



**Postcolonial Studies Association  
Convention Programme  
University of Leicester  
7–9 September 2015**



**7 September**

11.45-12.45	<b>Arrival, registration and lunch</b> (Bennett Building foyer, University of Leicester)
12.45-12.55	<b>Welcome address</b> (Anshuman Mondal, Chair of the PSA) Bennett Lecture Theatre 2
1.00-2.00	<b>Contemporary South Asian Diasporas</b> (7-1a) Bennett Lecture Theatre 2 Chair: Ana Mendes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Françoise Král — Fractal gazing into the city: The postmodern metropolis in contemporary diasporic writing (Desai, Kunzru)</li><li>• Shu-ching Chen — Diaspora in (post)coloniality: Migration and affect in <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i></li><li>• Sourit Bhattacharya — The Naxalite movement and the diaspora: The historical in Jhumpa Lahiri's <i>The Lowland</i> and Neel Mukherjee's <i>The Lives of Others</i></li></ul>
1.00-2.00	<b>Neo/Post/Colonial London</b> (7-1b) Bennett Lecture Theatre 5 Chair: Sarah Illott <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ágnes Györke — London in Doris Lessing's writings</li><li>• Ellen O'Donoghue Oddy — Rooted nowhere: The significance of reproduction in Zadie Smith's <i>NW</i></li><li>• Stephanie Polsky — Harbours diasporic wealth</li></ul>
1.00-2.00	<b>Citizenship: Performance, Reception, Resistance</b> (7-1c) Bennett Link Lecture Theatre Chair: Matthew Whittle <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• James E. McClung — Angry, young: Class and colonial immigration in mid-century Britain</li><li>• Richard Bramwell — 'Real Talk', 'Graffiti Scripturez' and 'Hold Me Back': Prisoners' responses to the policing of the black body and black culture in two maximum security prisons through rap</li></ul>
2.00-3.00	<b>Interrogating Postcolonial Theories</b> (7-2a) Bennett LT4 Chair: Veronica Barnsley <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chung-Hsiung Lai — Becoming-Other: The Deleuzian Politics of Difference and the Revision of Diaspora<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elisabeth Bekers — Diasporic hetero-images of Belgium by authors of African descent</li></ul></li><li>• Edward Powell — 'Politics', 'the political', 'the postcolonial'</li></ul>

- 2.00-3.00 **Terms & Conditions Apply: (Im)mobilisation & Project Austerity** (7-2b) Bennett LT5  
 Chair: Agnes Woolley
- Victor Merriman — Interrogator and suspect: Austerity's tropes prefigured in the theatre of Samuel Beckett
  - David Peimer — Why colonise anything when you can colonise the mind? How the bird seeks the cage in Pinter, Kafka, and *A Pound of Flesh* (2015)
  - Tim Prentki — You kip if you want; sleeping-walking into fascism
- 2.00-3.00 **Migrant Textual Formations** (7-2c) Bennett LT2  
 Chair: Jenni Ramone
- Rim Makni-Bejar — How postcolonial is the essay? The case of South African nonfiction
  - Farzaneh Mayabadi — Iranians in Australian literature: David Foster, *Sons of the Rumor*
  - Dave Gunning — Unpacking the metonymy of the postcolonial bildungsroman
- 2.00-3.00 **Identity, Revolt and Violence in Britain and South Asia** (7-2d) Bennett Link LT  
 Chair: Florian Stadler
- Ole Birk Laursen — 'The youth are fighting it out with Babylon': Riots and resistance in Dreda Say Mitchell's *Killer Tune* and Alex Wheatle's *The Dirty South*
  - Roger McNamara — Crossing borders: Cedric Dover, colored cosmopolitanism, and inter-racial identity
  - Juhász Tamás — Collective violence & devictimisation in Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*
- 3.00-3.30 **Coffee break** (Bennett Building lower ground foyer)
- 3.30-4.30 **New Locations in Black British Writing** (7-3a) Bennett LT2  
 Chair: John McLeod
- David Ellis — 'London is the place for me': Location and new affiliations in contemporary black writing of Britain
  - Samantha Reive Holland — Searching East: Imaginative trajectories in Bernardine Evaristo's *Soul Tourists*
  - Helen Cousins — English locations, belonging and black British writing
- 3.30-4.30 **Muslim Perspectives** (7-3b) Bennett LT5  
 Chair: Anshuman Mondal
- Esra Mirze Santesso — Diasporic Islam: What does postsecularism mean for contemporary Muslim writing?
  - Lucinda Newns — Romantic genre-bending: Shelina Janmohamed's *Love in a Headscarf* and the rise of Muslim chick lit
  - Peter Cherry — Masculinities on the move: Class, gender and transnationality in *In the Light of What We Know* (2014) by Zia Haider Rahman

