



*Body and Awareness.
The Discourse between Anthropology,
Literature and the Arts.*

Call for Papers

The conference would like to establish a forum for debate and dialogue on current theory, practice and form of anthropological, literary and artistic work in social and cultural conceptualizations of body and awareness. We invite papers from all disciplines, which present theoretical and historical study on the overall topic: *Body and Awareness. The Discourse between Anthropology, Literature and the Arts.*

Following the trace of Czordas' anthropology of embodiment and Nancy's theory of "writing the body," intending to elaborate further on the discourse of semiotics (intertextuality) and phenomenology (intersubjectivity), we would like to include **awareness** as a phenomenon which we consider pivotal in understanding and deconstructing the common dualities of body and mind, body and self etc.

On the level of discourse we challenge the current crisis in representation to the point of encounter of anthropology with literature and art, and look for ways of 'incorporating' awareness/embodiment in cultural theory, stretching between archive and vision, confinement and transgression, and searching into the *human condition* of embodied awareness.

In such a context, 'body' becomes both agent and receiver of processes of awareness, while 'awareness' remains the witness of both bodily and conscious epistemological and practical acts. Embodiment as lived experience is a cultural phenomenon which can neither be perceived as equivocal with 'person' nor as clearly distinct.

Apart from reframing theoretical presumptions about embodiment as *being-in-the-world*, we want to discuss various modalities of its appearance in the stream of life – from biological, individual, social, political, cultural, narrative and performing formations of the lived body to the ultimately dead body in its social encounters and artistic anticipations.

Crucial questions will be raised: Are we in intercultural situations embodied in the same way as on our cultural home-ground? Does every transnational experience require new embodiment? How does an impulse of embodiment shape contemporary world literature and art? To look for answers we welcome studies which challenge any given concept and idea of body, awareness and embodiment on the levels of human experience, reflection and imagination, in writing, arts and rituals, historically and contemporary, and within social groups as well as individual lives. The impact of rapid global changes forces us into new ways of thinking in the search for meaningful orientations and solutions of emerging problems, locally and worldwide.

Date and Venue

25-27 May 2012, University of Zadar, New Campus (Novi kampus), dr. Franje Tuđmana 24 i

Organizing Committee

Snježana Zorić, University of Zadar, Croatia
Gert Hofmann, University College Cork, Ireland
Mario Katić, University of Zadar, Croatia

Key Speakers

Frank Chamberlain, University College Cork, Ireland
Klaus-Peter Köpping, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Submission Details

Abstracts (up to 350-words in Word doc.), should be sent to the conference E-mail address (boaazd@gmail.com), Snježana Zorić (szoric@unizd.hr) or Gert Hofmann (g.hofmann@ucc.ie) by *15th March 2012*. Please include short biography, contact details and institutional affiliation.

You will be informed about acceptance or non-acceptance of your proposal by *23rd March 2012*.

Conference participation fees

Participation fee is – € 100

Participation fee for PhD and postdoctoral research students is – € 50.

The participation fee includes all symposium proceedings, daytime refreshments and two excursions into the Velebit Mountains where we are going to see *mirila* (a unique funeral custom) and to the old castle of Benkovac in Zadar hinterland.

Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the conference fee. Further information is available on the conference website www.bodyandawareness.info

Enquiries

For queries regarding academic issues please contact either Snježana Zorić (szoric@unizd.hr or tyti28@gmail.com) or Gert Hofmann (g.hofmann@ucc.ie).

Queries about organizational issues may be addressed to Mario Katić (makatic@unizd.hr)

All information will be regularly updated on www.bodyandawareness.info

We look forward to seeing you in Zadar in May 2012.