

V IENNA C ONFERENCE  JULY 6-9, 2009

*I*nterdisciplinary  
*A*pproaches to  
*S*pirituality

William BLAKE, *Urizen* "Teach these souls to fly" (1796)



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*in the Literatures of the  
English Speaking World*

**Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik**  
Universitätscampus, Hof 8, University of Vienna, Austria

convened by

**Franz K. WOEHRER, University of Vienna**

**John S. BAK, University of Nancy 2**

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in cooperation with



PROGRAMME

*There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,  
than are dreamt of in your philosophy.*

SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet* I. v.

*There are indeed things that cannot be put into words.  
They make themselves manifest. They are what is mystical.*

Ludwig WITTGENSTEIN, *Tractatus Logico Philosophicus*, 6.522 (1921)

*If the Doors of Perception are cleansed,  
all will appear as it is: Infinite.*

William BLAKE, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

*All mystics speak the same language,  
for they come from the same country.*

Teresa of AVILA (1515-1582)

*How amiable is thy Presence, Lord !*

Mary MOLLINEUX (1651-1696)

*From Joy we come,  
For Joy we live,  
In the sacred Joy we melt.*

*Songs of the Soul*

YOGANANDA PARAMAHANSA (1893-1952)

*Just as rivers flow into the ocean  
Merge in it, losing name and form,  
So the wise man, freed from name and form,  
Attains the Supreme, divine Person.*

*Mundaka Upanisad III,2.8*

O PILGRIM-SOUL

O pilgrim-soul,  
Divinity  
Is in your untiring feet.

O pilgrim-soul,  
Infinity  
Is in your unblinking eyes.

O pilgrim-soul,  
Eternity  
Is in your unbending head.

O pilgrim-soul,  
Immortality  
Is in your unthinking heart.

Sri CHINMOY (1931-2007)

# Interdisciplinary Approaches to Spirituality

## *in the Literatures of the English Speaking World*

**MONDAY JULY 6, 2009**

9:00 - 9:45	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
9:45 - 10:15	<b>OPENING:</b> Werner HUBER (Head of the English Department, Vienna) Welcome Address by Kathie BIRAT (Metz), John BAK (Nancy) and Franz WÖHRER (Vienna)
10:20 - 12:00	<b>THE CREATIVE MIND AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE</b> Chair: Franz Wöhrer (University of Vienna, Austria)
10:20-10:40	“Understanding Experience: The Concept of Experience in the Hermeneutical Approach to Spirituality (Sandra Schneiders)” - Halvard Johannessen (University of Oslo, Norway)
10:45-11:05	“‘ONE’ - A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Notion of One in the Poetry of Kahlil Gibran” - Zsuzsanna Váradi-Kalmár (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary)
Discussion	
11:10-11:30	“Giving Transgressive Spirituality a Mouth: From Francis Bacon’s <i>Utopia</i> (17 <sup>th</sup> c.) to Francis Bacon’s Abstract Painting (20 <sup>th</sup> c.)” - Hélène Fau (Centre Ecritures, Université Paul Verlaine, Metz, France)
11:35-11:55	“Spiritual Transfers: William Blake’s Iconographic Treatment of John Bunyan’s <i>The Pilgrim’s Progress</i> ” - Nathalie Collé-Bak (University of Nancy 2, France)
Discussion	
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:20	<b>SUFI MYSTICISM, HINDU MYSTICISM AND ANGLOPHONE LITERATURE(S)</b> Chair: Franz Wöhrer (University of Vienna, Austria)
14:00-14:20	“Sufism in Literature: East and West” - Abdulla Al-Dabbagh (United Arab Emirates University, United Arab Emirates)
Discussion	
14:30-14:50	“The Poetry of Sri Chinmoy: ‘A Philosopher in the Heart’” - Kusumita Pedersen (St. Francis College, New York, USA)
14:55-15:15	“Necessity of Spiritual Input into the Research and Teaching of Intercultural Communication: Sri Chinmoy’s Writings as a Powerful Source of Inspiration” - Harashita Sunaoshi (Musashi University, Tokyo, Japan)
Discussion	
15:20 - 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 - 17:30	<b>POSTMODERNIST APPROACHES TO SPIRITUALITY AND (PSEUDO-) SPIRITUAL LITERATURE</b> Chair: John S. Bak (University of Nancy 2, France)
15:45-16:05	“Secular Spirituality in 21 <sup>st</sup> -Century Biblical Spin-Offs” - Monica Latham (University of Nancy 2, France)
16:10-16:30	“Agnostic Readings of <i>The Book of Job</i> and English Oratorio. Two Cases in Point: <i>Job</i> (1892) by Hubert Parry and <i>Job</i> (1997) by Peter Maxwell Davies” - Jean-Philippe Heberlé (University of Nancy 2, France)
Discussion	
16:35-16:55	“Slacker as Comic Shaman: Laughter and Spirituality in the Work of Douglas Coupland and Bill Hicks” - Paul McDonald (University of Wolverhampton, England)
17:00-17:20	“‘ <i>I am the little Jew who wrote the Bible</i> ’: A Reinvention of the Devotional Poet for the Age of the Mass Media: Leonard Cohen’s Holy Hoaxes” - Christophe Lebold (University of Strasbourg, France)
Discussion	
17:45-19:00	GUIDED TOUR OF THE MAIN UNIVERSITY BUILDING (Ringstrasse) (optional) Meeting Point: Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik / Conference Information-Desk
20:15	CONCERT: VIENNA STATE OPERA – Mozart Orchestra Vienna Meeting point: State Opera, main entrance, Opernring 2, at 20:00

