

MESEA

**The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies:
Europe and the Americas**

13th Biennial Conference

“Moving Cultures, Moving Ethnicities”

**University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu
Campus**

June 12–14, 2024



MESEA – The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas

was founded in 1998 in response to the challenge of ethnic studies in a time of increasing globalization to provide an international forum for interdisciplinary discussion on multiethnic studies. The Society promotes the study of the ethnic cultures of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas in their circumatlantic relations from a transdisciplinary literary, historical and cultural studies perspective. The society acts as a forum for cooperation between universities, political institutions, and ethnic communities and supports the scholarly and cultural exchange among them in order to further intercultural understanding. MESEA currently has ca. 200 members from 30 countries.

MESEA holds its biennial conference in the spring, an event that brings together hundreds of international scholars to discuss issues related to these concerns. Conference topics have included: the place of ethnic communities in democratic societies, comparative perspectives on ethnic studies, ethnic lifewritings and histories, questions of migration, sites of ethnicity, and media. These meetings have been held in Heidelberg, Germany (1998); Orleans, France (2000); Padua, Italy (2002); Thessaloniki, Greece (2004); Pamplona, Spain (2006); Leiden, Netherlands (2008); Pécs, Hungary (2010); Barcelona, Spain (2012); Saarbrücken, Germany (2014); Warsaw, Poland (2016); Graz, Austria (2018); and Pyla, Larnaca, Cyprus (2022). The meeting is now held at the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu.

The Association also promotes lively publishing activities. Apart from its journal, *Atlantic Studies/Global Currents*, and the official volume of essays that develop from the conferences, other volumes have been published based on MESEA activities or specific panel sessions at the biennial meetings.

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* * *

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Joensuu University Foundation
Federation for Finnish Learned Societies
***Atlantic Studies, Global Currents* (Taylor & Francis Publishers)**
Philosophical Faculty, University of Eastern Finland
School of Humanities, University of Eastern Finland
University of Eastern Finland

MESEA 2024 Conference Schedule

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

Pre-conference Meeting of MESEA Officers

Wednesday, 12 June 2024

08:00 – 18:00 Registration/Information Desk (Agora Building)
08:30 – 10:30 Parallel Panel Sessions 1
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30 Parallel Panel Sessions 2
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:30 Parallel Panel Sessions 3
15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:15 Keynote Lecture by John McLeod (University of Leeds)
“Sanctioned Migration and the Figure of the Trespasser”

Room: AT100

Chair: Jopi Nyman

17:30 – Opening Ceremony
Room: AT100

Words of Welcome
Jopi Nyman, President of MESEA

Esa Penttilä, Head of the School of Humanities, UEF

Announcement of the 2024 Young Scholars Excellence Award
Monika Mueller, Vice-President of MESEA

MESEA Announcements

18:00- Conference Reception Sponsored by Philosophical Faculty (UEF)
Room: Aula, Carelia Building

Thursday, 13 June 2024

08:30 – 16:00 Registration/Information Desk
09:00 – 11:00 Parallel Panel Sessions 4
11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:45 *Atlantic Studies Lecture* by Tobias Skowronek (Technische Hochschule Georg Agricola)
“Echoes from Benin: How Migrating Manilla Created a Global

Heritage”

Room: AT100

Chair: Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (Heidelberg University, Germany),
Atlantic Studies

12:45 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 15:45	Parallel Panel Sessions 5
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee Break
	Early Career Researchers! Come and Meet the MESEAns (AG109)
16:15 – 17:45	Parallel Sessions 6
17:50 – 18:45	MESEA Membership Meeting (Room AT100)
19:15 – 22:00	Optional Conference Dinner (Restaurant Sulo Puisto, Länsikatu 15)

Friday, 14 June 2024

09:00 – 12:00	Registration/Information Desk
09:00 – 11:00	Parallel Panel Sessions 7
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:45	Keynote Lecture by Anna-Leena Toivanen (University of Eastern Finland) “Spaces of Mobility: Hotels in African and Afrodiasporic Literatures”

Room: AT100

Chair: TBC

12:45 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:30	Parallel Panel Sessions 8
15:30 – 16:00	Closing Words (AT100)

Information on Keynotes

Keynote Lectures

Wednesday, 12 June 2024

Opening Keynote by John McLeod, University of Leeds
“Sanctioned Migration and the Figure of the Trespasser”

Abstract:

For those permitted to move between territories and given leave to remain, their mobility is usually “sanctioned” in the double sense of the term: both authorised and embargoed. As recent commentaries about the “good immigrant” have spotlighted, permitted migrants (and their locally born descendants) are usually required to take up certain positions, betray particular behaviours, and subscribe to specific values if they are to live unmolested as legitimated citizens, yet their existence remains ever shadowed by the spectre of prejudice and the threat of expulsion. In my keynote address, I consider the literary and cultural representation of such compliant or “good immigrant” figures who dare to break the terms of their sanctioning and pursue relations out of bounds – an activity I conceptualise in terms of trespassing. How might the critical agency of the trespasser figure challenge not only those gateings and siloings which split communities but also contest the criteria of acceptable personhood? How does trespassing refuse received notions not only of who we should be with, but also who we must be? By drawing upon some examples from contemporary Anglophone texts, I discuss the trespasser as a powerful new figure in the twenty-first century’s dissident cultural imaginary.

