

Urban (Im)mobilities and Borderland Narratives

FRINGE/ALUS Symposium

Universidad de Alcalá, Alcalá de Henares, Spain
14-15 October 2021 (Hybrid event)

Keynote speakers

Johan Schimanski is Professor of Comparative Literature at the **University of Oslo**. He has published widely in border poetics and border aesthetics; other research interests include Arctic discourses and literary museums. He has led or been co-coordinator of major research projects in these areas, and also led a work package in the large-scale interdisciplinary EU FP7 project EUBORDERSCAPES. He has held visiting professorships in border studies and cultural encounters at the Universities of Glamorgan and of Eastern Finland, and at in Autumn 2021 he will be guest professor at the UniGr Center for Border Studies at the Universities of Saarbrücken and Luxembourg. Recent publications include the co-edited volumes *Border Aesthetics: Concepts and Intersections* (2017, with Stephen F. Wolfe) and *Border Images, Border Narratives: The Political Aesthetics of Boundaries and Crossings* (2021, with Jopi Nyman). An edited selection of his writings on border poetics has been published in German translation: *Grenzungen: Versuche zu einer Poetik der Grenze* (2020).



Title of his plenary talk: “Space, Borders and Cognition in Urban Diasporic Fiction”.



Catherine Rottenberg is Associate Professor in the Department of American and Canadian Studies at the **University of Nottingham**. She has published numerous articles on feminist theory and 20th-Century African-American and Jewish-American literature. Her monographs include *The Rise of Neoliberal Feminism* (2018) and *Performing Americanness: Race, Class, and Gender in Modern African-American and Jewish-American Literature* (2008). She is also the co-author of *The Care Manifesto* (2020) and editor of *Black Harlem and the Jewish Lower East Side: Narratives out of Time* (2013).



Title of her plenary talk: “Narratives of Feminist Solidarity, Mobility and Urban Space”



Jean-Philippe Imbert (School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, **Dublin City University**). He lectures, researches and publishes on literary, artistic and aesthetic representations of Mexican, Irish and French 20th and 21st centuries, focusing on the relationship between sexuality, gender and the literary, artistic and aesthetic treatments of evil, trauma, angst or perversion, from a queer perspective and

with an interest on the urban. He has been president of the ADEFFI (Association des Études Françaises et Francophones) and of the Irish Association of Mexican Studies. He was Research and Education Officer for IASSCS (The International Association for the Studies of Sexuality, Culture and Society) and also curated international art exhibitions (photography) in Delhi, Dublin or Mexico.

Title of his plenary talk: “Once upon a Queer: Sexual Monstrosity, Sexual Misery and the Metropolis”.



Tania Rossetto is Associate Professor of Cultural Geography at the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World of the **University of Padova**. She is a convenor of the MoHu Centre (Centre for advanced studies in Mobility and the Humanities) and teaches about urban landscapes and cultures. Her research interests include the relationship between map studies and visual studies, the embodiment of maps, the ethnography of mapping practices, cartography and racial/ethnic otherness. She has also worked on the linkage between cartographic theory and literary studies. Her recent book, titled *Object-Oriented Cartography: Maps as Things* (Routledge, 2019), establishes a dialogue between the field of map studies and object-oriented philosophy. She is currently working on Covid-19 cartographic visualities and on urban repeat photography as an experience of moving spacetimes.



Title of her plenary talk: “From the Cartographic Fringes: Map Mobilizations and the Urban”.



Anna-Leena Toivanen is Academy Research Fellow and docent in postcolonial literary studies at the **University of Eastern Finland**, and a former Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow at the University of Liège. She has published widely in the field of African literary studies and is particularly interested in enhancing dialogue between postcolonial literary studies and mobilities research. Her current research project, funded by the Academy of Finland (2020–2025), focuses on the representation and poetics of mobility in Francophone African literatures. She is the co-editor of a special issue on European peripheries in postcolonial literatures (*Journal of*

Postcolonial Writing, forthcoming in 2021), and the author of *Mobilities and Cosmopolitanisms in African and Afrodiasporic Literatures* (Brill 2021, forthcoming).

Title of her plenary talk: “Mobilities and the city in Francophone African literatures: Peripheral perspectives”