- 3.30-4.30 **Translocations: Language and Vision** (7-3c) Bennett Link LT  
 Chair: Florian Stadler
- Mary Grace Albanese — “Nobody’s style”: Diaspora, difference, and the translating-narrator in Mérimée and Melville
  - Sneha Kar Chaudhuri — Bollywood and diasporic representations: Exploring the Shah Rukh Khan Phenomenon
- 3.30-4.30 **Double Diasporas and Migrant Labour** (7-3d) Bennett LT4  
 Chair: Ana Mendes
- Maya Parmar — Complicating the ‘diaspora’: The Indian Ocean rim
  - Beatriz Pérez Zapata — Violent Conclusion or Hopeful Return?: A Study of Diasporic Subjects in Zadie Smith’s ‘The Embassy of Cambodia’
  - Joseph Jackson — A Skarrisch Jeremiahd: Diasporic intersection and the Security State in *You Have to be Careful in the Land of the Free*
- 4.30-5.30 **The Work of Caryl Phillips** (7-4a) Bennett LT2  
 Chair: Lucy Evans
- Daria Tunca — A stylistic analysis of Caryl Phillips’s “Made in Wales”
  - Giulia Mascoli — Diasporic experience and music in Caryl Phillips’ *Crossing the River*
  - Bénédicte Ledent — “Extreme consciousness”: Diaspora and mental states in the work of Jean Rhys and Caryl Phillips
- 4.30-5.30 **Migrant Death, Spectralities & Melancholia** (7-4b) Bennett LT5  
 Chair: Sarah Ilott
- Imani D. Owens — “Tropic Death”: U.S. Empire and the perils of migration
  - Janine Hauthal — Ghostly encounters – Diasporic negotiations of transcultural identities in contemporary Anglophone ‘Fictions of Europe’
  - Norbert Bugeja — Melancholic agency and its post-imperial dialectic: the case of Orhan Pamuk’s *Istanbul* and *The Museum of Innocence*
- 4.30-5.30 **Diaspora, Performance and Protest** (7-4d) Bennett Link LT  
 Chair: Sarah Lawson Welsh
- Jerome Branche — Linton Kwesi Johnson dub/wise: Power, poiesis, and the London (race) riots of 2011
  - Malcolm James — Diaspora and cultural performances in outer East London
  - Zoë Marriage — Travelling on the tide: capoeira’s fluid diasporic identity
- 5.30-5.45 **Coffee break** (Bennett Building lower ground foyer)
- 5.45-7.00 **Keynote Lecture: John McLeod**  
**Against Biocentrism: Adoption, Writing, Diaspora**  
 Bennett LT2
- 7.30-9.30 **Dinner (optional)** — College Court Restaurant

