

Workshop

Reconsidering Cosmopolitanism

Workshop with Helena Wulff and Ulf Hannerz

For Ph.D candidates, MA students and all interested parties

Offered by the Institute for Social Anthropology and the Center for Global Studies:

Prof. Dr. Sabine Strasser (sabine.strasser@anthro.unibe.ch), Prof. Dr. Thomas Späth (thomas.spaeth@cgs.unibe.ch)

When: Thursday, 24 October 2013, 10h-12h and 14h-16h
Friday, 25 October 2013, 10h-12h

Where: University of Bern, lecture room to be announced

Language: English

Requirements: Participants attend all three lectures
Mandatory reading
Active participation
Contribution of individual research results

ECTS: 1

Costs: Attendance is free of charge

Registration: until Thursday, 17 October 2013. Mail your registration to:
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Helena Wulff conducts research in the Anthropology of Communication and Aesthetics. Her research is based on a wide range of studies in the social worlds of literary production, dance, and the visual arts from a transnational perspective. She has taught at the University of Ulster, University of Vienna, National University of Singapore, and the University of Illinois. Her current research is on writing and literature as cultural process and form focussing on contemporary Irish writers.

Ulf Hannerz is Professor Emeritus at the University of Stockholm where he taught Social Anthropology from 1981 to 2007. He conducted field research in the United States, West Africa and the Caribbean. A project on the work of news media foreign correspondents led him to Jerusalem, Johannesburg and Tokyo. He is published in, among others, *Cultural Complexity* (1992), *Transnational Connections* (1996), *Foreign News* (2004). At present, he heads an interdisciplinary project on Cosmopolitanism.

Programm

Thursday, 24.10.13, 10h-12h: Helena Wulff, "Cosmopolitan Creativity"

Originally defined as divine inspiration in Western thought, the modern concept of creativity came about during the Renaissance. Since then creativity has primarily been associated with the making of novelty in art and literature by individuals, also in scientific work. Recently, creativity has made it into areas ranging from education to economics. The new designation "creative" refers to people

working in design and advertising. In this presentation, I will explore cosmopolitan creativity in relation to Irish contemporary writers. In response to the lingering Renaissance idea of the individual artist who creates on his (or her) own, I will argue that a writer's creativity does not spring up in isolation. Following Howard Becker's influential insight, all artists, writers included, are part of art worlds where not only the artists but a variety of people contribute to the production of art work. In Dublin's literary world, other writers, agents, publishers, and critics, as well as readers, are among these people who can be said to contribute to how literary texts are composed. Importantly, this literary world extends abroad as Irish writers publish in Britain and the United States, and spend time there, often on a regular basis teaching creative writing or Irish literature, or write their next novel. This is cultural cosmopolitanism in line with Hannerz' ideas about an intellectual and aesthetic openness towards the Other which entails a search for contrasts. It is in such cosmopolitan contrasts that the Irish writers' creativity is released.

Required Reading for Discussion:

Helena Wulff, "An Anthropological Perspective on Literary Arts in Ireland", in: Ulrich Kockel et al. (eds.), *A Companion to the Anthropology of Europe*, Chichester 2012, 537-550

Helena Wulff, "Steps on Screen: Technoscapes, visualization and Globalization in Dance", in: Christina Garsten et al. (eds.), *New Technologies at Work. People, Screens, and Social Virtuality*, Oxford 2003, 187-204.

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Thursday, 24.10.13, 14h-16h: Ulf Hannerz, "The Faces of Cosmopolitanism"

In the mid-1980s, I stumbled somewhat accidentally onto the notion of cosmopolitanism (at the time not in much academic use), began to explore it, and have since then returned to it in different contexts and periods. This presentation offers a retrospective view of my own involvements, and of general perspectives toward cosmopolitanism over some three decades. I delineate some major usages, and relate them to certain of my own research interests (globalization, neo-nationalism, urban life, news media foreign correspondents).

Required Reading for Discussion:

Ulf Hannerz, "Cosmopolitans and Locals in World Culture", in: id., *Transnational Connections*, London 1996, 102-111.

Ulf Hannerz, "Making the World Transparent", in: id., *Anthropology's World. Life in a Twenty-First-Century Discipline*, London 2010, 87-112.

Ulf Hannerz, "Afterthoughts: world watching", in: *Social Anthropology* 18/ 4, 2010, 448-453.

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Friday, 25.10.13, 10h-12h: "Cosmopolitanism, Globalisation and Transnationalism – and our Research"

Helena Wulff and Ulf Hannerz will jointly present results from the first two lectures, and respond to questions and concerns from participants.