

Life writing, the recording of selves, memories and experiences can hardly be thought without its connection to space. Who we are, how we narrate ourselves depends on our ability, our desire or failure to locate our identity in the places that surround us. As such, spaces and selves are interdependent. Selves are partly constituted through the spaces they live in and our understanding of subjectivity tends to draw on spatial metaphors. At the same time individuals produce specific spaces through their spatial practices, through the use they make of them and the meaning they attribute to them.

This conference focuses on the relationship between physical and mental spaces in life writing and their impact on the formation of the self. We link this question to the spatial turn in the humanities and the currency of constructivist concepts of space.

Topics for discussion are: the geographies and topographies of life stories; the significance of journeys and movement between places for self-formation; the grounding or uprooting of the self in terms of place (homelands, displacements etc); the role of memory and the interplay of present and absent places; imagined spaces as substitutes for absent and lost places.

ORGANISED BY:

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN,
INSTITUT FÜR ANGLISTIK UND AMERIKANISTIK
KING'S COLLEGE LONDON,
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AND CENTRE FOR LIFE-
WRITING RESEARCH

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THINKING SPACE

EXPLORATIONS THROUGH LIFE WRITING

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
2 NOV // 3 NOV 2012
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

INSTITUT FÜR ANGLISTIK UND AMERIKANISTIK
DOROTHEENSTRASSE 24
R 1.601 // 1.501



FRIDAY, 2 NOV
DOR 24 // R. 1.601

14:00 OPENING ADDRESS:
HELGA SCHWALM

DEAN OF THE PHILOSOPHY FACULTY II
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

INTRODUCTION:

EVELINE KILIAN HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

14:30 PLENARY 1

ANDREW THACKER DE MONFORT UNIVERSITY
'WHY, BERLIN, MUST I LOVE YOU SO?' LOST
CITIES AND FOUND LIVES IN MODERNISM

CHAIR: HOPE WOLF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

15:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 PANEL 1

NEIL VICKERS KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
HOUSES IN HILARY MANTEL'S *GIVING UP THE
GHOST*

EVELINE KILIAN HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
'THE MYSTERY-MAGIC OF FOREIGNNESS'
CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD'S SENSE OF
PLACE

CHAIR: WOLFRAM KELLER
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

17:00 PLENARY 2

JAMES ATTLEE OXFORD
THE COLUMBUS OF THE NEAR-AT-HAND: THE
AUTHOR AS TRAVELLER THROUGH THE
EVERYDAY

CHAIR: LARA FEIGEL KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

20:00 DINNER

SATURDAY, 3 NOV
DOR 24 // R. 1.501

10:00 COFFEE

10:30 PLENARY 3

ELIZABETH JONES UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
POSTCOLONIAL LITERARY CARTOGRAPHY:
WRITING THE SELF IN CONTEMPORARY
ALGERIA

CHAIR: JULIA SCHOEN
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

11:30 PANEL 2

BRIAN GREENHILL
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
IMAGINED/ABSENT SPACES IN ANTJIE
KROG'S *COUNTRY OF MY SKULL*

JULIA LAJTA-NOVAK UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
SPACE IN FICTIONALISED BIOGRAPHIES OF
HISTORICAL WOMEN ARTISTS

CHAIR: CLARE BRANT KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

12:30 LUNCH

SATURDAY, 3 NOV
DOR 24 // R. 1.501

14:30 PANEL 3

ALEXANDRA WAGNER & MARTIN KLEPPER
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

SPACE, CRISIS AND LIFE WRITING DURING
THE DEPRESSION

WILHELM HEMECKER & THOMAS HEINRICH
LUDWIG BOLTZMANN INSTITUTE VIENNA

HUGO VON HOFMANNSTHAL: ORTE. WRITING A
TOPOGRAPHICAL BIOGRAPHY

CHAIR: KATHRIN TORDASI
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

16:00 COFFEE

16:30 FINAL DISCUSSION

CHAIRS:
EVELINE KILIAN HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
LARA FEIGEL KING'S COLLEGE LONDON