# Interdisciplinary Approaches to Spirituality

## *in the Literatures of the English Speaking World*

**TUESDAY JULY 7, 2009**

8:30 - 10:05	<b>SPIRITUALITY, SOCIETY AND POLITICS</b> <b>Chair: Hélène Fau (Centre Ecritures, Université Paul Verlaine, Metz, France)</b>
	8:30-8:50 “Spirituality and Politics? Spiritual Models of Culture and Methods of Worldmaking in Postmodern Utopian Texts” - Miriam Wallraven (University of Tübingen, Germany) 8:55-9:15 “Freemasonry as an Alternative Form of Spirituality” - Pauline Chakmakjian (University of Wales, Lampeter) Discussion 9:20-9:40 “Gender, Cultural Diversity and Spirituality with Special Reference to Indian Women” - Vibha Agnihotri (Nari Siksha Niketan College, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India) 9:45-10:05 “Incarnation and the Spirit of the Social” - Demelza Marlin (University of NSW, Australia) Discussion
10:10 - 10:25	Coffee Break
10:25-12:50	<b>ABORIGINAL / NATIVE SPIRITUALITY</b> <b>Chair: Madame Kathie Birat (University of Metz, France)</b>
	10:25-10:45 “Representation of Aboriginality in Australian Literature” - Isabelle Benigno (University of Toulouse - Le-Mirail, France) 10:50-11:10 “Fabrication and Takeover?: The Role of Aboriginal Spirituality in Australian Literature” - Vicki Grieves (University of Sydney, Australia) 11:15-11:35 “Embracing Diversity as a Positive Difference: Getting to Know a Bit About the Native Canadians’ Cosmological View” - Susana Amante (University of Salamanca, Spain) Discussion <b>THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE MEDIEVAL ENGLISH MYSTICS</b> <b>Chair: Franz Wöhrer (University of Vienna, Austria)</b>
	11:40-12:00 “Grammar and Spirituality in the Writings of Julian of Norwich” - Colette Stévanovitch (University of Nancy 2, France) 12:05-12:25 “‘Stirring’ - A Verbal Parallel in the 14 <sup>th</sup> century <i>The Cloud of Unknowing</i> and in the Writings of the 16 <sup>th</sup> -century Reformer and Bible-Translator William Tyndale” - Tibor Fabiny (University of Budapest, Hungary) 12:30-12:50 “The Castrating Function of Mystical Vision in the <i>Showings</i> of Julian of Norwich and the <i>Book of Margery Kempe</i> ” - Camille DeVilleneuve (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, France) Discussion
12:50 - 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15 - 15:30	<b>THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE METAPHYSICAL POETS</b> <b>Chair: Eva Müller-Zettelmann (University of Vienna, Austria)</b>
	14:15-14:35 “Pain and Mystical Experience in the Poetry of John Donne, Richard Crashaw and George Herbert” - Jan Van Dijkhuizen (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) 14:40-15:00 “‘Your Hands Have Fashioned me, an Intricate Unity’: A Study of the Essential Wholeness of the Soul of John Donne” - Noémi Maria Najbauer (University of Pécs, Hungary) 15:05-15:25 “The ‘Sense of Presence’ as a Mode of Mystical Experience in the Poetry of George Herbert: An Interdisciplinary Approach” - Franz Wöhrer (University of Vienna, Austria) Discussion
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-18:00	<b>SPIRITUALITY IN 18<sup>th</sup>-CENTURY ENGLISH RELIGIOUS POETRY</b>
	15:45-16:05 “The Spiritual and the Non-Spiritual Poetic Personas and Audiences of Christopher Smart’s <i>Jubilate Agno</i> (1759-63)” - Magdalena Ozarska (University of Kielce, Poland) Discussion <b>THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE ENGLISH ROMANTICS (I)</b> <b>Chair: Eva Müller-Zettelmann (University of Vienna, Austria)</b>
	16:10-16:30 “The Travelling Spirit in Wordsworth’s <i>An Evening Walk</i> and Chiang Yee’s <i>The Silent Traveller in Lakeland</i> ” - Viona Au Yeung (University of Hong Kong, China) 16:35-16:55 “Homoousian vs. Homoiousian: Shakespeare and Donne Within the Aesthetic Framework of Coleridge” - Svetlana Makurenkova (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia) 17:00-17:20 “William Blake’s Spiritual Theory of Vision” - Eva Antal (University of Eger, Hungary) Discussion
20:00	<b>CONFERENCE DINNER: “KURSALON HÜBNER” RESTAURANT “JOHANNI” – STADTPARK VIENNA</b> Johannesgasse 33 – Phone (01) 512 57 90 – Public transport: U 4 (“Stadtpark”) or tram Nr.1 or Nr. 2 (Operring)

# Interdisciplinary Approaches to Spirituality

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**WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2009**

