The Conference

This interdisciplinary conference focuses on traveling as an embodied cultural practice, arguing that in particular the experience of the sensual body ("Leib") can be seen as a medium for the communication and negotiation of social norms and values. Hence, individual papers will analyze body discourses as they become visible in textual, visual, and audiovisual as well as in performative negotiations, representations and performances of traveling. In addition, this conference aims at discussing practices of mobility and perception, images and metaphors of traveling bodies (e.g. gendering space in the context of orientalism and colonialism), the performance of 'the body' (own vs. other) as well as culturally specific body practices and how they challenge traditional notions about embodiment. Of special significance are representations of the obstinate or 'ill-functioning' body (e.g. the 'resistant' body, the power of the body over mind, bodily functions and control, discourses on health and hygiene), and limits and delimitations of body experience while traveling (e.g. norms and regulations, spatial experiences, thresholds, and borders; (technological) body enhancement while abroad/on the road).

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Zoe Kinsley (Liverpool Hope University, UK)
Tim Youngs (Nottingham Trent University, UK)

Organizers

University of Koblenz-Landau
Department of English:
Prof. Dr. Nicole Maruo-Schröder
Dr. Sarah Schäfer-Althaus

Department of German:
Prof. Dr. Uta Schaffers

Venue

University of Koblenz-Landau
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Sponsors

- Forschungsfond der Universität Koblenz-Landau
- Referat für Internationale Zusammenarbeit der Universität Koblenz-Landau
Thursday, July 5, 2018

16.30  Conference Opening  Welcome & Introduction  
Nicole Maruo-Schröder, Uta Schaffers & Sarah Schäfer-Althaus

17.00  Keynote  "The Sound of Travel: The Journey and the Ear"  
Tim Youngs  (Nottingham Trent University, UK)  
Chair: Nicole Maruo-Schröder

19.00  Conference Dinner

Friday, July 6, 2018

09.00  Get-Together

09.30  Keynote  "Mobility and Stasis in British Coastal Tours: 'The Unequal Condition of Men'"  
Zoe Kinsley  (Liverpool Hope University, UK)  
Chair: Elizabeth Zold

10.30  Coffee Break

11.00  Panel 1: “Consuming Bodies”  
“Ruling Bodies on the Move: Traveling Daimyō in Edo-Period Japan”  
Andreas Niehaus  (Universiteit Gent, Belgium)  
“Sexual Topographies: (De)Eroticizing Women’s Bodies in The New Descriptions of Merryland (1741)”  
Sarah Schäfer-Althaus  (University of Koblenz-Landau)  
“Becoming ‘the Other’ While Eating? Anthropophagy in Travel Texts”  
Uta Schaffers  (University of Koblenz-Landau)  
Chair: Michael Meyer

12.30  Lunch Break

14.00  Panel 2: “Other(ed) Bodies”  
“Going Undercover? Female Bodies and Clothes under Scrutiny in Travel Literature”  
Sofie Decock  (Universiteit Gent, Belgium)  
“I breathe free...’: (De)Civilized Bodies on the Frontier”  
Nicole Maruo-Schröder  (University of Koblenz-Landau)  
Chair: Uta Schaffers

15.00  Coffee Break

15:30  Panel 3: “Motherhood and Travel”  
“Women on the Move: Embodied Motherhood in Wollstonecraft’s Letters”  
Elizabeth Zold  (Winona State University, USA)  
“Mary Wollstonecraft: M/Othering Scandinavia”  
Michael Meyer  (University of Koblenz-Landau)  
Chair: Sarah Schäfer-Althaus

16.30  Poetry Reading  
Tim Youngs  (Nottingham Trent University, UK)  
Chair: Michael Meyer

17.00  End of Conference

19.00  Conference Dinner