

## International Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

Re-Thinking Humanities and Social Sciences

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference

September 1 – 4, 2011.

University of Zadar

Keynote speaker: Professor Edward Soja, University of California, Los Angeles

### **The Zone and Zones - Radical Spatiality in our Times**

Recent works throughout the fields of literary and cultural studies, sociology, political science, anthropology, human geography, history, film and art history, to name just the most prominent, have chosen research agendas which reflect a spatial orientation, one which testifies to the (re)emergence of space as being of immense significance to the understanding of the phenomenon of our world. This interest is reflected in diverse conceptual perspectives: heterotopia, rhizome, Third space, hyperreal, time-space compression, placelessness, non-place, contact-zone.... For some there has been too much spatialization which even heralds the end of temporality, including various ends of everything (from the end of history and art to the end of any stable identities). In the end one wonders is there anything left outside of space - or, rather is there anything left in the space that can gesture towards different alternatives, alterities...?

Drawing on Brian McHale's concept of zone we would like to discuss these questions on possible spatial alternatives and alterities. The zone originates in a new hellish simultaneity of WW1 and technological explosions bringing different, incoherent entities in a new, surrealistic proximity, like Apollinaire's zones, where different parts of Paris intermingle with different parts of the world. McHale expands the notion of zones to postmodern fiction, as compendiums of parallel unrealized worlds, parallaxes, places of haunting, whirlpools of consumption and so on. All of these zones signal, more or less, a kind of ontological insecurity encapsulated in Foucault's term heterotopia - "the impossible space in which fragments of disparate discursive orders are merely juxtaposed, without any attempt to reduce them to a common order". We propose to expand McHale's reading of the postmodern experience and different zones by exploring various concepts of space – like hyperreal, a rhizome, a symptom and extimacy, a non-place, Third space ... and so on. Therefore, we picture the conference exploring various ZONES and traversing a variety of theoretical concepts, bringing together scholars of diverse backgrounds and interests.

Possible topics include:

- The zone as a specific locality (local/global, suburbs as zones, tourist zones...)
- The zone as a supplement to 'the Whole' (world system, urban space...)
- The war zones, urban zones, the zones-within-zones, private zones (private matrixes, virtual worlds...)
- The zone as a non-place (shopping malls, airports, motorways...)
- The military zones (ghettos, occupied territories, frontiers, borders...)
- Concentration camps and asylum centers (the zone as spatialised state of exception)
- Gothic and fantastic spaces/zones
- Contact-zones (museums, borderlands... )

- Radical zone as Third space, created and populated by the marginalized
- The zone as a symptom (the zone may be viewed as a particular spatial entity that subverts its broader foundation, its own genius...)
- The Zone as the site of political struggle
- Zones and the construction of identity
- The history of spaces/zones
- Virtual zones (games...)
- Etc.

The conference will take place from September 1 – 4, 2011 at the University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia

Keynote speaker:

Professor Edward Soja, University of California, Los Angeles

Proposals are invited from scholars from different fields and disciplines of humanities and social sciences for individual papers (30 minutes including discussion time).

Please send proposals (no more than 300 words in length) to [rhss.conference@gmail.com](mailto:rhss.conference@gmail.com) by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. Selected conference papers will be published online.

Abstracts should be in Word or RTF formats and include the following: a) author(s), b) affiliation, c) e-mail address, d) title of abstract, e) body of abstract. Please use plain text (Times New Roman 12, Single Spacing, Justify) and abstain from using any special formatting, characters or emphasis (such as bold, italics or underline).

E-mails should be entitled: The Zone and Zones – Proposal

We acknowledge receipt and reply to all proposals submitted. If you do not receive a reply from us within a week from your submission, you should assume we did not receive your proposal; in that case we suggest trying an alternative electronic route or resending.

The conference language is English.

Registration:

Conference fee is 80 Euros. Graduate students' fee is 40 Euros.

Late registration fee is 100 Euros i.e. 50 Euros for graduate students.

Dates:

Proposal submission deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Registration deadline for all conference participants is July 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Final conference announcement and the program will be published on 15 August 2011 on the conference website: <http://www.rhss-conference.com>

Additional Information:

The conference will take place at the University of Zadar ([www.unizd.hr](http://www.unizd.hr)), Croatia. Additional information about travel arrangements, accommodation, and other practical details will be posted soon on the conference website: <http://www.rhss-conference.com>

Or you can contact the organizers directly at [rhss.conference@gmail.com](mailto:rhss.conference@gmail.com)