



Minor Cosmopolitanisms:

International Summer School at the University Potsdam, 9-13 July 2012

Date and place: 9-13 July 2012, University of Potsdam

Deadline for applications: 29 February 2012

Convenors: Prof. Dr. Lars Eckstein, Prof. Dr. Anja Schwarz, Prof. Dr. Dirk Wiemann

<http://minorcosmopolitanisms.wordpress.com>

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The concept of 'cosmopolitanism' brings to mind ideas of world travel, polyglotism and the simultaneous attachment to multiple places, as well as notions of hospitality, human rights and the love of mankind. Apart from such generalizations however, there has never been much agreement about what exactly is to be counted as 'cosmopolitan'. While some critics have discussed cosmopolitanism as a particular and distinguished mindset shared by the elites of globalization, others have taken the term to denote a supra-national, governmental principal and universal right that pertains to everybody on the planet. And while for some cosmopolitanism is a philanthropic and humanitarian ideal (that often has a hidden neocolonial or imperial agenda), for others it does nothing but describe the material reality of global modernity.

What most of these characterizations share despite their heterogeneity, however, is their emergence in the context of a European Modernity steeped in the tradition of the autonomous subject and deeply entangled with notions of imperialism. Contrary to this Western tradition, discussions during the *Potsdam Summer School Minor Cosmopolitanisms* will focus on a range of 'discrepant' forms of cosmopolitan citizenship and belonging that have been the reality for colonial subjects in the past and have become the contemporary reality for millions of migrants as well as Indigenous peoples around the globe.

Our discussions will concern

- historical case studies of minor cosmopolitanisms and their commemoration,
- contemporary cosmopolitan practices 'from below' / of the multitude / the plural,
- Indigenous Cosmopolitanisms,
- negotiations of postcolonial justice,
- and the minoritarian cosmopolitan condition as aspiration, imagination and the future.

Format:

The *Potsdam Summer School Minor Cosmopolitanisms* is co-taught by an international team of scholars including Prof Dr Anne Brewster (University of New South Wales, Australia), Prof Dr Lars Eckstein (University of Potsdam, Germany), Prof Shaswati Mazumdar (Dehli University, India), Prof Stephen Muecke (University of New South Wales, Australia), Prof Rajni Palriwala (Dehli University, India), Prof Dr Satish Poduval (EFL University Hyderabad, India), Prof Dr Anja Schwarz (University of Potsdam, Germany), Prof Dr Dr Russell West-Pavlov (University of Pretoria, South Africa) and Prof Dr Dirk Wiemann (University of Potsdam, Germany).



The program comprises of morning lectures, intensive group seminars and daily plenary sessions to draw together emerging themes. Excursions will take students to sites in Berlin and Potsdam relevant to the theme of the Summer School.

Participants will be expected to attend all the workshops, discussions and talks. The working language is English.

ECTS-credits:

Upon the successful completion of the Summer School, students will be awarded 6 credits [ECTS] by the University of Potsdam. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System [ECTS] is a student-centered system based on the workload required to achieve the objectives of a program. ECTS aim is to facilitate the recognition of periods of study abroad and thus to facilitate student mobility.

Costs and Scholarships:

While participation in the program (including course materials) is free of charge, students are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses, as well as possible costs for health insurance, visa etc. The University of Potsdam offers a limited number of travel and accommodation subsidies to European and international students.

The University of Potsdam:

Founded in 1991, the University of Potsdam builds on a tradition of 120 years of scholarly activities in the region. Now in the twentieth year of existence, it has grown and continues to grow as a centre for science and research that constitutes one of the most densely settled research landscapes in Germany. More than 8,000 people are working in scholarship and science only a short train ride from Berlin, Germany's capital city.

The *Potsdam Summer School Minor Cosmopolitanisms* is hosted by the English Department, itself part of the university's Philosophical Faculty that defines itself in the spirit of cross-disciplinary cultural studies. Committed to a broad understanding of culture, lecturers and students are encouraged to incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives that are traditionally outside the Philosophical Faculty's subject canon.

For more information visit <http://uni-potsdam.de/english/editorial.html>.

Applications:

We cordially invite submissions from postgraduate students (M.A., Honours, or PhD) from Germany and abroad. Applications should comprise:

- a letter of application, detailing your motivation for wishing to participate,
- a Curriculum Vitae, focussing on your academic background,
- a short description (1 page) of your academic interest in "Minor Cosmopolitanisms",
- contact details of one academic referee.

Applications (in PDF-format) must be submitted by 29 February 2012 to:
minor.cosmopolitanisms@googlemail.com

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lina Fricke from the organizing committee: minor.cosmopolitanisms@googlemail.com