Centre for European Modernism Studies

BORDERS OF MODERNISM

International Conference, Perugia, 14-16 December 2016

CFP

Besides, interesting things happen along
borders—transitions—not in the middle
where everything is the same.
(Neal Stephenson)

(Invisible boundaries by Rowan Mersch)

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Claire Davison Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris

Prof. Daniel Ferrer, Item (Institut des textes & manuscrits modernes), Paris

Prof. Paolo Giovannetti, Iulm, Milan

Prof. Catriona Kelly, University of Oxford, Oxford

Prof. Andrew Thacker, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham

Originally deriving from the Old French *bordure* (meaning "seam" and "edge of a shield"), in its geopolitical sense the term "border" was first used in Scotland in the 1530s. *The Borders* was indeed the name of the district adjoining the English boundary. Accordingly, over the centuries borders have been used to signal differences, separations, distinctions, discontinuities, the beginning of the other, as well as the need for protection and preservation. One could mention cultural, linguistic, political, social, gender borders, and the list could of course be much longer. In *The Order of Things* Michel Foucault maintained that the concepts of boundaries and partitions should be replaced by that of "threshold" and "hinges", whereby the latter are "porous borders" that both separate and communicate. Such a contiguity inherent in the very notion of threshold suggests a physical adjacency, a spatial contact that, although it can or cannot be pursued, certainly calls for attention. In this regard, modernism as a wide-ranging of philosophical and artistic expressions that cross several ideological, political and cultural boundaries epitomises Foucault's concept of permeable lines and borders. In particular, this conference will explore those borders that modernism has either dissolved or provocatively recovered in light of an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and trans-geographical approach.

We welcome proposals for 20-minute papers which address but are not limited to the points below:

1) CHRONOLOGICAL BORDERS

   Modernism in context: modernism and aestheticism; modernism and 19th century realism; modernism and contemporary literary movements (such as avant-garde, vorticism, imagism, etc.), modernism, postmodernism and beyond.

2) GENERIC BORDERS

   Modernism/literary and artistic genres.

3) GEOGRAPHICAL BORDERS

   Eastern and western modernism, European, American and Eurasian modernism; modernism and colonialism; national modernisms and the emergence of a wider notion of modernism, transnational or, more appropriately, European.

4) LITERARY BORDERS

   Interdisciplinary modernism: modernism and science, modernism and medicine, modernism and music, modernism and art, modernism and media, modernism and law, etc.

5) SOCIO-CULTURAL BORDERS

   The interconnections between high and middlebrow literature. Does modernism address only to high literature or is there such a thing as a "modernist pop literature"? Is there a left and a right modernism?

6) GENDER BORDERS

   Is there a female modernism and a male modernism or perhaps a trans-sexual modernism? How does gender affect modernism?

7) DIGITAL HUMANITIES

   Mapping modernism through digitalization, 3-d mapping and electronic literary analysis.

Please submit a 300-word proposal along with a 200 words max biographical note to conference@cemstudies.eu by May 31. Notifications of acceptance will be given by June 20.

Please also notice that all participants will have to cover their own costs including conference registration € 40.

Scientific Board:	Francesco Fiorentino (Roma Tre), Paolo Tamassia (Trento), Valeria Tocco (Pisa), Massimiliano Tortora (Perugia), Annalisa Volpone (Perugia)
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