

Symposium & Graduiertenkolleg

## Transcultural Mediations: European Heritage and Identity Discourses in the long 20th Century



June 2, 2017, 1pm - 6:30pm

Location: Belle van Zuylenzaal, Universiteit van Amsterdam-UB, Singel 425

Throughout the rapturous twentieth century in Europa, poets, writers, artists and scholars have functioned as (un)intentional mediators in processes of conflict-resolution, reconciliation and mutual understanding, crossing, questioning and bridging the political and cultural gaps between East and West. They were constantly engaged in renegotiating national and transnational (thus indeed European) identities and memories of a continent in upheaval. The significance of these transcultural mediations in literature, art and academia remains underexplored to this day. The *Graduiertenkolleg* brings together scholars from various countries and academic disciplines to explore such discourses – in and beyond art from the 1900s to the early 2000s with a particular focus on the often truly transnational resp. transcultural biographies and (artistic) imaginations of the mediators themselves (i.e. writers, scholars, translators, activists). The projects discussed reconstruct cases of intentional and unintentional mediation and cross-cultural representations of European avant-garde and modernism movements from the pre-WWI era to the present – an era in which globalized and digitalized discourses are currently change and challenging European national, transnational and transcultural mappings and imaginations in unforeseen ways.

### Program:

**1:15 pm: Welcome: Ton Nijhuis & Christina Morina (DIA)**

**1:30-3 pm Section 1: Transculturality and Transnationality – Theoretical Considerations**

Nicole Colin (UvA/Aix-en-Provence): Vom Elfenbein- in den Leuchtturm? Möglichkeiten und Grenzen von "Austausch und Verständigung" in der Auswärtigen Kulturpolitik

Marjet Brolsma (UvA). Dirk Coster and the European Struggle against the Betrayal of the Intellectuals

Commentary: Christian Noack (ARTES, UvA)

**Coffee break**

**3:30 -5 pm Section 2: Literary Manifestations of Transcultural Memory and Exchange – Case Studies**

George Grabowicz (Harvard University, USA). *Projecting and Counseling Modernism*

Tetiana Mykhalchuk (UvA/DIA): *Transcultural Exchange and Mediation of Unintentional Reconciliation: Examples from German, Dutch and Ukrainian Literature*

Tim Gerven (UvA). *Imagining Scandinavia – A long 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Perspective*

Moderation: Benjamin Hirschfeld (DIA)

**5:15-6:30 pm Section 3: Transculturality, Mediation and European Values – Interdisciplinary Perspectives**

Michael Wintle (Huizinga Institute, UvA). *Fluctuating Self-images of Europe around Time of the First World War: Examples from Architecture and the Visual Arts*

Christie Miedema (Utrecht). *Clashing Worldviews? Amnesty International Crossing the Iron Curtain 1973-1983*

Vitaliy Proshak (NIOD). *Transculturality of Human Rights: Legal Thought in Europe (case study on France, Germany, and the Netherlands) (working title)*

Moderation: Hanco Jürgens (DIA)

**6:30 pm Drinks & End**