

Workshop Outline and Schedule

“Views from Different Shores”: Future Directions in Transpacific Studies

July 16th – 17th 2015

Department of English and American Studies
University of Potsdam

American Literature and Culture

Department of English and American Studies

University of Potsdam

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Workshop Outline //

“Views from Different Shores”: Future Directions in Transpacific Studies

In his book *What is in a Rim?*, Arif Dirlik observes that past attempts to define and frame the Pacific as a territory have been rather constructive than descriptive, designed to border off the area in a coherent narrative (cf. 3). In a similar vein, Yunte Huang has argued that representations of the Pacific as a clearly defined and demarcated space perpetuate the notion of the Pacific as the object of a discourse of territorial and economic expansion, a notion rooted both in the histories of imperialism and of contemporary global capitalism (cf. *Transpacific Imaginations* 4)

Against such definitions, critics like Dirlik, Viet Tanh Nguyen, and Rob Wilson have attempted to frame an approach to studying the region that pays tribute to the notion of the Pacific as a “space of contradictions” (cf. Dirlik, *What is in a Rim?* 9-11). This *transpacific* angle—which includes the perspectives of Asian American studies, Asian studies, and the study of U.S. imperialism, among others—considers the Pacific to be a many-layered network of commercial, cultural, and military exchanges that fragment the notion of a demarcated geographical space shaped by a coherent monodirectional narrative of imperialism (cf. Nguyen “Introduction: Transpacific Studies” 2; cf. Dirlik, *What is in a Rim?* 4). Transpacific studies views the Pacific as a transnational contact zone and focuses on decolonial articulations of sovereignty by and in Pacific communities (cf. Rowe, “Transpacific Studies” 136).

Borrowing and paraphrasing Yunte Huang’s notion of a “transpacific space” that may only be lived and conceptualized from multiple, contested points of origin—“views from different shores” (Huang 11)—our workshop means to point to future directions in transpacific studies by including the voices and works of critics in postcolonial studies, British studies, American studies, ecocriticism, and German philology. We will address the following topics:

- transpacific studies and transnationalism
- indigenous sovereignty
- transpacific studies and the study of U.S. imperialism
- postcolonial studies and a decolonization of the Pacific
- German imperialism in the Pacific
- ecocriticism and knowledge production in the Pacific
- Australian studies and transpacific studies

The workshop will include brief statements by our speakers (5 minutes), which will be followed by a joint discussion.

Workshop outline // Participants

Participants:

- **Prof. Dr. John Carlos Rowe** (University of Southern California)
- **Prof. Dr. Anja Schwarz** (Cultural studies GB, Potsdam)
 - Of stars, birds and plastic: Non-human 'tracks' across the Pacific
- **Prof. Dr. Lars Eckstein** (Anglophone Lit. and Cult. outside GB & U.S., Potsdam) and
Prof. Dr. Helmut Peitsch (German studies, Potsdam)
 - Two Versions of Tupaia's Map: Georg and Johann Reinhold Forster
- **Prof. Dr. Dirk Wiemann** (English Literature, Potsdam)
 - The Unfriendly Ocean: The Pacific as Dystopia
- **Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Kunow** (American studies, Potsdam)
 - Imperial Immunities
- **Dr. Vanessa Agnew** (Anglophone studies, Duisburg-Essen)
 - Can the Transpacific be Re-enacted?
- **Prof. Dr. Katrina Schlunke** (Cultural Studies Program, UTS Sydney)
 - *South Pacific* and the Affective Aftermath of Cook in the Pacific
- **Jens Temmen, M.A.** (PhD candidate in American studies, Potsdam)
 - The Currency of Law and Literature in Transpacific studies and the Study of U.S. imperialism

Chair:

Prof. Dr. Nicole Waller (American studies, Potsdam)