John McLeod is Professor of Postcolonial and Diaspora Literatures at the University of Leeds, UK. His publications include *Beginning Postcolonialism* (2000/2010), *Postcolonial London: Rewriting the Metropolis* (2004), and *Life Lines: Writing Transcultural Adoption* (2015). His new book, *Global Trespassers: Sanctioned Mobility and Contemporary Culture*, will be published by Liverpool University Press in June 2024. In 2022 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Turku, Finland for his international contribution to postcolonial studies.

Thursday, 13 June 2024

Atlantic Studies Lecture by Tobias Skowronek (Technische Hochschule Georg Agricola, Bochum, Germany)

“Echoes from Benin: How Migrating Manilla Created a Global Heritage”

Abstract:

For more than 500 years, a species known as manilla, a bracelet-like metal ring made in Europe, has been a valid means of payment for gold, ivory, and slaves on the West African coast. Yet despite the enormous production figures, running into the hundreds of millions, shockingly little is known about where these rings were made and what purpose they served in West Africa. It has been suggested that the manillas also served as a source of raw material for the production of Benin bronzes, but no study to date has been able to establish a link between the trade manillas and the famous African works of art.

The geochemical comparison of manillas from shipwrecks on the triangular route between Europe, Africa and the Americas with the Benin bronzes proves for the first time their connection and

identifies Germany as the place where the metal rings were made before large British companies started the trade in the 18th century. The raw materials used to make the manillas reached Germany from as far away as Japan, Cuba, and Peru, providing the Benin bronzes with the often-overlooked character of a global heritage.

Tobias Skowronek first studied Geosciences, Psychology and Archaeology at the Ruhr University Bochum. In 2018 he earned a Master of Arts degree in Economic and Raw material Archaeology from the Institute of Archaeological Studies. Tobias then switched back to Geosciences, where he received his PhD in 2021 with a thesis on the global metal trade in the early modern period. After Tobias briefly left research to work as a raw material trader for the company ThyssenKrupp, he was granted a project by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation in 2022 to investigate the causality between slave trade & industrialisation. His latest publication “German Brass for Benin Bronzes - Geochemical Analysis Insights into the Early Atlantic Trade,” published in April 2023 in the journal *PLOS ONE*, has received attention far beyond the scientific community.

Friday, 14 June 2024

Keynote Lecture by Anna-Leena Toivanen, University of Eastern Finland
“Spaces of Mobility: Hotels in African and Afrodiasporic Literatures”

Abstract:

Mobility studies is often associated with the social sciences. However, due to the recent mobilities turn in the humanities, scholars have started to resort to mobilities research in their explorations of the meanings of mobility in cultural products (Merriman & Pearce 2017; Aguiar et al. 2019).

In postcolonial studies, ‘mobility’ is frequently used as a synonym for migration (Toivanen 2021, 1). This understanding is reductive; it fails to acknowledge the multiplicity of mobilities ranging from global to everyday displacements of humans, ideas, and objects. Mobilities are relational and systemic, and enabled by infrastructures and ‘moorings’ (Hannam et al. 2006) such as streets, railways, airports, and stations.

This talk focuses on one of such spaces of mobility: the hotel. In literary studies, the hotel has been discussed as a typically modern place of dwelling-in-movement and as a key setting in modernist writing (e.g., Bates 2003; Matthias 2006; Short 2019; Despotopoulou et al. 2023). Less attention, however, has been granted to the hotels of postcolonial fiction. My talk concentrates on the hotel as a trope and a setting in African and Afrodiasporic literatures. I explore how the context of global postcoloniality and the perspectives of different (mobile) subjects – business travellers, tourists, returnees, clandestine migrants, lovers, hotel employees – contribute to the diverse meanings of the hotel as a material and metaphorical space of transit.

Anna-Leena Toivanen is Academy Research Fellow at the University of Eastern Finland. She has published widely on mobility-related themes in African literatures and her current research project focuses on Afro-European mobilities in Francophone African writing. She is the author of *Mobilities and Cosmopolitanisms in African and Afrodiasporic Literatures* (Brill, 2021) and co-editor of the volume *Urban Mobilities in Literature and Art Activism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024). She is currently editing a special issue on public transport in African literatures for *English Studies in Africa* (forthcoming in 2024) and working on her second monograph *Afro-European Mobilities in Francophone African Literatures* (Palgrave Macmillan).

Detailed Program

Wednesday, 12 June 2024

08:00 – 18.00 Registration/Information Desk
08:30 – 10:30 Parallel Panel Sessions 1

Panel 1.1

On the Move in the Americas: Trans-Indigenous Activism and Literature (Part 1)

Organizers: Cathy C. Waegner (University of Siegen, Germany) and Geoffroy de Laforcade (Norfolk State University, Virginia, USA)

Chair: Geoffroy de Laforcade (Norfolk State University, Virginia, USA)

Room: AG106

Presenters:

Geoffroy de Laforcade (Norfolk State University, Virginia, USA), 'Indigeneity' Through the Lens of Wallmapu: Sovereignty, Territoriality, and Mapuche Epistemologies of Decolonization in Chile and Argentina

