

Workshop at the Institute for Modern Languages Research  
**School of Advanced Study, University of London**

organized by Markus Messling

March 14, 2014

Venue: Room G34 (Ground Floor)

Venue Details: Senate House, South Block | Malet Street | London WC1E 7HU

## **Universalism revisited**

Poetological, Philosophical and Historical Encounters

The main *enjeu* of this workshop is to rethink the idea of universality in a historical perspective. This rethinking is intended to allow the differentiation of different notions of universalism, and to break up the very popular idea that European modernity, and especially the Enlightenment, codified the human in the abstract without paying sufficient attention to the culturally constructed, political aspects of human existence. After the emphasis on relativism during recent decades and the cynical turn towards what was called a “clash of civilizations”, it seems urgent to rethink universality, without however neglecting its imperial turn within 19<sup>th</sup> century European universalisms.

## **Programme**

10:00-10:15 Welcome by Bill Marshall (Director IMLR, School of Advanced Study)

10:15-11:00 Markus Messling (University of Potsdam):  
*Opening: Civilisation and the resistance of cultural 'loss'*

11:00-12:00 Avi Lifschitz (University College London):  
*Universal man, universal rights? Enlightenment theories of human imperfection*

12:00-13:00 Iwan-Michelangelo d'Aprile (University of Potsdam):  
*Global Enlightenment and Anthropology of Nature*

-- Lunch break --

15:00-16:00 Ananya Jahanara Kabir (King's College London):  
*« Toujours vers la Grèce »: antiquity and modernity in Moreau de Saint-Méry's De la danse (1789)*

16:00-17:00 Christopher Hutton (University of Hong Kong):  
*The Aryan-Dravidian divide as historical trope and ideological template*

17:00-18:00 Marko Pajević (Royal Holloway University of London):  
*Poetological anthropology as potentialist anthropology*