

Arctic Discourses (Tromsø, 21-23 Feb 08)

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Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

"Arctic Discourses"

University of Tromsø, Norway

21.- 23. February 2008

Descriptions of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic provide a rich material produced both in the Arctic and in other parts of the world. The extent of this material has increased considerably since the Romantic period, hand in hand with the systematic scientific investigation of these regions. These descriptions will often correspond more or less to Arctic realities, but also constitute their own reality: the way in which the Arctic has been understood and imagined throughout history. Taken together, they make up a discourse on the Arctic, formed both by actual Arctic experiences and its own intertextual continuities- in addition to many other earlier and contemporaneous discourses, including the discourse of literature.

This conference will concentrate on Arctic discourses after Romanticism and up to the present day, using approaches to such discourses developed within literary studies. It will focus both on Arctic discourse in literary texts and literary discourse in non- literary descriptions of the Arctic. It will examine the development of Arctic discourses; the use of narrative, figurative and generic strategies in Arctic discourses; and the effect of changing communication technologies on Arctic discourses. It will also focus on contact zones between the European/American and the Arctic, and cultures which identify themselves as both Arctic and European/ American. Suggested themes for panels:

Romantic and post-romantic sublimes in Arctic discourses

Arcticism, Arctic counter-discourses and Arctic indigeneous literatures

Gendering the Arctic

Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine discourses

From exploration to sport: the history of Arctic discourse

Arctic travel writing

Borders and limits in Arctic discourses

Living between the Arctic and the European/American

Subject positions and identities in Arctic discourse

The Arctic in art and film

Changing conceptions of Northernness and Arcticity

Nature's discourses in the Arctic

Arctic metaphors in fiction and poetry

Approaching the Arctic with literary, cultural, and discourse analysis

Changing technologies, changing media, changing Arctic discourses

Genre and the circulation of signs in Arctic discourse

Embodying/textualizing the Arctic in postmodern novels and popular fictions

Narrative in Arctic expedition reports, travel writing and reportage

Please send abstracts for papers by 15 September 2007 to Silje Gaupseth (silje.gaupseth@hum.uit.no). The participation registration deadline will be 1 November 2007.

"Arctic Discourses 2008", Tromsø 21-23 February 2008, is part of the research programme of the Arktiske diskurser project, based at the University of Tromsø and funded by the University and The Research Council of Norway. For more information and updates on the conference, see <http://uit.no/humfak/arkdisk/>.

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