Vanessa Evans (Appalachian State University, North Carolina, USA), Reading Resurgence Trans-Indigenously: *Red Ants*, *Monkey Beach*, and *Mapping the Interior* as Constellation of Coresistance

Page R. Laws (Norfolk State University, Virginia, USA), Neither Fish nor Foul: The Migratory *Mermaid of Black Conch* (2022) in Trans-Indigenous Context

Panel 1.2

Traveling Twins and Doubles in the Contemporary African American Novel

Organizer: Maria Lauret (University of Sussex, UK)

Chair: Maria Lauret (University of Sussex, UK)

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Kamil Chrzczonowicz (University of Warsaw, Poland), Comic Foils and Double-Consciousness in Percival Everett's *Trees* (2021)

Mar Gallego (University of Huelva, Spain), 'She had no place and nothing to command': Mobility and Home in Toni Morrison's *Love* (2003)

Ewa Barbara Łuczak (University of Warsaw, Poland), Not a Body Snatcher but a Blood Brother: Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys*

Panel 1.3:

Mobility, Displacement, Vulnerability

Chair: Loredana Bercuci (The West University of Timișoara, Romania)

Room: AG102

Presenters:

Loredana Bercuci (The West University of Timișoara, Romania), Visuality, Displacement, and Trauma in *They Called Us Enemy* and *Displacement*

Elina Siltanen (University of Eastern Finland), Nonhuman Movement Across Borders in Lorna Dee Cervantes's *Emplumada*

Dirk van Rens (University of Eastern Finland), “Don’t Be Ridiculous”: Negotiating Trauma through Irony in Andrea Levy’s *The Long Song*

Roundtable Discussion 1.4:

Crossing Epistemic Borders in Archival Spaces to Support Indigenous Language Persistence

Organizer: Ellen Cushman (Cherokee Nation, Northeastern University)

Chair: Ellen Cushman (Cherokee Nation, Northeastern University)

Room: AG100

Participants:

Brittany Alexander (Shawnee Tribe, Cherokee Nation, City University of New York)

Tashanna Carter (Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band, Massachusetts, Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs)

Sara Snyder Hopkins (Non-Indigenous Ally, Western Carolina University)

Kimberly Toney (Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc, Brown University)

Gwen Nell Westerman (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Ellen Cushman (Cherokee Nation, Northeastern University)

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30

Parallel Panel Sessions 2

Panel 2.1

Crossing Borders, Moving Forms in Contemporary Multi-Ethnic Literature in the United States

Organizer: Jiann-Chyng Tu (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany)

Chair: Jiann-Chyng Tu (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany)

Room: AG100

Presenters:

Milena Krischer (University of Augsburg, Germany), Echoes across Genres: Valeria Luiselli’s *Tell Me How It Ends* and *Lost Children Archive*

Anna-Lena Oldehus (Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany), The ‘Two-Sidedness’ of Assimilation in Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous* (2019)

Jiann-Chyng Tu (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany), Reading Asian American Culinary Memoirs as American Immigrant Narratives

Panel 2.2

Cosmopolitanism, (Im)Migration, Agency

Chair: Marta Koval (University of Gdansk, Poland)

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Noémi Albert (University of Pécs, Hungary), Visions of the Cosmopolitan Self and City in Two Novels by Zadie Smith

Marta Koval (University of Gdansk, Poland), Revision of Immigrant Fiction Patterns in *My New American Life* by Francine Prose

Georgia Ntola (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) A Journey through Space and Context: Forging Transnational Feminist Solidarity in Park Chan-Wook's *The Handmaiden* (2016)

Panel 2.3

Mobility, Identity, Affect

Chair: Monika Mueller (Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany)

Room: AG106

Presenters:

Pirjo Ahokas (University of Turku, Finland), Mobility, Memory, and Mobile, Intersectional and Processual Identity in Jackie Kay's *Red Dust Road* and Nadia Owusu's *Aftershocks*

Nadia Butt (University of Frankfurt, Germany), Between Asia and America: Mobility and Migration in Kamila Shamsie's *Burnt Shadows* (2009)

Tijana Przulj (University of Bergen, Norway), Autofictional Home(-Making) in Transnational Literature: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Panel 2.4

Beyond Sentiment: 'Otherwise' and 'Outlaw' Feelings of Belonging (Part 1)

Organizer: Silvia Schultermandl (University of Münster, Germany)

Chair: Maria Elena Indelicato (University of Coimbra, Portugal)

Respondent: Silvia Schultermandl (University of Münster, Germany)

Room: AG108

Presenters:

Melissa Melpignano (The University of Texas at El Paso), Resisting Resilience: The Corporeality of Belonging among Palestinian Women

Maia Gil'Adí (Boston University), Wood, Cloth, Plaster: Impenetrable Affects of Marisol

Marion Christina Rohrleitner (The University of Texas at El Paso), Entangled Lives: Narratives of Child Migration between Spectacle and Refusal

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch (Restaurant Aura, Aura Building)

13:30 – 15:30

Parallel Panel Sessions 3

Panel 3.1

Narratives of Return, the Return as Narrative: Crossing Paths and Memories in Contemporary Asian American Literature and Culture

Organizer: Nicoleta Alexoae-Zagni (Paris 8 University, France)

Chair: Nicoleta Alexoae-Zagni (Paris 8 University, France)

Respondent: Pin-chia Feng (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University of ROC)

