

Call for papers

**“No more Borders!
Hybrid identities and transnational literature between East and West.”**

Student conference
Hamburg, Germany
University of Hamburg

July 20th – 22nd 2017.

Contact: islav_studierendenkonferenz2017.slm@uni-hamburg.de

People from many different countries and nationalities live and work in Germany, many of them come from Eastern Europe. But what does Eastern Europe exactly mean? Where does Eastern Europe begin and end geographically? How does it represent itself culturally in a pan-European context? How is it defined in a historical context?

In a modern global-orientated Europe, where borders practically don't exist, is nothing exceptional anymore about e.g. a Croatian working in Ukraine but living in Poland.

Many writers, musicians, filmmakers and other creative artists refuse to associate themselves with one country and one country only. This does not mean that they are denying their cultural roots, on the contrary they remain loyal to their old cultures while claiming a new for themselves and thus create new hybrid identities, which move between linguistic, cultural and social borders. Not all of these (e)migrations were and are voluntary. The history of 20th Century Europe and the dominance of authoritarian regimes in Poland, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia forced a great number of people to seek refuge in the west. Having a newfound freedom in exile, they started to reflect on their abandoned home in a creative way. Many artists and writers with a migratory or transnational background work on and with their family histories and genealogies in order to write an individual version of a greater history of migration and movement in 20th Century Europe. The Polish-born Manuela Gretkowska wrote novels and stories and even screenplays while living in France and Sweden. The once Italian-based Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky made a semi-autobiographical film about longing for the homeland. The Bosnian author Saša Stanišić, who came as a war refugee to Germany addresses a bygone childhood in an extinct place.

The objective of the conference is to analyze life and work of transnational creative artists. Following topics can serve as examples:

- Analysis of transnational literary biographies considering the example of chosen authors (“Literature without permanent residency”) e.g. Katja Petrowskaja
- Discussion of theories e.g. “The Third Space” by Homi Bhabha or “The role of migrant-authors” by Maxim Biller
- Multilingual texts and consequential problems of translation
- Transnationality as a critical concept for reading literary texts
- (Un-)Voluntary return to homelands e.g. the Polish musician Czesław Śpiewa

Proposal and presentation guidelines:

Conference languages are German and English.

Individual paper proposals can be send per **EMAIL** (islav_studierendenkonferenz2017.slm@uni-hamburg.de) including the following information:

- Personal information (name of the author, university, field of study, semester, language of presentation and contact information)
- Title of the proposed presentation
- Abstract (approx. 2.000 characters)
- Proposal submission deadline is **March 31st 2017**

Presentations should be timed 20 minutes plus an additional 10 minutes discussion at the end of each presentation.

Participants may apply for travelling allowance. Accommodation is not provided but the organizer will assist in finding accommodation in Hamburg.

Selected papers will be published in a conference reader.

The conference is organized by students of the Institute for Slavic Studies at Hamburg University as part of the project “Go East – Go West! Transnational and translingual identities between Germany and Central/Eastern Europe” funded by the Claussen-Simon-Stiftung.

