

Call for Papers: Beyond French Studies

Wednesday, 18 April 2007

Last Updated Wednesday, 11 July 2007

University of London Postgraduate French Conference

14-15 September 2007, Stewart House, Russell Square, London

http://igrs.sas.ac.uk/events/conf_beyondfrench.htm

Conference organised in association with the IGRS and with the support

of King's College London, Queen Mary, Royal Holloway & University

College London

What is 'French Studies'? What does this term include, and what does it

exclude? Is it little more than an arbitrary grouping of loosely

connected themes; an 'imagined community' (Benedict Anderson); an

academic circle evoking or relying upon an inherently problematic

French national collectivity? Who decides? What is a French Department?

What are the expectations of those working and learning within this

domain? Moreover, what purpose, if any, does the category 'French' serve within the academic institution? To what extent are the terms 'French' and 'French Studies' outmoded and irrelevant with regards to current research? How far is the concept of 'French Studies', and all it encompasses, a product of Anglo-American academic discourses? What is its value and specificity in our globalizing society, and how has it, as a discipline, shaped intellectual debate? Does it have a future? How can we, or should we, conceive of the idea of moving 'beyond French Studies'? And how can we accurately reflect and explore the contemporary realities of a France that is becoming, or has already become, 'beyond France'?

As disquieting as they might appear, these are questions that surely cannot be ignored by anyone working within the discipline of 'French Studies'. Consequently, they provide the theme for this year's

University of London Postgraduate French Conference: 'Beyond French

Studies'.

The conference intends to examine how current research is pushing the limits of French Studies, and how teaching and research methodologies are adapting to the changing needs of those studying and working in this field. It will explore in particular interactions between French Studies and theory (post-colonialism, post-modernism, feminism...), and the contributions of French departments to innovative cross-disciplinary research projects. It will also question cultural, geographical and linguistic boundaries, which are perpetually being erased and redrawn, both within the academic institution and beyond.

We invite papers from all graduate students, from both within and on the periphery of 'French Studies', on the following themes and beyond:

* What is 'French Studies'? Mapping the boundaries.

* Multidisciplinary approaches 'French Studies' and its relationship

with the Arts, Sciences and Humanities in contemporary academia. *

French Studies and comparative literature. * Beyond the French text:

translations, crossings, travelling concepts, liminality,

cross-cultural references, pluralities…

* The place of contemporary art, performance, music, fashion, BDs,

multimedia and other cultural productions within French Studies. *

Francophone cinema: perspectives on a global and local industry. * The

'Frenchness' of French critical theory and philosophy.

* Francophonies (Caribbean, African, North American, Asian etc) and the

future of French Studies.

* Shifting political paradigms: France and globalization. * Beyond

France: Republicanism, national and historical identity, regionalism,

the banlieue, the collective past, contemporary 'Frenchness'…. *

Teaching French and French Studies.

* Beyond the institution: new technologies, new audiences?

Please send proposals of approximately 200 words, along with your name,

academic affiliation and contact details, to Sophie Fuggle

(sophie.fuggle@kcl.ac.uk) or Kate Hodgson (uclfkjh@ucl.ac.uk) by Friday

10th May 2007.