



Call for Papers

“New Hybridities: Societies and Cultures in Transition”

**An International Conference of the Graduiertenkolleg Postcolonial Studies LMU
Munich Kloster Seeon, July 22-24, 2004.**

“New Hybridities: Societies and Cultures in Transition” is the third annual conference of the Graduiertenkolleg Postcolonial Studies at the University of Munich, taking place on July 22-24, 2004 at Kloster Seeon located between Munich and Salzburg.

Hybridity, acknowledged as one of the key terms in postcolonial theory, most usually refers to ‘the creation of new transcultural forms from within the contact zone produced by colonization’ (Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin 1998: 118). For theorists such as *Homi Bhabha* cultural hybridity posits a viable alternative to the ‘exoticism of multiculturalism’, and opens the way toward ‘conceptualizing a [genuinely] international culture’ (Bhabha 1994: 38). The term, however, remains disputed. *Robert Young* has pointed out hybridity’s racist legacy, while *Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak* has warned against the kinds of ‘hybridist triumphalism’ that celebrate the catch-all concept of ‘cultural difference’ without engaging sufficiently with specific cultural differences, or that are given to utopian visions of global transcultural communities despite the obvious fact that enduring racial prejudices, cultural biases and social hierarchies, all of which persist throughout much of the contemporary world, have yet to be overcome (Young 1995; Spivak 1999).

The conference focuses on questions such as:

- What are the potentials and pitfalls of the concept of hybridity?
- How have the evolving discourses of hybridity that initially emerged out of decolonization been transformed by current conditions of globalization?
- What are the meanings of hybridity in different social, cultural, political, economic, historical, literary and linguistic contexts?
- What tensions have emerged between discourses of hybridity in the different academic disciplines, especially in contemporary postcolonial studies?

All theoretical and empirical contributions in the spirit of the questions above are welcome. The conference aims at encouraging interaction between graduate students with works in progress and interested experts from various areas of Postcolonial Studies. Submissions are welcome from Area Studies, Arts, Economics, Gender & Sexualities Studies, Historiography, Linguistics, Literary Studies, Media Studies, Political Sciences, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Sociology, and all other disciplines interested in issues of colonization, culture, and contact.

Abstracts of 250-300 words for 15-20 minute papers should be sent by May, 1, 2004 to:

Graduiertenkolleg Postcolonial Studies
Institut für Völkerkunde und Afrikanistik
Oettingenstrasse 67
D-80538 Munich
graduierenkolleg@anglistik.uni-muenchen.de
<http://www.vwl.uni-muenchen.de/postcolonialstudies>

Works Cited:

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (1998), *Key Concepts in Postcolonial Studies*, London: Routledge.

Bhabha, Homi (1994), *The Location of Culture*. London: Routledge.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty (1999), *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Toward a History of the Vanishing Present*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Young, Robert (1995), *Colonial Desire: Hybridity in Theory, Culture and Race*. London: Routledge.