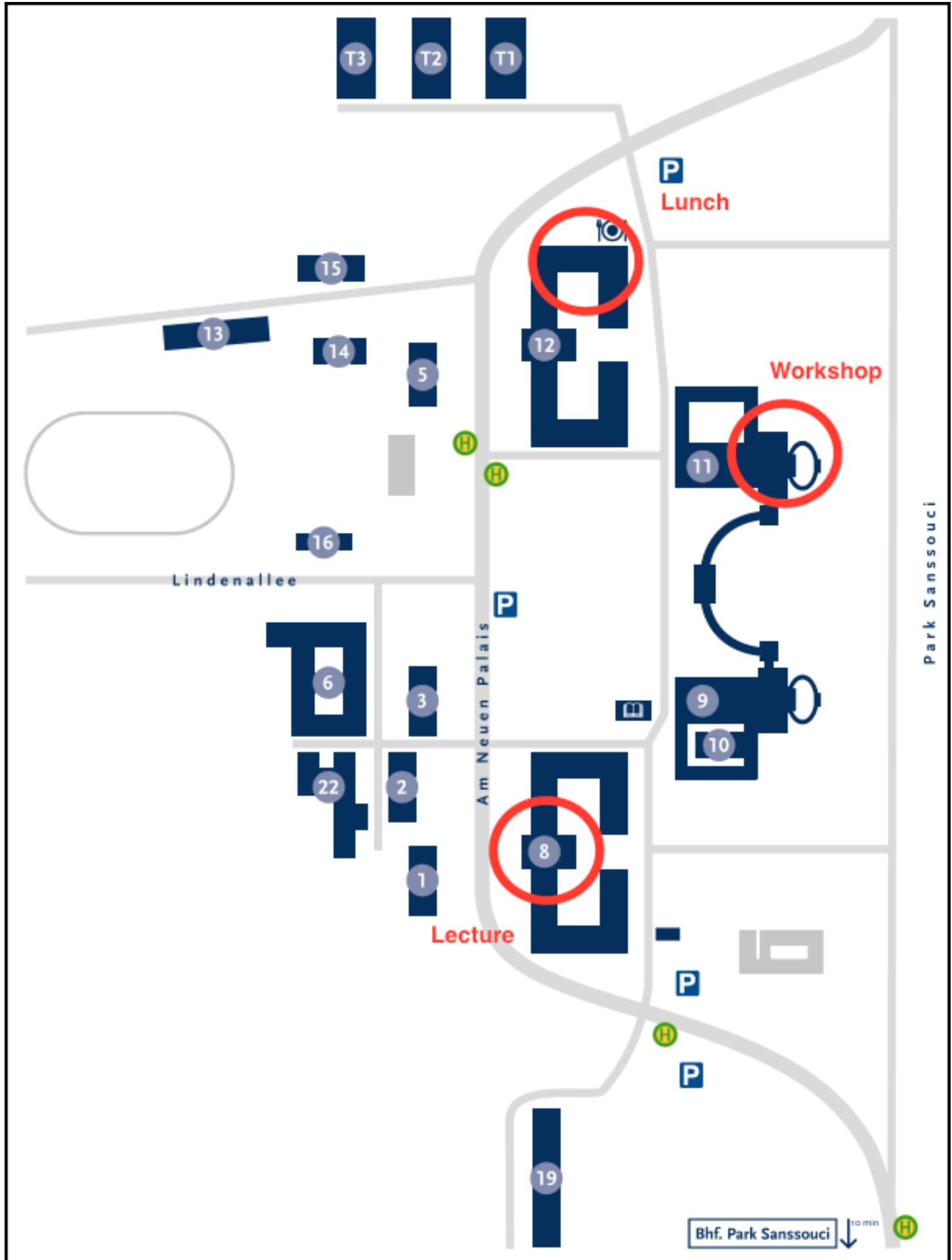
Schedule // Lecture & Workshop

Thursday, July 16th 2015

Time	Event	Venue
6:15 pm	Guest lecture “Shades of Paradise”: Craig Santos Perez’s Transpacific Voyages Prof. Dr. John Carlos Rowe (USC)	Campus Neues Palais // Building 8 // Room 0.60/0.61
Ca. 8:30 pm	Dinner “Sala Thai“	Dortustrasse 71c // 14467 Potsdam

Friday, July 17th 2015

Time	Event	Venue
10am – 12pm	Workshop “The Views from Different Shores”: Future Directions in Transpacific Studies	Campus Neues Palais // Building 11 // Room 2.19
12pm-1pm	Lunch break	Mensa
1pm-2pm	Workshop – continued “The Views from Different Shores”: Future Directions in Transpacific Studies	Campus Neues Palais // Building 11 // Room 2.19



Train connections // Campus Neues Palais

Train station at Campus Neues Palais: Potsdam Bahnhof Park Sanssouci (see map)

Train connections from Berlin:

The train **RE1 to >Brandenburg Bhf<** passes through all major Berlin stations (Alexanderplatz, Friedrichstrasse, Hauptbahnhof, Zoologischer Garten, etc.) and stops directly at **>Potsdam Bhf Park Sanssouci<**.

Please note: The RE1 to >Magdeburg Bhf< does not stop at >Potsdam Bhf Park Sanssouci<.

Train connections from Potsdam Hbf (main station):

In addition to the RE1, both the trains RB20 (to [Oranienburg Bhf](#)) and RB21 (to either [Golm Bhf](#) or [Wustermark Bhf](#)) stop at [Potsdam Bhf Park Sanssouci](#).

Please consult the following website for individual inquiries: <http://www.vbb.de/en/index.html>