Room: AG100

Presenters:

Nicoleta Alexoae-Zagni (Paris 8 University, France), “To go to someplace that I thought I’d left behind”: Viet Thanh Nguyen’s *A Man of Two Faces*, The Return of Questions, the Questions as Return

Eun-Gwi Chung (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Korea), Return of the Native, Return of the Impossible: Rethinking Haunted Homes as Fugitive Visions in Contemporary Korean American Narratives

Pin-chia Feng (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University of ROC), Filmic Return: Diasporic Homecoming in “Riceboy Sleeps”

Chang Liu (Heidelberg University, Germany), Kris Phillips, A Twofold Narrative of Return

Panel 3.2

Narratives in/of Mobility

Chair: Cathy M. Jackson

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Minu Susan Koshy (Mar Thoma College for Women, Kerala, India), The Inter-State Migrant as Homo Sacer: Reading the Mediatized Abjection of Migrant Labourers in Kerala

Michelle Stork (Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany), Queering the Road Narrative: Bretten Hannam’s *Wildhood* (2021)

Cathy M. Jackson (Norfolk State University, USA), Out of the Caudron of the America’s Great Northern Migration, Orality and Folklore Created “Home”

Panel 3.3

Beyond Sentiment: ‘Otherwise’ and ‘Outlaw’ Feelings of Belonging (Part 2)

Organizer: Silvia Schultermandl (University of Münster, Germany)

Chair: Marion Christina Rohrleitner (The University of Texas at El Paso)

Respondent: Silvia Schultermandl (University of Münster, Germany)

Room: AG106

Presenters:

Sukhmani Khorana (University of New South Wales, Australia), An Affective and Politicised Ethics of Care in Refugee Advocacy

Maria Elena Indelicato (University of Coimbra, Portugal), ‘Perfectible’ Blackness: Black Feminists’ World Making in Post-Emancipation US

Yehuda Sharim (UC Merced), *Experiments in Love*

Panel 3.4

Mobility, Transgression, Cosmopolitanism

Chair: Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (Heidelberg University, Germany)

Room: AG108

Presenters:

Fred L. Gardaphe (Queens College/CUNY and the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute), Ms. Fits and Transgressive Humor in Italian American Culture

Maria Lauret (University of Sussex, UK), Mobile thinking and seeing: Teju Cole

Astrid Haas (University of Bergen, Norway), Moving Narratives, Mobilizing Faith: Diverse Mobilities in Black Loyalist Missionary Memoirs

Malin Pereira (University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA), Jericho Brown's Post-Cosmopolitan Tradition?

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:15

Keynote Lecture by John McLeod (University of Leeds)
“Sanctioned Migration and the Figure of the Trespasser”

Room: AT100

Chair: Jopi Nyman

17:30 –

Opening Ceremony

Room: AT100

Words of Welcome

Jopi Nyman, President of MESEA

Esa Penttilä, Head of School of Humanities, UEF

Announcement of the 2024 Young Scholars Excellence Award

Monika Mueller, Vice-President of MESEA

18:00

Conference Reception Sponsored by Philosophical Faculty (UEF)

Room: Aula, Carelia Building

Thursday, 13 June 2024

08:30 – 16:00 Registration/Information Desk
09:00 – 11:00 Parallel Panel Sessions 4

Panel 4.1

Making and Unmaking Kinship through Narrative and Transnational Mobility

Organizer: Kyung-Sook Boo (Sogang University, Seoul, Korea)

Chair: Kyung-Sook Boo (Sogang University, Seoul, Korea)

Respondent: Lori Askeland (Wittenberg University, Ohio, USA)

Room: AG100

Presenters:

Shannon Gibney (Minneapolis College, Minnesota, USA) Narrative Movement in New Adoptee Fiction and Cross-Genre Work as a Strategy to Build Identity, Recognition, and Community

Lori Askeland (Wittenberg University, Ohio, USA), Minor Feelings in Mira Jacob's *Good Talk*

Kyung-Sook Boo (Sogang University, Seoul, Korea), Moving Picture Brides: Narrative Mobility and Reconstituted Selves, Kinship, and Communities

Sun Yung Shin (Carleton College, Minnesota, USA), Temporally Uncanny: The Korean Adoptee as a Gothic Time Traveler

Panel 4.2

Mobility, Dis/Emplacements

Chair: Ana Belén Martín Sevillano (University of Montreal, Canada)

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Ana Belén Martín Sevillano (University of Montreal, Canada), Nomadism as Ancestral Homeland in the Romani Culture

Ricardo Velasco (Clemson University, USA), Envisioning a Community Digital Oral History Project with Displaced Rural Black Communities in Colombia's Marginalized North Pacific Coast Region

Oksana Starshova (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University in Mykolaiv, Ukraine), Immigrant Places of New York: Spaces of Belonging and Possession in Jean Kwok's Novel *Girl in Translation*

Anastasia Vitanopoulou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) Resketching Urban Belonging through Art in Dionne Brand's *What We All Long For* (2005)

Panel 4.3

On the Move in the Americas: Trans-Indigenous Activism and Literature (Part 2)

Organizers: Cathy C. Waegner (University of Siegen, Germany) and Geoffroy de Laforcade (Norfolk State University, Virginia, USA)

Chair: Cathy C. Waegner (University of Siegen, Germany)

