

## EUROPA ! EUROPA ? (Ghent, 29–31 May 08)

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First bi-annual conference of the European Network for Avant-Garde and Modernism Studies (EAM)

29-31 May 2008 - Ghent University, Belgium

With initiatives in the cross-disciplinary fields of avant-garde and modernism studies booming throughout European academia, time has come to provide a more permanent platform in Europe for scholars to meet and discuss their research. The European Network for Avant-Garde and Modernism Studies (EAM) will devote itself to the study of the avant-garde and modernism in Europe within a global setting, throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. EAM will promote interdisciplinary and intermedial research on experimental aesthetics and poetics, and aims to encourage an interest in the cultural dimensions and contexts of the avant-garde and modernism. EAM aspires to embrace the wide variety within avant-garde and modernism studies, and welcomes all scholars engaged in these areas of research to participate in its first bi-annual conference.

Europa ! Europa ? The first EAM conference will focus on the relation between the avant-garde, modernism and Europe. Conference proposals and papers can be composed in English, French or German. Confirmed key-note speakers include Charles Altieri (University of California, Berkeley), Astradur Eysteinnsson (University of Iceland, Reykjavik), William Marx (University of Orléans and University Institute of France) and Piotr Piotrowski (Mickiewicz University, Poznan - Poland).

Theme

EAM's first conference will focus on the relation between the avant-garde, modernism and Europe. Although we welcome panel, roundtable and paper proposals on any aspect of this relation, we are particularly interested in new research into three topics.

1. We seek to bring out the complexity of the European avant-garde and modernism by relating it to Europe's intricate history, multiculturalism and multilingualism. Transnational and cosmopolitan phenomena in many respects, the avant-garde and modernism are also entrenched in regional and national cultural contexts that determine their artistic production. Our pivotal

point of interest is just how these local contexts colour more general trends within the avant-garde and modernism. Is there a contrast between avant-gardes and modernisms from culturally central and peripheral regions in Europe? How have avant-garde and modernist non-Europeans, exiles and expats viewed Europe's avant-gardes and modernisms? Has the role of gender, class and other identity-related aspects tended to differ in the rise of various European avant-gardes and modernisms? To what extent has transnational travel determined the face of the avant-garde and modernism in Europe? Has the (belated) introduction of certain media and technologies led to differences in avant-garde and modernist artistic production throughout the continent? And has there ever been any particular European flavour to the avant-garde and modernism?

2. We wish to inquire into the divergent cultural views on Europe taking shape in avant-garde and modernist practices. We have come to accept that the heterogeneous use of the terms "avant-garde," "modernism" and their cognates mirror the continent's cultural and historical complexity. Yet to date research into how the avant-garde and modernism have dealt with "Europe" itself has remained dispersed, even though it is a truism that the European avant-garde and modernism have always tended to display an ambivalent attitude towards "Europe." What was the "old" Europe that avant-gardists and modernists rebelled against? Which cultural and philosophical stakes were invested in making Europe new or different? To what extent has the idea or cultural construction of Europe differed geographically and historically?

3. We aim to chart a composite image of the "other Europe(s)" that have emerged from the (contemporary) avant-garde and experimental modernism. As Anatol Stern's Polish avant-garde poetry book *Europa* (1925) reads, only by appeasing their "hunger with the / fatted / flesh of / Europe" artists can yield change. Like many avant-garde and modernist works, Stern's *Europa* draws on "Europe" as an (anthropomorphic) object that has to be digested first and then redesigned. What have these redesigns amounted to? Which works, techniques or facets of the avant-garde and modernism have been somewhat neglected, yet require proper attention to grasp the force of these movements in European culture and aesthetics? To what extent does the tension between avant-gardes and arrièr-gardes deserve scrutiny? Which other European communities have the avant-garde and modernism produced? Do avant-garde and modernist groups amount to an "other" or subaltern Europe themselves? And to what extent have medial and cross-medial issues tended to colour the "other Europe"?

Call for Papers

Languages

Conference proposals and papers can be composed in English, French or

German. Other languages will only be considered for panel presentations.

#### Call for Panel Proposals

(Deadline: 1 September 2007)

Panels feature 3 speakers who read 15-20 minute papers on a shared field of interest, followed by discussion. We encourage interdisciplinary proposals and discourage panels on single artists or authors. Panels composed of participants from a single department at a single institution are unlikely to be accepted. Panels are 70 minutes in length.

Panel proposals should contain the following information:

- (i) The panel's title and a 500-word abstract of the panel as a whole.
- (ii) The organiser(s)'s name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, and contact information (mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address).
- (iii) The chair's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, and contact information. If you do not identify a chair, we will assign one. Please note that the chair should not be included under (iv).
- (iv) The names, institutional affiliations, disciplines, positions or titles, and contact information of the 3 speakers.
- (v) A brief (2-3 sentences) academic biography of each panel member.

Please be so kind as to send us this information in the order given here. Send proposals to: [eam-europe@ugent.be](mailto:eam-europe@ugent.be). Upon acceptance, speakers will be contacted individually to provide 200-word abstracts.

#### Call for Roundtable Proposals

(Deadline: 1 September 2007)

Roundtables offer scholars an opportunity to discuss a well-defined topic of common interest. A maximum of 6 participants write brief "position papers" (4 pages) that are read and circulated before the conference. During the roundtable participants briefly present position statements, after which a discussion between participants (and the audience) takes place. The main aim of roundtables is to help create networks and collective publication projects. We welcome roundtables featuring participants from multiple disciplines, and discourage roundtables on single authors or artists. Roundtables composed of participants from a single department at a single institution are unlikely to be accepted. Roundtables are 70 minutes in length. The programme will not list paper titles, only the participants' names.

Roundtable-proposals should contain the following information:

- (i) The roundtable's proposed title and a 500-word description of the roundtable's topic and rationale.
- (ii) The organiser's name, a one page curriculum vitae, and contact information (mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address).
- (iii) The moderator's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, and contact information. If you do not identify a moderator, we will assign one. Please note that the moderator should not be included under (iv).
- (iv) The names, institutional affiliations, disciplines, positions or titles, and contact information of at least 5 (and maximum 6) debaters who will participate in the roundtable.

Please be so kind as to send us this information in the order given here. If you are planning a collective publication or anthology on the proposed topic, please mention so. Send proposals to: [eam-europe@ugent.be](mailto:eam-europe@ugent.be).

#### Call for Papers

(Deadline: 1 October 2007)

This call's deadline is set at a later date because we give preference to collaborative proposals (roundtables and panels). Scholars who wish to propose individual papers are advised to check the conference website in summer 2007 for more information on submissions.

For further information please see <http://www.eam-europe.ugent.be/>

#### Reference:

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