## 8 September

- 8.00-9.00 **Arrival, registration and coffee** (College Court -- Dannatt Reception)
- 9.00-10.00 **Debating African Literature and Drama** (8-1a) Oak 1  
Chair: Robert Spencer
- Henry Obi Ajumeze — The Niger Delta Creeks as space for the performance of geo-power and theatricality
  - Alexander Fyfe — Displaced papers: The diasporic status of the Amos Tutuola Collection and the problematics of the African transnational archive
  - Madhu Krishnan — Diaspora, post-nationalism and the location of African literature
- 9.00-10.00 **States of Unsettlement** (8-1b) Oak 2  
Chair: Nicola Abram
- Chris Holdridge — Convict immigration restriction to Britain's settler colonies in the 1850s
  - Agnes Woolley — Diasporas of the sans papier in Brian Chikwava's *Harare North* and Jon McGregor's *Even the Dogs*
  - Pietro Deandrea — Forms of diaspora in contemporary British new slaveries
- 9.00-10.00 **Exploring Colonialism, Diaspora and Indigeneity** (8-1c) Birch  
Chair: Leila Kamali
- Sara M. Gray — Competing colonialisms: The paradoxical relationship between postcolonial and settler colonial studies
  - Noa Ha — Diaspora studies as site of reconnected knowledge production
  - Justine Seran — Ekphrasis and ahi ka in Kelly Ana Morey's *Bloom*
- 10.00-11.00 **Postcolonial Europe** (8-2b) Oak 2  
Chair: Edward Powell
- Cristina Şandru — Inchoate diasporas: A postcolonial reading of postcommunist fictions of immigration
  - S. A. Smythe — *Meticcato*: Mixed-race migrations in postcolonial Italy
  - Robbie Aitken -- Snapshots of a Community: Germany's Black Diaspora through the Eyes of African-American Reporters, 1927-1933

10.00-11.00	<p><b>Performing New Transcultural Diasporas (8-2c) Birch</b></p> <p>Chair: Cathy Covell Waegner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miki Flockemann — The pitfalls and potentials of transcultural performance aesthetics in exploring spectacles of otherness from and within South Africa</li> <li>• Cathy Covell Waegner — Performing street art: CityLeaks, affiliation, and transcultural diaspora</li> </ul>
11.00-11.30	<p><b>Coffee break</b> (College Court bar and café)</p>
11.30-12.30	<p><b>South Asian Diasporas and Gender (I) (8-3a) Oak 1</b></p> <p>Chair: Lucinda Newns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satyasikha Chakraborty — Travels and travails of the 'faithful' Indian ayah: labouring bodies, collectible objects and imperial nostalgia</li> <li>• Emily Rook-Koepsel — Pragmatically Asian: Solidarity and identity at the All Asia Women's Conference, 1929</li> <li>• Sibyl Adam — Narrating the everyday in Indian Muslim women's travel writing to Britain in the Edwardian era</li> </ul>
11.30-12.30	<p><b>International Crime Fiction (8-3c) Oak 2</b></p> <p>Chair: Joseph Jackson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sam Naidu — Crime travel: Representations of transnational crime syndicates in South African crime fiction</li> <li>• Lucy Evans — Reworking the classic detective story in Elizabeth Nunez' Prospero's Daughter</li> </ul>
12.30-1.30	<p><b>Lunch</b> (College Court Restaurant)</p>
1.30-2.30	<p><b>Minority Experience, Postcolonial Cities, and Planetaryity (8-4a) Oak 1</b></p> <p>Chair: Dominic Davies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sangeeta Ray — Rethinking diaspora: Towards planetary forms of reading</li> <li>• Ankhi Mukherjee — The walking cure: Vagrants and migrants in Rawi Hage's <i>Cockroach</i> and Teju Cole's <i>Open City</i></li> <li>• Christiane Steckenbiller — Diasporic cityscapes: Getting to know Teju Cole's <i>Open City</i></li> </ul>
1.30-2.30	<p><b>Fashioning the Diasporic Self (8-4b) Oak 2</b></p> <p>Chair: Marc Scully</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Jilani — Diasporic memoirs: Eva Hoffman's <i>Lost in Translation</i> and Edward Said's <i>Out of Place</i></li> <li>• Patrick Campbell — Portraits in black and white: Performativity and postmemory in a Jamaican family album</li> <li>• Leila Kamali — Diaspora in contemporary fiction: The limits of theory?</li> </ul>

1.30-2.30 **South Asian Diasporas and Gender (II)** (8-4c) Birch

Chair: Ana Mendes

- Asma Sayed — Gendering diaspora: Reading Mira Kamdar's *Motiba's Tattoos*
- Henda Ammar Guirat — Shuttling between new homes and origins: The diasporic journey in Sara Suleri's *Meatless Days: A Memoir* and Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*
- Marian Aguiar — "Forced marriage" in the British South Asian diaspora: The legal and literary subject of consent