Room: AG106

Presenters:

Hsinya Huang (National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan), Thinking with Water: Elemental Reading of *Throwing Fire at the Sun, Water at the Moon* and *Rise: From One Island to Another*

Ludmila Martanovschi (Ovidius University in Constanta, Romania), Trans-Indigenous Activism: Staging the Fight for Justice in Sierra Adare's *Takeover of the Andrew Jackson Reading Room* and Vickie Ramirez's *Standoff at Hwy#37*

Cathy C. Waegner (University of Siegen, Germany), Performing Chiapas: On the Move with Reciprocity and Trans-Indigeneity

Marcel Hartwig (University of Siegen, Germany), From the Local to the Global: Redirecting the Native Epistemology of the Powwow in the Arts

Panel 4.4

Dislocations, (Non)Belonging

Chair: Chingyen Mayer (Siena College in Loudonville, NY, USA)

Room: AG108

Presenters:

Chingyen Mayer (Siena College in Loudonville, NY, USA), Fatal Encounters: Loss and Displacement in Carolyn Lei-Lanilau's *Ono Ono Girl's Hula*

Petra Tournay-Theodotou (European University Cyprus in Nicosia, Cyprus), Narratives of Migration: Representing the Figure of the Child Refugee in Children's and YA Literature

Justyna Kielkowicz (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland), (Im)Mobility and Privilege in Nicole Dennis-Benn's *Here Comes the Sun*

Yi Yuan (University of Helsinki, Finland), A Phenomenographic Approach to Chinese International Degree Students' Lived Experiences of Marginality in Finland

Panel 4.5

Mobility, In/Exclusion

Chair: Daniel Valella (University of Michigan, USA)

Room: AG102

Presenters:

Erzsébet Barát (University of Szeged, Hungary and Central European University, Vienna, Austria), A Feminist Ethics Articulated by the Visual Representation of the Refugee

Daniel Valella (University of Michigan, USA), The Fluid Poetics of Migrant Detention, from Angel Island to the Hieleras

Miranda Huron (Capilano University in North Vancouver, Canada), Borders within: How Canada's Federalist System Affects the Canadian Indigenous Diaspora through the Lens of Language Rights

Panteleimon Tsiokos (University of Western Ontario, Canada), Transitional Justice Means in Addressing Modalities of Ethnic Vulnerability, Forced Displacement, and Sex Trade in the Yazidi Genocide (2014)

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:45

Atlantic Studies Lecture by Tobias Skowronek (Technische Hochschule Georg Agricola):
"Echoes from Benin: How Migrating Manilla Created a Global Heritage"

Chair: Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (Heidelberg University, Germany)

Room:

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch (Restaurant Aura)
13:45 – 15:45 Parallel Panel Sessions 5

Panel 5.1
Forced Migrations

Chair: Jane E. Evans (University of Texas at El Paso)

Room: AG100

Presenters:

Jane E. Evans (University of Texas at El Paso), Situating One's Story within History in Ali Magoudi's *Un sujet français*

Eva Ievgeniia Babenko (Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland), Home, Identity, and Belonging: How People from Donbas Make Sense of War and Migration Experience

Outi Autti (University of Oulu, Finland), The Lapland War 1944-1945: Childhood Memories of War and Forced Displacement

Ari Räisänen (University of Eastern Finland), Expatriates of War: Transnational Belonging and the Memory of War in the Writings of Elliot Ackerman

Panel 5.2
Mobility in Art

Chair: Ana Maria Ferreira (University of Indianapolis, USA)

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Ana Maria Ferreira (University of Indianapolis, USA), The Work of Mi Corazón Mexica (My Mexica Heart): A Contemporary Reading of Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican Art

Juliann Knaus (University of Graz, Austria), Curating a Historiography of Violence: Explorations of Migration, Citizenship, and Racial Violence in J. Michael Martinez's *Museum of the Americas* (2018)

Lowry Martin (University of Texas-El Paso), Hakim's Odyssey: The Long Arab 'Winter' of Syrian Migration and Displacement in Europe

Cristiana Pugliese (Lumsa University, Rome, Italy), Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wood? The Revival of Folk Horror Literature in the UK and Ireland

Panel 5.3
De/En-Culturing Borders

Chair: Karítas Hrundar Pálsdóttir (University of East Anglia, UK)

Room: AG106

Presenters:

Joel Kuortti (University of Turku, Finland) "I write out of place": Challenging Borders through Irreverence in Stephanos Stephanides' Poetry

Marina Cacioppo (University of Palermo, Italy), Between Entertainment and Education: Early Serialized Literature in the Italian-American Press

Karítas Hrundar Pálsdóttir (University of East Anglia, UK), Re-adaptation Literature: Fictional Accounts of In-Betweenness and Ambiguous Loss

Romit Raj (Quicksand Design Studio and Northumbria University, UK), Failure of Methodology: Challenges in Translating the Cultural Narratives of Borderlands

Panel 5.4

Movements of/in Diversity

Chair: Michele Rozga (Norfolk State University, VA, USA)

Room: AG108

Presenters:

Wai Fong Cheang and Feng-Yi Chen (The Center for General Education, Chang Gung University, Taiwan), Linguistic Trauma, Disarticulation, and Rearticulation: The Give Me Back My Mother Tongue Movement in Taiwan

