

University of Sousse



Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Cultural Dialogues Research Unit

Conference on "MOBILITY"

16 - 18 October 2014

Call for Papers

Mobility is a multi-dimensional and versatile concept involving, among others, physical, spatial and abstract dimensions. It is also associated with human progress which, through countless historical stages and coups de théâtre, has reached unprecedented sophistication. Constantly spurred on by the spirit of, and need for, mobility and change, humankind has evolved from primitive tribes to complex societies and powerful empires, owing to technical, cultural, religious political, strategic, and commercial exchanges.

The debate about mobility is rising in pitch and complexity in the current global context of diverse challenges. Stephen Greenblatt's "global mobility", Edward Said's "exilic" and "liminal" experience and space, bell hooks' "within-without" perception of gender and race, George Orwell's criticism of the "mutability of the past", Friedrich Nietzsche's "eternal recurrence or return", and Jacques Derrida's "difference" and "centre and periphery" all take stock of, and pave the way for challenges to, the stability of political, cultural, social, and textual homogeneity.

Despite their contrasts, modernist and postmodernist paradigms seem to be saturated by a sense of plurality, hybridity, flux, mobility, instability, proteanism, mutability, polysemy, carnivalesque and travesty. Similarly, the theme of mobility in identity and belonging has been related to issues of colonization, exile, emigration, expansion, contamination, wandering, and restlessness that have shaped human history, culture, language and discourse.

Furthering the objectives of the Cultural Dialogues Research Unit (CDRU), this conference hopes to address questions of mobility in cultural studies, linguistics, literature and other fields.

We invite proposals of 200-300 words for papers of 20 minutes length. Contributions to the conference may include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Cultural mobility
- Individual and collective identities in cultural and trans-cultural or exilic settings
- The notion of border crossing
- Social mobility
- Mobility in politics
- Mobility and higher education
- Linguistic and discursive mobility
- Mobility and sociolinguistics
- Mobility of aesthetic/literary value
- Mobility between literary theories and genres
- Representation of exodus and immigration/Literature of Al-Mahjar
- Escapist literature
- Mobility and technology/virtual mobility

Please e-mail your proposal abstracts as a word document along with a 100-200 word biographical note no later than May 15th 2014 to:

Mobility2014cdru@gmail.com

Proposers will be notified of acceptance by June 15th 2014.

The Cultural Dialogues Research Unit (CDRU) will publish a special issue journal based on a selection of the best articles presented at the conference. Presenters wishing to submit their articles to the peer review process should do so by 30 November 2014.

The conference will take place at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Sousse, Tunisia.

Conference Committee:

Mansour Khelifa

Zied Ben Amor

Jonathan Mason

Abdellatif Ben Halima

Hafedh Gharbi

Chiraz Mkhinini

Imene Bennani

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Olfa Gandouz

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