



**Universidad
Zaragoza**



Call for Papers

“Transmodern Perspectives on Contemporary Literatures in English”

Dates: 26th-28th April 2017.

Venue: Instituto de Ciencias de la Educación. Campus de San Francisco. Universidad de Zaragoza.

Conference organisers: Dr Jessica Aliaga Lavrijsen and Dr José M. Yebra Pertusa, on behalf of the “Contemporary Narratives in English” Research Group. [<http://cne.literatureresearch.net>].

In collaboration with the Department of English and German Philology and the University Centre of Defence of the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the *Academia Europaea*.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Prof. Rosa María Rodríguez Magda (Institució Alfons el Magnànim); Dr David Alderson (University of Manchester); Dr Sara Dillon (University of Cambridge); and John Burnside (St Andrew’s University).

“Transmodern Perspectives on Contemporary Literatures in English” is a three-day conference, to be held at the University of Zaragoza. It aims at exploring the traces of what has been called “transmodernity” in contemporary literatures in English. Its working hypothesis is that, although still largely unnoticed, there is evidence of a paradigm shift taking place since the 1980s that involves the assimilation and transcendence of Modernity and Postmodernity into what we have provisionally called “Transmodernity”. In order to achieve this aim, we propose to engage in a dialogue with contemporary literary texts, literary theory and cultural studies meant to test the applicability of this concept and its utility as a tool to better understand contemporary trends in literature.

The concept of “transmodernity” has been used by thinkers belonging in different fields. The philosopher Enrique Dussel, for example, describes as transmodern those theories from Third-World cultures that have incorporated the subaltern other. Philosophers of Law such as Marc Luyckx, Ziauddin Sardar or Etienne Le Roy have used the concept to describe those societies that attempt to reconcile progress with respect for cultural differences. And, in the field of architecture, Marcos Novak has used the term to define the liquid architectures existing in cyberspace. The feminist writer and philosopher Rosa María Rodríguez-Magda has used the term “transmodernity” to refer to the dialectical synthesis of modernity and postmodernity that would describe a globalised, rhizomatic, technological society arising in the countries of the First World, characterised by the opposition to otherness while at the same time penetrating and assuming it, trying to transcend the surrounding hyperreal and relativistic closure. Moreover, our contemporary globalised context begs for the need to harmonise the concept of

transmodernity with the current emphasis on local, ethnic, sexual and other differences. According to this new paradigm, postmodernity would be the conclusion or culmination of modernity, and transmodernity would entail a criticism of the two earlier periods from the material, social, and spiritual viewpoints. In a sense, transmodernity is almost an umbrella term that comprehends all that is virtual, transnational, transethnically cosmopolitan, connective, glocal, strategic and transubiquitous, among other things and as such requires re-conceptualisation.

These precedents justify our aim of refining the definition of transmodernity and of employing the transcultural as a provisional research perspective to analyse contemporary works of art.

We invite contributions that either engage with the various ways in which contemporary literatures in English address, employ or show transmodern perspectives and elements, or contribute to developing new critical trends and theoretical approaches to contemporary literature. Possible topics include, but are not restricted to:

- Literary theory and the transmodern.
- The glocal in contemporary literature.
- The transmodern in ecological writings and/or readings.
- Feminism, family, queerness and transmodern relationships.
- Transnational literatures, literature of exile and the postcolonial.
- The virtual world, transhumanism, science, technology and literature.
- Speculative fiction: imagining other worlds, other futures.
- Consciousness, spirituality and literature.
- New directions in literature and critical approaches since 2000.
- Terrorism, politics and transmodern literature.
- The psychology of the transpersonal in literature.
- Ethics, social consciousness and literature.
- Transcultural memory and literature.
- The form of transmodern literary texts.
- The reconceptualization of the palimpsest from a transmodern perspective.

Submissions: Abstracts between 400-500 words should be sent to **transmodern.conference2017@gmail.com** by 1 January 2017. Author information is to be provided on a separate sheet, including name, affiliation, contact address, paper title and author's bio-note.

Please direct any other queries to:

transmodern.conference2017@gmail.com