



Spaces of Comparison:

Welsh Writing in English in Comparative Contexts

Association of Welsh Writing in English (AWWE)
Annual Conference 27th-29th March 2009
Gregynog Hall, Newtown

Keynote Speakers

Marc Shell, Harvard University

Susan Manning, Edinburgh University

Peter Lord, Swansea University

In recent years 'postnationalism', 'transnationalism' and the 'transatlantic' have become influential paradigms in a variety of academic fields. This conference aims to explore the applicability of these concepts to Welsh writing in English. Is it time that we moved beyond the ideological and political requirements of the nation state? Or does 'Wales' remain a politically fragile entity that needs to be continually reimagined and reinforced by literary texts? What other peoples, nations and literatures may shed light on the histories and literatures of the Welsh people? In addressing such questions we seek papers that place Welsh Writing within European, Transatlantic, colonial, postcolonial and global contexts, and encourage papers that consider Welsh writers from a comparative perspective.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited on any aspect of the theme **Spaces of Comparison: Welsh Writing in English in Comparative Contexts**. Both short papers (c. 20 minutes) or longer ones (c. 50 minutes) will be considered; a brief abstract should be submitted to the organizer for consideration by the deadline of **January 14th, 2009**.

Organizer: Dr. Daniel Williams, CREW, Department of English, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP. daniel.g.williams@swansea.ac.uk

Possible topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Celtic comparisons: Ireland, Scotland, Brittany.
- Welsh Writing in English in relation to English literature in England
- Welsh writing in English and Breton writing in French and other cases of a 'minority' literature in a 'majority' language.
- Wales and India – from William Jones through Alun Lewis to Desmond Barry
- Wales and the United States.
- Ethnic Modernisms in Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Harlem, Scandinavia etc.
- Comparative approaches to Gender, Ethnicity or Nationalism
- The making of Black Welsh, or Afro-Welsh, identities.
- The concept of diaspora.
- Marxisms / Nationalisms / Feminisms / Religious Traditions.
- Translation.
- Comparisons across genres: literature in relation to music, art, architecture.
- Theoretical papers exploring the validity of comparative and transatlantic models in relation to minority literary studies.

<http://www.swan.ac.uk/english/crew/awwe/conference2009.html>