Agnieszka Gondor-Wiercioch (Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland), Journeys of Geographical and Spiritual Rediscovery: Louise Erdrich and Olga Tokarczuk

Saida Khalmirzaeva (Institute of Global Human Resource Development, Okayama University) Storytelling and the Cross-Cultural Transmission: A Case Study of the Tale-Type, The Homecoming Husband

Michele Rozga (Norfolk State University, VA, USA), Motion within the “luminous point of contact”: Honor, Law, and Transgressions against the American Family in *The Love Songs* of W.E.B. Du Bois

15:45 – 16:15

Coffee Break

Early Career Researchers! Come and Meet the MESEA Board over a cup of coffee (AG106)

16:15 – 17:45

Parallel Panel Sessions 6

Panel 6.1

Narratives of/in Mobility and Migration

Chair: Heike Raphael-Hernandez (University of Würzburg, Germany)

Room: AG100

Presenters:

Samir Dayal (Bentley University, USA), Solitude, Travel, and (Im-)Mobility in the Nineteenth Century Novel

Maitrayee Misra (Central University of Odisha, India), “We wanted to go to Finland”: Migration as Chance Opportunity in Amitav Ghosh’s *Gun Island*

Rita Shika Amelordzi (Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Germany), Transnational Narratives: Family Relationships in Buchi Emecheta’s *Kebinde* and Taiye Selasi’s *Ghana Must Go*

Panel 6.2

Transnationalism, Transculturation, Translocalities

Chair: Patrycja Kurjatto-Renard (Université du Littoral Côte d’Opale in Northern France)

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Asis De (Mahishadal Raj College, West Bengal, India), Straddling Transnationality and Translocality: Cultural Hybridization in Manjushree Thapa's *Seasons of Flight*
Patrycja Kurjatto-Renard (Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale in Northern France), 'World'-Travelling in a Broken World: Traumatic and Life-Saving Mobilities in N. K. Jemisin's *The Fifth Season*
Sara D'Anna (Pompeu Fabra University, Spain), Between Work and Resilience: A Story of Italian Emigration to Mexico in 1900

Panel 6.3

Eco-Mobilities: Crimes, Toxicity, (Un)Sustainability

Organizer: Sophia Emmanouilidou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

Chair: Christina Jackson (Stockton University, USA)

Room: AG102

Presenters:

Christina Jackson (Stockton University, USA), Culture, Environments and Urban Sustainability: Community Perceptions to Natural and Socioeconomic Disasters

Sezgin Toska (İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University, Turkey), Exploring the Intersection of Literature and Green Criminology: Towards a Literary Ecocriminology

Sophia Emmanouilidou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), Narrating Borderless Toxicity: Greek Testimonios on the Chernobyl Disaster

Panel 6.4

Three Autoethnographical Accounts from Real, Imagined, and Phantasmagorial Borders: Stories from Mexico, Turtle Island, and Cambodia

Organizer: Gabriella Maestrini (University of the Fraser Valley, Canada)

Chair: Gabriella Maestrini (University of the Fraser Valley, Canada)

Room: AG108

Presenters:

Gabriella Maestrini (University of the Fraser Valley, Canada), Rubble Humor in Mexico: Wandering Real and Imagined Borderlands as Comic Border Crosser

Sharon Jarvis (University of British Columbia, Canada), A Métis Orientation: Fewer Paternal Transnationals and More Maternal Translocals

Vicheth Sen (University of British Columbia, Canada), Transnational Mobility, Place, and Belonging: An Autoethnographic Account

17:50 – 18:45 MESEA Membership Meeting (AT100)

19:15 – 22:00 MESEA Conference Dinner (optional), Restaurant Sulo Puisto,
Länsikatu 15 (Joensuu Science Park)

Friday, 14 June 2024

09:00 – 12:00 Registration/Information Desk
09:00 – 11:00 Parallel Panel Sessions 7

Panel 7.1

Contact Zones and “the Other” in Motion

Chair: Monica Manolachi (University of Bucharest, Romania)

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Pekka Kilpeläinen (University of Eastern Finland) Ghostly Contact Zones and the Traumatic Cultural Unconscious in Jesmyn Ward’s *Sing, Unburied, Sing*

Lena Hercberga (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark), Self-Becoming through Everyday Displacements. An Account of One Walk through the City of Riga with Young Russian Speakers

Monica Manolachi (University of Bucharest, Romania), Gastronomic Mediation in Contemporary Novels of Migration by Romanian Women Writers

Natalia Polishchuk (The Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Vilnius), Overcoming the Trauma of Deportation by Looking through the Prism of Mixed Identity: Narratives of the Siberia-Born Descendants of Lithuanian Deportees

Panel 7.2

(Re)Framed Mobilities, (Re)Locations

Chair: Magdalena J. Zaborowska (University of Michigan, USA)

Room: AG106

Presenters:

Malgorzata Poks (University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland) Traveling In Different Dimensions: Indigenous Alaska in the Eyes of Katherine McNamara and Lesley Thomas

Pedro Mora-Ramírez (University of Seville, Spain) Masculinities and Resistance in Ava DuVernay’s *When They See Us*

Paola Anna Nardi (University of Genoa, Italy), Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy*: African Influence on Florens’s Journey