2.30-3.30 **Africa, Power, Mobility** (8-5a) Oak 1

Chair: Madhu Krishnan

- Rena Jackson — Africa & the enclosure of the metropole in Thomas Hardy's *Two on a Tower*
- Amy Rushton — Keep on moving: migration, privilege, and inequality in contemporary African fiction
- Robert Spencer — Late capitalism & the State: Representations of dictatorship in African fiction

2.30-3.30 **New Diasporas, New Technologies** (8-5c) Oak 2

Chair: Kasia Mika

- Nicki Hitchcott — The Rwandan diaspora: an unimagined community?
- William B. Noseworthy — On Vietnamese American literature and diaspora, 1980s – 2000s
- Zdzisław Głębocki — The Polish diaspora (Polonia) in the virtual homeland

3.30-4.00 **Coffee break** (College Court bar and café)

4.00-5.30 **Journal of Postcolonial Writing 10th Anniversary Celebration**

Welcome address and PSA/JPW Postgraduate Essay Competition

Announcement by Janet Wilson (Oak Room)

**Keynote Lecture: Paul Gilroy**

**Europe Otherwise: Mare Nostrum and the banality of good**

Competition, lecture and reception sponsored by the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, published by Taylor & Francis — brought to you as a celebration of the journal's 10th-year anniversary and of its ongoing partnership with the PSA



5.30-6.30 **Drinks reception** (College Court -- Dannatt Reception)

6.30-8.30 **Convention dinner** (College Court Restaurant)

8.30-12.00 **College Court Bar open**

## 9 September

- 8.00-9.00 **Arrival, registration and coffee** (College Court -- Dannatt Reception)
- 9.00-10.00 **Literature of the New Polish Diaspora in the British Isles** (9-1a) Oak 1  
Chair: Kasia Mika
- Joanna Kosmalka — Polish transnational literature in the British Isles
  - Tomasz Dobrogoszcz — Mimicry vs. hybridity – Polish immigrants in the UK in post-2004 fiction
  - Dorota Kołodziejczyk — In search for the lost émigrés – Polish (post-)migration literature in the making
- 9.00-10.00 **Diaspora in the Malay World: Literary Engagements with Modernity & Cultural Difference** (9-1b) Oak 2  
Chair: Anshuman Mondal
- Fiona Lee — Diasporic cosmopolitanism and Indies nationalism in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Buru Quartet*
  - Nazry Bahrawi — Diasporic modernity in Indonesia: Island-hopping and Islamic reformism in Hamka's travel fiction
  - Jacquelyn Teoh — Between major and minor characters: The aesthetics of diaspora in Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace*
- 9.00-10.00 **Indigeneity and Postcolonial Resistance** (9-1c) Birch  
Chair: Alexander Fyfe
- Maggie Ann Bowers — Indigenous alliances and trans-local narrative styles
  - Emily Kate Timms — 'The truth about stories': Assessing storytelling as a mode of healthcare in contemporary indigenous literature
  - Oliver Nyambi — Writing back to colonialism, again: The novel *The Chimurenga Protocol* and the 'new' resistance literary culture in post-2000 Zimbabwe
- 10.00-11.00 **Postcolonial Sci Fi, Speculative Fiction and War** (9-2a) Oak 1  
Chair: Sarah Ilott
- Agnieszka Podruczna — Mythology of the space frontier. Diaspora, liminality, and the practices of remembrance in Nalo Hopkinson's *Midnight Robber*
  - Sinéad Murphy — A comparative analysis of Ahmed Tawfiq's novel *Utopia* & Larissa Sansour's short film *Nation Estate*
  - Temitope Abisoye Noah Gerima contra Nietzsche — Teza's Critique of Will to Power
- 10.00-11.00 **Reading, Marketing and Consuming Blackness** (9-2b) Oak 2  
Chair: Nicola Abram
- Jenni Ramone — The reader and the local literary marketplace: Black consciousness bookshops in Britain
  - Sarah Ilott — 'Soul food': Female monstrosity, appetite and voice in Helen Oyeyemi's British fiction

