

BEYOND BOUNDARIES LECTURES

SIX OPEN LECTURES AS PART OF "BEYOND BOUNDARIES: EXPLORING THE CONCEPTS OF LIMINALITY AND ALTERITY"
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AND PHD COURSE 9-11 NOVEMBER 2011
AT AUDITORIUM E 0101 & NEDRE LYSTHUS (CENTRE FOR PEACE STUDIES), UIT

WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER. 18.30-19.45 AUD. E 0101

DR. KJELL OLSEN, FINNMARK UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

"HETEROGENEITY AND BOUNDARIES IN FINNMARK, NORTHERN NORWAY"

IN SPITE OF THE HETEROGENEITY AND THE LONG ENDURING HISTORICAL CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE NORTHERN SCANDINAVIA, MUCH SCHOLARLY WORK HAS PAID ATTENTION TO BOUNDARY MAKING PROCESSES. THIS MIGHT BE SAID TO BE THE CASE FOR THE NATIONAL BORDERS, BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS AS WELL AS INSIDE THE FRAMES OF ETHNIC GROUPS, AS WELL AS IN THE FIELD OF RELIGION. THE LECTURE ADDRESSES THE PREOCCUPATION WITH BOUNDARIES IN RESEARCH IN THE NORWEGIAN PART OF THIS REGION IN GENERAL AND FINNMARK IN PARTICULAR, AND EMPHASISE THAT THE SCHOLARLY VIEW OFTEN IS MATCHED BY SOME DISCOURSES IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

Kjell Olsen is associate professor in travel and media studies at the University College in Finnmark. His original fieldwork is in the ethnically mixed communities of Finnmark and Northern Norway. He has published extensively on indigeneity and identity politics in Northern Norway and is the author of the volume *Identities and Ethnicities in a Border Zone*.

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER. 10.30-11.45. NEDRE LYSTHUS.

PROFESSOR MARCUS BANKS, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

"RELOCATING THE IDENTITIES OF THE DEAD AND OTHER MISSING BODIES"

THE LECTURE OPENS WITH A DISCUSSION OF DAMIAN HIRST'S 1991 'DEAD SHARK' ARTWORK, ACTUALLY ENTITLED 'THE PHYSICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF DEATH IN THE MIND OF SOMEONE LIVING' IN ORDER TO CONSIDER THE RADICAL ALTERITY THE DEAD OFFER TO THE LIVING. THE PAPER THEN GOES ON TO CONSIDER THE WAYS IN WHICH THE LIVING SERVE TO (RE)ASSIGN IDENTITY TO THE DEAD IN FORENSIC CONTEXTS AND THE CONFLATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE IDENTITIES (SUCH AS ETHNICITY) THAT CHARACTERIZES SOME FORENSIC SCIENCE PRACTICE.

Marcus Banks is professor and the Director of the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Oxford. His original fieldwork was with Jains in India and their diaspora population in England. He is a specialist on visual methods in anthropology, author of the acclaimed volumes *Organizing Jainism in India and England*, *Ethnicity: Anthropological Constructions*, and *Visual Methods in Social Research*. He has been active in recent debates and resistance to neo-nationalism in Europe.

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER. 11.45-13.00. NEDRE LYSTHUS.

PROFESSOR PETER HERVIK, UNIVERSITY OF AALBORG.

"IF EVERYONE IS ETHNIC, WHO IS THE OTHER? A CRITICAL INQUIRY INTO THE ETHNICIZATION OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS, MIGRANTS AND NATIONS"

SOME ANTHROPOLOGISTS HAVE USED ETHNICITY TO REFER TO INDIGENOUS GROUPS LIKE THE SAMI AND THE MAYAN PEOPLE OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA; TO THE CORE OF THE NATION AS ETHNIC; AND TO MIGRANTS COMING TO AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE. OTHERS HAVE ARGUED THAT IF ETHNICITY IS TO HAVE ANALYTICAL CURRENCY, WE HAVE TO LIMIT THE USE OF ETHNICITY TO CERTAIN FEATURES SUCH AS ETHNIC GROUPS BEING MINORITIES AND SEEING ETHNICITY AS ARISING WITHIN UNEQUAL RELATIONS OF POWER. THE LECTURE ARGUES THAT ETHNICITY AS WELL AS DISCOURSES ON ETHNICITY ARE BEST APPROACHED THROUGH SOCIAL PRACTICE THEORY THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE LIVED, THE PRACTICAL AND THE REFLEXIVE ASPECTS AND ITS LARGER CONSTRAINTS THAT MAY LIE WELL BEYOND THE ACTUAL PRACTICE. TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS ARGUMENT I WILL DRAW FROM STUDIES OF THE YUCATEC MAYANS IN MEXICO AND ON POPULAR AND ACADEMIC APPROACHES TO MIGRANTS COMING INTO SCANDINAVIA.

Peter Hervik is associate professor of migration at Aalborg University. His original fieldwork was on the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico. He is a specialist on the construction of identity and author of *Mayan People Within and Beyond Boundaries* and the recent best-seller *The Annoying Difference: The Emergence of Danish Neonationalism, Neoracism, and Populism*.

**THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER. 13.45-15.00. NEDRE LYSTHUS.
PROFESSOR MANUEL AGUIRRE, UNIVERSITY OF MADRID.
“TOWARDS A POETICS OF THE LIMINAL IN GOTHIC TALES”**

THE TALK ARGUES THAT THE GOTHIC GENRE ENJOYED A LIMINAL STATUS IN BETWEEN FOLKLORE AND LITERATURE, AND EMPLOYED FORMAL STRATEGIES ANALOGOUS TO THE ‘ANTI-STRUCTURE’ DEVICES VICTOR TURNER DETECTED IN THE LIMINAL STAGE OF RITES OF PASSAGE. THESE STRATEGIES CAN BE ULTIMATELY TRACKED DOWN TO A SET OF ‘RULES’ SHAPING AND GOVERNING THE GENRE. THE TALK OUTLINES AND ILLUSTRATES FIVE SUCH RULES AND ARGUES THAT THEY SHAPE A *LIMINAL* POETICS.

Manuel Aguirre is Senior Lecturer in English Literature, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He is head of LIMEN Group for the investigation of liminality and literature and The Northanger Library Project (<http://www.northangerlibrary.com>). His books include *The Thresholds of the Tale: Liminality and the Structure of Fairytales*; with Roberta Quance & Philip Sutton *Margins and Thresholds: An Enquiry into the Concept of Liminality in Text Studies*; and *The Closed Space: Horror Literature and Western Symbolism*. He is also author of numerous articles in *Gothic Studies*, *Review of English Studies*, *Modern Language Review*, and *Mnemosyne*.

**FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER. 10.00-11.15. NEDRE LYSTHUS.
PROFESSOR JEAN H. DUFFY, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.
“NEITHER HERE NOR THERE:
LIMINALITY IN CONTEMPORARY FRENCH FICTION AND AUTOFICTION”**

THIS LECTURE OFFERS A SELECTIVE OVERVIEW OF CONTEMPORARY FRENCH FICTION AND AUTOFICTION AND TRACKS THE RECURRENCE OF THE MOTIF OF LIMINALITY ACROSS A CORPUS OF NOVELS AND *RÉCITS* WRITTEN BY A NUMBER OF AUTHORS WHO, IN MANY RESPECTS, CAN BE REGARDED AS THE LITERARY DESCENDANTS OF THE *NOUVEAU ROMAN*. STRIKING BY ITS RECURRENCE ACROSS THE CORPUS IS THE PREOCCUPATION WITH ISSUES RELATING TO SELFHOOD, WITH OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE ACQUISITION OF A SENSE OF SELF AND THE THREATS THAT CONSTANTLY JEOPARDISE IT.

Jean Duffy is Professor of French at the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests lie principally in twentieth and twenty-first-century French fiction and in word and image studies. She has published widely on the nouveau roman, on the relationship between literature and the visual arts and on the role of ritual in modern French narrative. Her books include *Reading Between the Lines: Claude Simon and the Visual Arts* (1998), *Signs and Designs: Art and Architecture in the Work of Michel Butor* (2003) and *Thresholds of Meaning: Passage, Ritual and Liminality in Contemporary French Narrative* (2011). She has also contributed scholarly editions of *La Bataille de Pharsale* and *Le Jardin des Plantes* to the Pléiade volume devoted to Claude Simon (2006).

**FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER. 11.30-12.45. NEDRE LYSTHUS.
PROFESSOR SISSEL LÆGREID, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN.
“THE PRESSURE OF EXPERIENCE FORCES LANGUAGE INTO POETRY:
ON HERTA MÜLLER’S POETICS OF BORDER CROSSINGS AND TRANSITIONS
BETWEEN AND WITHIN LIMINAL SPACES”**

THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR THIS LECTURE WILL BE THE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN HISTORIC EXPERIENCE AND AESTHETIC PRODUCTION, WHICH OFTEN CAN BE SEEN IN LITERATURE WRITTEN DURING OR IN THE WAKE AND REMEMBRANCE OF EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS WAR, DEPORTATION AND PERSECUTION BY OR IN TOTALITARIAN REGIMES. ALL OF WHICH IS PART OF HERTA MÜLLER’S PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCE AND IS REFLECTED NOT ONLY IN HER CHOICE OF THEMES AND MOTIFS BUT EVEN MORE SO IN HER CHOICE OF A POETOLOGICAL STRATEGY CONSTANTLY AND DELIBERATELY MOVING BEYOND THE SEMANTIC AND LOGICAL BOUNDARIES OF LANGUAGE.

Sissel Læg Reid is a professor of German Literature at the University of Bergen, where she is currently a co-leader of the interdisciplinary research group “The Borders of Europe”. Her recent publications and research projects are the aesthetics of exile, German-Jewish exile literature, Rumanian-German literature, cultural border meetings/hermeneutics and cultural dialogism, literature and psychoanalysis, and modernism/postmodernism.