Politics of Interpretation: (Con)Text and Power
A Postgraduate Workshop co-organized by Institute of Romance Studies, University of Potsdam (DFG-Emmy Noether-Group "Philology and Racism"), and the School of English, the University of Hong Kong.

Venue
School of English, The University of Hong Kong, 13-16 June, 2012

Themes & Questions
Knowledge is always bound to the epistemic conditions of its generation. These conditions are implicated in social, political, economic and historico-cultural processes and speak to issues of power and authority. They are central to the interpretation and critical analysis of complex cultural articulations, such as textuality and its linguistic reflections. Contextualizing knowledge is a crucial paradigm for postmodern humanities. Thus the success of a transcultural "future philology" – to borrow this term from Sheldon Pollock –, which consistently reflects on its own epistemological premises, depends on the ability to reevaluate and detect the impact of predetermined patterns shaping its focuses, methods and assertions.

Deconstructivism, discourse analysis, communication theory, and postcolonial studies offer an array of theoretical tools. They allow a critical approach to dynamics that both hide and exploit epistemological structures through strategies of decontextualisation and the reconceptualization of knowledge. Nevertheless, the question remains as to the extent to which structures of empowerment and asymmetries between and within philological praxis and discourses still compromise the transfer of information in what is called our "globalized world" .

The primary aim of this workshop is to facilitate intellectual exchange between research students from the two institutions, and promote discussion of diverse intellectual frameworks among academic staff and students. Papers take the form of the presentation of ideas from a key thinker or theorist (or an encounter between two theorists), and an explanation of why that theorist is important for ongoing research.

Organizing Committee:

Professor Christopher Hutton Dr Adrian Pablé The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Arts School of English chutton@hku.hk apable@hku.hk	Dr. Markus Messling Head of the Emmy Noether-Research Group »Philology and Racism in the 19th Century« (German Research Foundation) Universität Potsdam Institut für Romanistik messling@uni-potsdam.de

Politics of Interpretation: (Con)Text and Power
Thursday, June 14
MB113G

930-1000	Otto Heim (Head of the School)	Welcome
	Christopher M. Hutton & Markus Messling & Adrian Pablé	Introduction & opening discussion
1000-1045	Philipp Krämer (University of Potsdam)	The universal exception. Creoleness and creolization in language, culture, and text
1045-1115	*Coffee break*	
1115-1200	Adrian Pablé (Hong Kong University)	Deconstructing Rortian constructivism: against the ubiquity of language
1200-1245	Jérémie Wenger (University of Oxford)	Destitution of language: Alain Badiou on Wittgenstein
1245-1330	Zhou Feifei (Hong Kong University)	Garfinkel's take on sociology: how is 'social order' produced and repaired?
	Lunch	
1500	Professor Pheng Cheah (University of California, Berkeley)	School of English Graduate Workshop: "Of Other Worlds to Come"
1900	*Conference dinner*	[To be announced]

Friday, June 15
MB113G

915-1000	Christopher M. Hutton & Markus Messling	Bruno Latour's modernity. On (a)symmetrical anthropology and the language paradigm / Latour hanging out with the law and its objects
1000-1045	Zhuang Ruihan (Hong Kong University)	When Evolution Theory Meets Marxism: Vygotsky's Psychology of Abstraction in Postwar Russia
1045-1115	*Coffee*	

1115-1200	Noel Christe (Hong Kong University)	Discrepant norms: culture, ecology and indeterminacy in Victor Turner's anthropology of meaning
1245-1330	Markus Lenz (University of Potsdam)	Umberto Eco's epistemological paradox: Cultural references between bias and universal knowledge
	Lunch	
1430-1515	Kimberly Tao Wei Yi (Hong Kong University)	Structuring Foucault's Monstrousness in Transgendered People through Legal Classification
1515-1600	Wayne Cristaudo (Hong Kong University)	Religion, Redemption, and Revolution: The New Speech Thinking of Franz Rosenweig and Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy
1600-1630	*Coffee*	
1630-1730	Concluding discussion	

Key texts:

Noël Christe:
Turner Victor (1977): Process, System and Symbol: A New Anthropological Synthesis, in *Discoveries and Interpretations: Studies in Contemporary Scholarship*, vol1; The MIT Press, pp 61-80; (1986) The Anthropology of Experience, in Turner & Bruner (ed.) *The Anthropology of Experience*. University of Illinois Press; (1987) (comp) *The Anthropology of Performance*. PAJ Publications.

Wayne Cristaudo:
Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy (1969): *Speech and Reality*. Argo Books.

Christopher Hutton:
Bruno Latour (2004) Scientific objects and legal objectivity, in *Law, Anthropology, and the Constitution of the Social: Making Persons and Things*, edited by Alain Pottage, Martha Mundy. Cambridge University Press, pp. 73ff.

Philipp Krämer:
Jean Bernabé / Patrick Chamoiseau / Raphaël Confiant (1993 [1989]): *In Praise of Creoleness / Eloge de la Créolité*. Gallimard.

Markus Lenz:
Umberto Eco (1996): They were looking for Unicorns, in Alain Le Pichon / Yue Dayun (eds.): *The Unicorn and the Dragon - Misunderstandings in the Quest for the Universal*. Beijing University Press.

Markus Messling:
Bruno Latour (1993 [1991]): *We have never been modern.* Harvard University Press.

Adrian Pablé:
Rorty, Richard (1979) *Philosophy and the mirror of nature.* Princeton University Press; (1982) *Consequences of pragmatism.* University of Minnesota Press; (1989) *Contingency, irony, and solidarity.* Cambridge University Press.

Tao Wei Yi, Kimberly:
A. Sharpe (2010): *Foucault's Monsters and the Challenge of Law.* Routledge.

Jérémie Wenger :
Alain Badiou (2011): *Wittgenstein's Anti-Philosophy.* Verso. (*L'Antiphilosophie de Wittgenstein,* 2009)

Zhou Feifei:
Harold Garfinkel (2005): *Seeing sociologically: the routine grounds of social action.* Edited by Anne Warfield Rawls. Paradigm Publishers.

Zhuang Ruihan:
Luria, A. R. & L. S. Vygotsky. (1992): *Ape, Primitive Man, and Child: Essays in the History of Behavior.* Evelyn Rossiter (transl.). Harvester Wheatsheaf.

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