Magdalena J. Zaborowska (University of Michigan, USA), Transatlantic Racisms: Blacks and Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto

Panel 7.3

Border-Crossings, Identity, Relations

Chair: Svitlana Kot (Saarland University, Germany, and Black Sea National University, Ukraine)

Room: AG108

Presenters:

Carolina Palacios Guerra (University of Edinburgh), Cruzando/Curando Fronteras: Gloria Anzaldúa’s Nепantlera Aesthetics and the Legacy of Chicana Borderlands Theory

Svitlana Kot (Saarland University, Germany, and Black Sea National University, Ukraine), We/They are Displaced: Positionality and Representations of Children Refugees in Border-Crossing Narratives

Olha Polishchuk (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University in Mykolaiv, Ukraine), Forced Emigration and the Search for Self in Eugenia Senik’s *The House of Matches*: Transcultural Space

Hend Nasser (University of Central Lancashire, UK), *Voices of Change: Arab Refugee Women at the Intersection of Cultural Identity, Environmental Activism, and Collective Solidarity*

Panel 7.4

Contentious Border Crossings: The Representation of Differential Mobility Regimes in US Narratives of Migration

Organizer: Gabriele Pisarz-Ramirez (Leipzig University, Germany)

Chairs: Gabriele Pisarz-Ramirez (Leipzig University, Germany) and Claudia Sadowski-Smith (Arizona State University, USA)

Respondent: Marion Christina Rohrleitner (The University of Texas at El Paso)

Room: AG100

Presenters:

Astrid M. Fellner (Saarland University, Germany), *Migrant Trajectories in Oceanic Bordertextures*

Alexandra Ganser (University of Vienna, Austria), *From Astrofuturism to Afrofuturism? Minor Mobilities and Narratives of Outer Space Migration in *Hidden Figures* and *The Color of Space**

Claudia Sadowski-Smith (Arizona State University, USA), *Theorizing a Multiethnic US Refugee Literature*

Gabriele Pisarz-Ramirez (Leipzig University, Germany), “The Most Wicked Jungle in the World”: Narrating Differential Mobilities in the Panama Darién

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:45

Keynote Lecture by Anna-Leena Toivanen (University of Eastern Finland)

“Spaces of Mobility: Hotels in African and Afrodiasporic Literatures”

Chair: Jopi Nyman

Room: AT100

12:45 – 13:30

Lunch (Restaurant Aura)

13:30 – 15:30

Parallel Panel Sessions 8

Panel 8.1

Border Mobilities/Crossings

Chair: Mónika Fodor (University of Pécs, Hungary)

Room: AG108

Presenters:

Mónika Fodor (University of Pécs, Hungary), *Reconstructing Ancestral Migration and Border-Crossing Experiences in Interview-Based Intergenerational Memory Narratives*

Sandra Folie (Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung -ZfL, Berlin), *African Mobilities of No Return? The “Europe Trap” in Women’s Neocolonial Enslavement Narratives*

Bettina Hofmann (University of Wuppertal, Germany), Nostalgia in Dinaw Mengestu's *The Beautiful Things Heaven Bears*
Ema Jelínková (Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic), The Role of Silences in Leila Aboulela's *The Translator*

Panel 8.2

Articulations of Migration, (Im)Mobility

Chair: Ágnes Zsófia Kovács (University of Szeged, Hungary)

Room: AG101

Presenters:

Ágnes Zsófia Kovács (University of Szeged, Hungary), The Great Migration: African American History in Barbara Neely's *Blanche Passes Go* (2000)

Jan Niklas Janoth (University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria), The Impact of Human (Im)Mobility on Culturally-Embedded and Subjective Perceptions of Habitability in a Context of Environmental Change in Northern Ghana

Nicolangelo Becce (Roma Tre University, Italy), Reshaping the Memory of the Japanese American Internment in Contemporary Mainstream Work

Tetiana Shestopalova (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University, Ukraine), The "Migrating" Identity of the Ukrainian Donbas: The Problem of Definition and Literary Context

Panel 8.3

Beyond Sentiment: 'Otherwise' and 'Outlaw' Feelings of Belonging (Part 3)

Chair: Marion Christina Rohrleitner (The University of Texas at El Paso)

Respondents: Silvia Schultersmandl (University of Münster, Germany) and Maria Elena Indelicato (University of Coimbra, Portugal)

Room: AG100

Presenter: Yehuda Sharim (UN Merced), Film screening, *Letters2Maybe*

Panel 8.4

Nature in Contemporary African American Literature

Organizer: Dorottya Mózes (University of Debrecen, Hungary)

Chair: Anna Pochmara (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Respondent: Dorottya Mózes (University of Debrecen, Hungary)

Room: AG106

Presenters:

Dorottya Mózes (University of Debrecen, Hungary), Jamaica Kincaid's *Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalayas* as a Black Pastoral

Anna Pochmara (University of Warsaw, Poland), Trees of Heaven, Geese, and Bedbugs: Nature in *Open City*

Marta Werbanowska (University of Vienna, Austria), Black Ecologies, Eco-Humanism, and African American Eco-poetry

15:30 – 16:00

Closing Words (AT100)

Practical Conference Information

1. Local Organizer/The University of Eastern Finland (UEF)

Conference Director Jopi Nyman (University of Eastern Finland)
Conference Assistant Anupam Sen (University of Eastern Finland)

2. University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu Campus

The University of Eastern Finland (UEF) is an international, participatory and inclusive scientific community with 16,000 degree students and 3,200 members of staff. It operates in two campuses in the towns of Joensuu and Kuopio. UEF has four faculties: the Philosophical Faculty, the Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies. Our campuses are located in Joensuu and Kuopio.