9:00 - 9:50	<p align="center"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN MODERN BRITISH AND ANGLO-IRISH LITERATURE</b> Chair: Eva Antal (University of Eger, Hungary)</p> <p>9:00-9:20 "Thomas Hardy and the Question of Faith: Spirituality vs. Institutional Church" - Nada Al-Ajmi (Sultan Quaboos University, Oman)</p> <p>9:25-9:45 "The Affirmation and Negation of Spirituality in the Work of James Joyce" - Sandra Josipovic (Belgrade University, Serbia)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
9:50 - 10:10	Coffee Break
10:10 - 12:15	<p align="center"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN MODERN BRITISH LITERATURE (II)</b> Chair: Madame Kathie Birat (University of Metz, France)</p> <p>10:10-10:30 "A Super-Sensible Reality: Transcendence, Sensation and Self in the Work of Virginia Woolf" - Naomi Toth (University of Paris 10 - Nanterre la Defense, France)</p> <p>10:35-10:55 "The Occluded Word: The Sacred in T. S. Eliot and Early Modernism" - John Wieslaw Kuhn (University of Poznan, Poland)</p> <p>11:00-11:20 "'A God is a Man's Doll': Representations of the Divine and the Human in the Poetry of Stevie Smith" - Paula Alexandra Guimarães-Ribeiro (University of Minho, Braga, Portugal)</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p align="center"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN AND CANADIAN WOMEN WRITERS</b> Chair: John S. Bak (University of Nancy, France)</p> <p>11:25-11:45 "Spirituality and Religion in Margaret Atwood's <i>Oryx and Crake</i>: 'What Do You Want Me to Do?'" - Françoise Storey-Couturier &amp; Jeff Storey (University of Nice, France)</p> <p>11:50-12:10 "Spiritual Power in Toni Morrison's Fiction" - Mirjana Danicic (University of Belgrade, Serbia)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:15 - 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 - 15:20	<p align="center"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN 19<sup>th</sup>-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE</b> Chair: Brigitte Zaugg (University of Metz, France)</p> <p>13:45-14:05 "'Puritan Spirit' and the Question of the Other: A Levinasian Reading of Emily Dickinson's Religious Poems" - Hyesook Son (Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea)</p> <p>14:10-14:30 "The (Un-)dutiful Daughter and the Heavenly Father: The Allegory of Spiritual Alienation in Emily Dickinson's Poetry" - Lobna Ben Salem (University of Beja, Tunisia)</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>14:35-14:55 "The Spirit and the Letter: American Literature and the Quest for Kerygmatic Power" - Claude Le Fustec (University of Rennes 2, France)</p> <p>15:00-15:20 "'Fire Worship': Fire and Dreams in Hawthorne's Works" - Stéphanie Carrez (University of Maine, Le Mans, France)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
15:25-15:45	Snacks & Drinks
15:50	<p><b>EXCURSION to HEILIGENKREUZ MONASTERY (12<sup>th</sup> c.)</b> Coach trip, departure from the Campus (entrance Garnisongasse 13) at 15:50; back by 20:00</p>



