAR VENUES

Studies in Travel Writing. Tim Youngs, <Tim.Youngs@ntu.ac.uk>  
Web sites <<http://www.studiesintravelwriting.com>> and  
<<http://twitter.com/deviations>> for general resources & discussions and  
<<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rstw>> for subscription & submission information  
Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change, eds. Mike Robinson and Alison Phipps  
<<http://www.channelviewpublications.net>>  
Journeys: The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing,  
<<http://www.berghahnbooksonline.com>>  
Editorial matters <[journeys@gmail.com](mailto:journeys@gmail.com)>  
Literary Traveler, Francis McGovern <<http://www.literarytraveler.com>>  
Assn for the Study of Travel Egypt and the Near East (ASTNE)  
<<http://www.astene.org.uk/>> Contact Janet Starkey <[j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk)>  
Society for American Travel Writing, Russ Pottle <[Russ.Pottle@regiscollege.edu](mailto:Russ.Pottle@regiscollege.edu)>  
<<http://mywebspace.quinnipiac.edu/vsmith/SATW/>>  
Centre de Recherches sur les Littératures de Voyage, Sorbonne  
<<http://www.crlv.org>>  
"Astrolabe" on-line revue on travels and travel literature  
<[http://www.crlv.paris4.sorbonne.fr/revue\\_crlv/](http://www.crlv.paris4.sorbonne.fr/revue_crlv/)>  
Peace Corps Writers journal <<http://www.PeaceCorpsWriters.org>>

H-Travel listserv <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/lists/subscribe.cgi?list=H-Travel>

ISTW Madrid Conference (2007)  
<<http://www.ucm.es/info/FInglesa/Congreso%20Viajes/index.htm>>  
ISTW Denver Conference (2006) <<http://www.mscd.edu/~hmt/new/travel.htm>>  
ISTW Milwaukee Conference (2004) <<http://www.english.uwosh.edu/ISTW>>  
Penn Conference (1999) <<http://www.english.upenn.edu/Conferences/Travel99>>  
Minnesota Conference (1997)  
<<http://english.cla.umn.edu/TravelConf/home.html>>

Let me know if your address changes. I only try "user unknown" or "disk quota exceeded" for 3 months.