For more information and campus maps, see
<https://www.uef.fi>

The conference is an example of UEF's strategic research addressing global concerns under the auspices of Borders, Mobilities, and Cultural Encounters Research Community bringing together more than 130 members of staff and research students from two faculties and six schools, departments and institutes. BOMOCULT research community performs top-level interdisciplinary and internationally networked scientific research as evidenced in numerous peer-reviewed publications, externally-funded research, interaction with policy stakeholders and civil society organizations, seminars, and the annual BOMOCULT conference.

For inquiries, please contact BOMOCULT Director, Professor Jopi Nyman (jopi.nyman@uef.fi)

See:
<https://www.uef.fi/en/research-community/borders-mobilities-and-cultural-encounters-bomocult>

3. Conference Venue

The MESEA Conference takes place in its entirety on the Agora Building at UEF Joensuu campus next to the centre of the town (Yliopistokatu 4).

4. Registration

Registration for the conference will take place in the conference office in the lobby of the Agora Building starting at 8:00 am on the first day of the conference

5. Lunch and Coffee Breaks

Lunch will be served in Restaurant Aura (Aura Building, Yliopistokatu 2) next to the conference venue. Upon registrations, participants are provided with lunch tickets to be shown at the restaurant. The lunch includes a course of your choice (either standard option, vegetarian option OR soup), salads, bread, one drink, and a cup of coffee. Dessert or daily specials are not included in our package.

MESEA conference coffee will be served during the coffee breaks in the Agora Café next to the registration desk.

Campus Restaurant Carelia (Main Building, Yliopistokatu 2) will be open during the conference for extra snacks.

6. Conference Reception (Wednesday 12 June, 2024)

All conference participants are cordially invited to a Conference Reception sponsored by the Philosophical Faculty at UEF. The reception will be held in the Aula of Carelia Building (next to the conference venue) at 18:00 on Wednesday 12 June, 2024).

7. Conference Dinner (Thursday 13 June, 2024)

Those who have signed up and pre-paid will receive a voucher upon registration. Dinner will begin at 19:30 pm and will include a buffet meal and a welcome drink. Other drinks are not included. The event will be an opportunity to meet and share experiences in a relaxed atmosphere. The restaurant is a short walk from the conference venue.

Price per person: 50€.

Place: Restaurant Sulo Puisto, Länsikatu 15, Joensuu Science Park

Please note that the restaurant only has limited capacity, so pre-registration on the website is essential.

8. Young Scholars Excellence Award 2024

The winner of this year's Young Scholars Excellence Award will be announced and receive their award at the opening ceremony.

9. Joensuu

Joensuu is the capital of the province of North Karelia in Eastern Finland with 75,000 inhabitants. Known for its young population owing to its two universities, it is a lively city with a lot to offer for the visitor to the Finnish lake region. It has several restaurants, cafés, and bars for evening entertainment.

More information can be obtained online:

<https://www.joensuu.fi/en/web/english>

<https://www.visitjoensuu.fi/en-FI>

10. Getting Around: Public Transportation and Taxis

All hotels are located in the centre of the town and a walk to the university takes about 15-20 minutes. Taxis are also available. Recommended taxi companies are:

Taksi Itä-Suomi: +358-601-10100

Taksi Menevä: +358-800-02120

There is a taxi rank on the eastern side of the market square in the centre of the town.

Joensuu Railway station is within walking distance from the city centre (10 minutes).

Joensuu Airport is situated about 11 kilometres from the city centre. JOJO line 6 operates between the city centre and the airport according to Joensuu-Helsinki timetables. The address of airport is Lentoasemantie 30. A public bus links the Joensuu Airport (JOE) with the town centre.

More information: <https://www.finavia.fi/en/airports/joensuu>

Line 6:

- operates the bus connection between Joensuu centrum and Joensuu Airport
- the service applies only to domestic flights on the route Joensuu–Helsinki.
- timetable: 70 minutes before takeoff from Asemankaari, platform 1 and 65 minutes before takeoff from Joensuu Centrum, Finnair stop, Koskikatu L.
- travel time 15 minutes.
- take off from airport to Joensuu centrum: about 10 minutes after flight arrival.
- the bus doesn't wait for late arriving aircraft longer than 45 minutes.
- prices: 5,00 €/adult, 2,50 €/child (7-16 years).
- way of payment: cash, credit card.
- please note that the line is usually operated with a minibus with limited seating capacity.

see:

<https://jojo.joensuu.fi/en/web/jojo-english/long-distance-public-transport?navref=paragraph>

11. WiFi/Internet

Participants can use Eduroam and UEF-open wireless networks. UEF-open is available for visitors and can be accessed without login. Eduroam requires a login with username@uef.fi .

12. Conference Abstracts

The Book of Conference Abstracts is available at the MESEA website www.mesea.org

13. Copy and Print

Please consult the front desk in the registration office (Agora Building).