10.00-11.00	<p><b>Dislocations: Australasia and the Far East (9-2c)</b> Birch</p> <p>Chair: Maya Parmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swetha Antony — The anxiety of exile: Journey as a myth and motif in David Malouf's <i>An Imaginary Life</i></li> <li>• Hueichu Chu — Writing diaspora fishermen in East Asian literature</li> <li>• Michelle Keown — Of goldfields, markets and murder: Diasporic Chinese and sinophobia in <i>The Luminaries</i> and Chinese New Zealand literature</li> </ul>
11.00-11.30	<b>Coffee break</b> (College Court bar and café)
11.30-12.45	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote Lecture: Gayatri Gopinath</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Aesthetic Practices of Queer Diaspora</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oak Room</p>
12.45-1.30	<b>Lunch</b>
1.30-2.30	<b>PSA AGM (All members welcome)</b> — Oak Room
2.30-2.45	<b>Coffee break</b> (College Court bar and café)
2.45-3.45	<p><b>Caribbean Crossings (9-3a)</b> Oak 1</p> <p>Chair: Lucy Evans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorna Burns — From national to world literatures: Édouard Glissant, Dany Laferriere and the global Caribbean</li> <li>• Sam Coombes — Re-thinking cosmopolitanism, creolisation and counternarratives of (hyper)modernity via the oeuvres of Paul Gilroy and Edouard Glissant</li> </ul>
2.45-3.45	<p><b>African-American Debates (9-3b)</b> Oak 2</p> <p>Chair: Lucinda Newns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tyrica Terry — African roots tourism and affective interferences in diasporic connections between African Americans and Afro-Brazilians</li> <li>• Justine Baillie — Diaspora, gender and agency in Toni Morrison's <i>Paradise</i> (1998)</li> <li>• John Masterson — Singular stories/shared destinies'? Debating 'diaspirancy' in the Obama era</li> </ul>
2.45-3.45	<p><b>Definitions of Diaspora (9-3c)</b> Birch</p> <p>Chair: Alberto Fernández Carbajal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edmund Chapman — Jewishness and postcoloniality in theory</li> <li>• David Firth — Rethinking The Late Bourgeois World: Capitalism and Nadine Gordimer</li> <li>• Sarah Newport — Queer diasporas: Whose voices against 377?</li> </ul>



3.45-4.45	<p><b>Oppressed Communities</b> (9-4a) Oak 1</p> <p>Chair: Dave Gunning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobna Ben Salem — ‘Palestine and away’: In search of a homeland in Murid Barghouti’s <i>I was Born There I was Born Here</i></li> <li>• Ana Mendes — Spaces of exception: performing separation walls in Hany Abu-Assad’s <i>Omar</i></li> <li>• Sarah T. Hamid — Conceptual biases within global Human Rights regimes: The post-colonial plight of State-ed-ness for Kurdish and Yazidi asylum seekers in Iraq</li> </ul>
3.45-4.45	<p><b>Diasporas: Gender, Home and Identity</b> (9-4b) Oak 2</p> <p>Chair: Jenni Ramone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adele Lee — ‘Good Women’ to ‘Bad Girls’?: China’s (Not-So-New) New Generation of Female Writers</li> <li>• Sandra R. G. Almeida — Cartographies of gender in narratives of diaspora</li> <li>• Alakija Oluwafunmilayo Bode — Mediating home in diaspora: Identity construction of first and second generation Nigerian migrants in Peckham, London</li> </ul>
3.45-4.45	<p><b>Visualities: Orientalism and the Posthuman</b> (9-4c) Birch</p> <p>Chair: Alberto Fernández Carbajal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachel Fox — Wealth, waste, and whores: The heterotopic world of Craig Thompson’s <i>Habibi</i></li> <li>• Bidisha Banerjee — Kinship between ‘companion species’: A posthuman refiguration of the immigrant condition in Shaun Tan’s <i>The Arrival</i></li> </ul>
4.45-5.00	<p><b>Convention committee closing remarks</b> (Bar and coffee area)</p>

The PSA Convention is sponsored by:

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