

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Monika Pietrzak-Franger
Thema	Narrating the (Post)colonial Metropolis 1800-2010 [AA-V3a/b, ENG-12, AA-MA3, AA-MA4, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-547
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In the 19th century, cities such as London emerged as turbulent icons of a new urban modernity, quite parallel to the way in which contemporary megacities in Asia have been seen as icons of globalized 21st-century culture. In Victorian Britain, as classic studies (Briggs 1963) have made clear, pressures on cities mounted in the wake of overcrowding, displacement and massive migration as well as a “sharp break” with industrial techniques and work organization of the past (Briggs 1963, 18). On the surface, the problems actually seem quite similar to contemporary postcolonial megacities: ghettos, housing, sanitation, transport, crime, prostitution and dealing with sprawling expansion and fragmentation (Walkowitz 1992). Even the metaphors applied to Victorian urban expansion (Nead 2000) recur in contemporary discourses, for instance when Ulrich Beck describes Asian megacities as the “Babylonian heart of world society”. On the other hand, the actual challenges are quite different: e.g. ethnic diversity has sharply increased as a consequence of globalization. Processes of suburbanization facilitated by new mobilities have intensified, reflected in neologisms such as métapolis (Ascher 1995), arrival city (Saunders 2013), exurbs, edge cities, or edgelands (Farley and Roberts 2012).

In this seminar, students will be offered a stereoscopic view of London, Sydney, Mumbai (Bombay), and other metropolises and their transformations during colonization and in its aftermath. They will encounter a number of ways in which these cities have been narrated. We will reference and analyze some of the following novels, films, plays, etc.: Kwame Kwei-Armah's, *Elmina's Kitchen* (2003), Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008), Katherine Boo's *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* (2012), Alan Moore's *V for Vendetta* (1982-1989). Students will also be offered a range of theoretical approaches to interpreting the spaces and narratives of urbanization in the context of colonization and its aftermath.

The required readings and viewings will be announced during the first session.

Recommended Reading:

- Ball, John. *Imagining London. Postcolonial Fiction and the Transnational Metropolis*. Toronto et al.: University of Toronto Press, 2004.
- Beaumont, Matthew and Gregory Dart. *Restless Cities*. London and New York: Verso, 2010.
- Briggs, Asa. *Victorian Cities*. London: Odhams Press, 1963.
- de Certeau, Michel. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Trans. Steven Rendall. Berkley: U of California P, 1984.

- Foucault, Michel. "Of Other Spaces, Heterotopias." *Architecture, Movement, Continuité* 5(1984): 46-49.
- Lefebvre, Henri. *The Production of Space*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.
- McLeod, John. *Postcolonial London. Rewriting the Metropolis*. London, New York: Routledge, 2004.
- Nead, Lynda. *Victorian Babylon: People, Streets and Images in Nineteenth-Century London*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2000.
- Pleßke, Nora. *The Intelligible Metropolis. Urban Mentality in Contemporary London Novels*. Bielefeld: Transcript, 2014.
- Sandhu, Sukhdev. *London Calling. How Black and Asian Writers Imagined a City*. London: Collins, 2013.
- Walkowitz, Judith. *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Danger in Late-Victorian London*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1992.
- Wolfreys, Julian. *Dickens's London: Perception, Subjectivity and Phenomenal Urban Multiplicity*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2012.