# Interdisciplinary Approaches to Spirituality

## *in the Literatures of the English Speaking World*

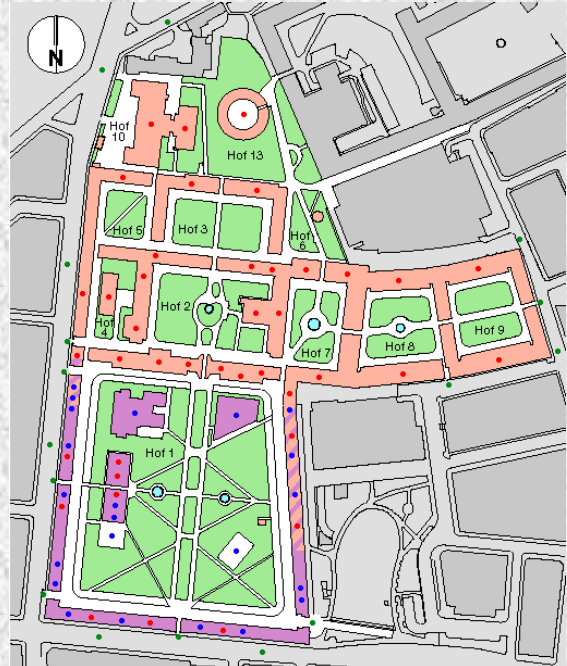
**THURSDAY JULY 9, 2009**

8:45 - 10:45	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN 20<sup>th</sup>-CENTURY AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS</b> Chair: Madame Kathie Birat (University of Metz, France)</p> <p>8:45-9:05 “‘A Haven for the Suffering Soul’: Ellen Glasgow’s Lifelong Quest” - Brigitte Zaugg (University of Metz, France)</p> <p>9:10-9:30 “Zora Neale Hurston: <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (1937) - A Spiritual Journey” - Isabel Ferreira (Universidade Federal do Tocantins, Palmas, Brazil)</p> <p>9:35-9:55 “‘Seeking the Limits’: Mystical Bewilderment in Fanny Howe’s Fiction” - Bénédicte Chorie-Fryd (University of Poitiers, France)</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN MALE FICTION</b> Chair: Brigitte Zaugg (University of Metz, France)</p> <p>10:00-10:20 “Religion and Philosophy in John Updike’s <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i>” - Florentina Anghel (University of Craiova, Romania)</p> <p>10:25-10:45 “A Lonely Hero of Spirituality: Jerome D. Salinger” - Mehmet Atalay (Istanbul University, Turkey)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
10:50 - 11:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Break</p>
11:00 - 12:20	<p>11:00-11:20 “<i>Left Behind</i> as an Example of the Intersection between Fiction and Fundamentalist Christianity” - Mokhtar Ben Barka (University of Valenciennes, France)</p> <p>11:25-11:45 “Paul Auster’s Hermeneutics in <i>City of Glass</i>” - Sina Vatanpour (University of Lille 3, France)</p> <p>11:50-12:10 “The A-Spirituality of the Middle Classes: Pessimism in Richard Ford’s Latest Stories” - Véronique Alexandre (University of Caen, France)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:20 - 14:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch Break</p>
14:00 - 16:25	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY CARIBBEAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE</b> Chair: Paula Alexandra Guimarães-Ribeiro (University of Minho, Braga, Portugal)</p> <p>14:00-14:20 “Syncretism and Spirituality in Contemporary Caribbean Fiction” - Kathie Birat (University of Metz, France)</p> <p>14:25-14:45 “The Holy Temple of Soca: Rev. Rudder in Attendance” - Alison