



جامعة السلطان مولاي سليمان
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Université Sultan Moulay Slimane

The Research Laboratory on Literature, Language, Culture and Communication
Organizes
A
National Conference
On

Intercultural Issues in Anglo-American Thought and Literature

May 10-11, 2022
School of Arts and Humanities
Department of English
Beni-Mellal, Morocco.

“No culture has ever developed all human potentialities... Each culture is a system of values which may well complement the values in another” -- Ruth Benedict

Call for Papers

In the context of globalization, part of the roles of the intellectual is to reflect on various intercultural issues and contribute to the construction of intercultural dialogue amid a world fraught with fundamentalism, nationalism and ethnocentrism. Similarly, the various events, crises and pandemics that are shaking today’s world compel intellectuals more to consider the place of the intercultural variable in redressing the relationship of the local to the global and the Self to the Other.

Anglo-American thought and literature are undeniably fertile fields where vital questions on intercultural issues are often posed, answered, or remain unsettled and intriguing. Both disciplines encompass borrowings from different intellectual and aesthetic cultures and traditions. Although Anglo-American thought started from theology and scholasticism, and shifted to Empiricism, utilitarianism, secularism, analytic philosophy and pragmatism, it was rigorously involved in intercultural issues during the postmodern, postcolonial and contemporary eras. With philosophers of difference, new Marxists, postcolonial revisionists, critical race theorists, new historicists, and other thinkers, Anglo American thought and literature have unprecedentedly become interested in such intercultural issues as Orientalism,

Occidentalism, cultural and interfaith dialogue, clash of civilizations, xenophobia, ethnocentrism, Anglo-centrism, etc.

Likewise, through fiction, Anglo-American literature has always offered interesting insights on interactions and encounters between different cultures with various political, psychological, socio-economic and ethical implications. Underlying a plurality of migrant ethnicities, Anglo-American traditions also involve a multiplicity of gazes, social codes and cultural patterns, and thus connect us with values predicating different worldviews at the core of different cultures. Equally important, in the different genres including the novel, poetry, drama, travel narrative and captivity accounts, Anglo-American literature is cross-culturally informed on account of aesthetic borrowings and involvement in intertextuality.

Equally relevant to the interrogative scope of this national conference are the following questions:

Is there any such thing as pure Anglo-American thought and literature? How do Anglo-American thought and literature encounter and interact with alterities rooted in other cultures, religions, and worldviews? How do they represent difference? Do they tend to build constructive links beyond Anglo-centrism? What are the implications of interculturality in the body of Anglo-American thought and literature? Are there Anglo-American discourse avenues for turning cultural difference into viable intercultural routes enabling cultural dialogue? What are the impediments of the intercultural in the Anglo-American world? How are intercultural issues thematically and aesthetically assimilated in Anglo-American intellectual and literary traditions? Are these issues subjugated to any “universal” cultural paradigm? Are they held to celebrate the local or are they held to value the liminal? What are the methodological considerations to be taken in approaching intercultural contents? Can the theorizing of the Anglo-American intercultural stand free from reductionism and apriori value judgments? Is it through disciplinarity or interdisciplinarity that the intercultural can be systematically dealt with? Does high and low culture distinction affect research on the Anglo-American intercultural?

Besides the above questions, this national conference invites researchers to contribute to the following (but not limited to) axes all of which are focused on intercultural issues in Anglo-American thought and literature:

- Intercultural issues in different Anglo-American literary genres
- Intercultural preoccupations in Anglo-American intellectual trends
- Intercultural Connections with world thought and literature
- Contemporary intercultural ways of globalized life
- Acculturation and shifting cultural normativity
- Cultural Miscegenation and cultural creolization
- Mobility: Migration and reverse migration
- Diasporic identity, Hybridity and cultural cosmopolitanism
- Post-colonial and diasporic thought and Literature
- Politics of Anglo-American inter-culturalism
- Intercultural poetics and aesthetics
- Ethics of inter-culturalism: Difference, otherness, representation, tolerance etc.
- Theoretical and Methodological issues in the study of Anglo-American intercultural contents in literary criticism, cultural studies and the humanities

Things to consider:

- Participants are expected to give a twenty-minute presentation.
- The applicants are required to send abstracts no longer than 200 words with a short bio.
- The conference proceedings will be published with priority given to quality papers.
- Conference venue: School of Arts and Humanities, Beni Mellal, Morocco
- Accommodation: Information about hotels will be made available after acceptance notification.
- Emails to contact for submissions:

Dr. Hamid Masfour: h.masfour@usms.ma

Dr. Mohamed Handour: handourmohamed73@gmail.com

Important dates:

- Abstract submission deadline: March 13th, 2022.
- Notification of acceptance: March 17th, 2022
- Conference date: May 10-11, 2022.

Conference Coordinators:

Dr. Hamid Masfour

Dr. Mohamed Handour

Organizing Committee

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NB. The conference may turn to online proceedings depending on the pandemic situation.