McLetchie (University of South Carolina, USA)</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CROSS-CULTURAL RECEPTION OF BUDDHIST, CHRISTIAN and HINDU SPIRITUALITY</b> Chair: Paula Alexandra Guimarães-Ribeiro (University of Minho, Braga, Portugal)</p> <p>14:50-15:10 “The Betrayal of Buddhist Concepts in English - Eknath Easwaran’s <i>Translation</i>” - Jacques Coulardeau (University of Paris 1 - Pantheon Sorbonne, France)</p> <p>15:15-15:35 “Limiting God, Limiting Spirituality”: The Representation of the Christian God in <i>Genesis</i> and the <i>Gospels</i>” - Jean Dsouza (H.A. College of Commerce - Gujarat, India)</p> <p>15:40-16:00 “Spiritual Underpinnings in the Nigerian Novel: the Examples of Chinua Achebe’s <i>Arrow of God</i> and Odili Ujubonu <i>The Pregnancy of the Gods</i>” - Kayode Kofoworola (Ahmadu Bello University - Zaria, Nigeria)</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>16:05-16:25 “Earth’s Cry: The Invocation of Sri Chinmoy” - Saudamini Siegrist (Independent Scholar, New York, USA)</p>
16:25-16:40	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Break</p>
16:40-18:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY CHILDREN’S LITERATURE</b> Chair: Franz Wöhrer (University of Vienna, Austria)</p> <p>16:40-17:00 “Spiritual Powers in <i>The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness</i> by Michelle Paver: An Interdisciplinary Reading of Literature for Children” - Maria Kissova (University of Constantine the Philosopher - Nitra, Slovakia)</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>17:00-18:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FORUM DISCUSSION - CONCLUSIONS</b></p>
c. 18:15	<p style="text-align: center;">“HEURIGER”: CONFERENCE FAREWELL AT A VIENNESE WINE TAVERN Meeting Point: Conference Information Desk</p>

# UNIVERSITÄTSCAMPUS, VIENNA - MAP

Entrances to the Campus are at Alser Straße, Spitalgasse and Garnisongasse 13 (the latter is the nearest entrance to the *Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik*)

The INSTITUT FÜR ANGLISTIK und AMERIKANISTIK is located in "Hof 8" (entrance 8.3)



**STATE OPERA VIENNA – venue of the concert of the “Wiener Mozart Orchestra,” Monday, July 6 at 20:15**



**“KURSALON HÜBNER” – RESTAURANT “JOHANN”, STADTPARK  
location of the Festive Dinner, Tuesday, July 7 at 20:00**



We  
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