Call for papers „The reconfiguration of the Cosmopolitan: ‘Being Transnational’ in Viral Times”

Discussion published by Markus Schleiter on Thursday, March 17, 2022

Dear colleagues,

Our panel for the 17th EASA Biennial Conference is entitled "The Reconfiguration of the Cosmopolitan: 'Being Transnational' in Viral Times". With this panel, we aim to bring together researchers interested in the mediation of cosmopolitanisms, reflecting on the theoretical and empirical limits of concepts of cosmopolitanism and transnational belonging in the present.

The idea is to stimulate a discussion on present-day manifestations and transformations of the transnational/ cosmopolitan triggered by different but interconnected current phenomena, such as the global rise of nationalism, and the increasing virtualisation of social interaction exacerbated by the pandemic. How do cosmopolitanism and transnational identification appear in the digital enclaves?

Please read the panel abstract below for a more detailed description. For more information on abstract submission, please visit the conference website cfp_easa_2022: The panel will be held in a hybrid format with in-person and video participation. Deadline for abstract submission is 21 March.

We look forward to receiving your presentation proposal,

Hanna Werner & Markus Schleiter

------------------

The Reconfiguration of the Cosmopolitan: ‘Being Transnational’ in Viral Times

The panel explores the (re)configuration of concepts and practices of cosmopolitanisms in light of the ‘viral times’ we live in. What does it mean to ‘be transnational’ in times of increasing nationalism, populism, mediatization and virtualisation – all brought to the fore by the literal virus?

Abstract

The global rise of nationalism and populism (Hann 2019, Mazzarella 2019), equally present in governance, media and everyday life, poses a great challenge to conceptualisations of being and belonging shaped by ideals of global interconnectedness, such as cosmopolitanism and...
transnationalism. The panel explores what it means to ‘be and act transnational(ly)’ in viral times and in what ways such reconfigurations relate to the rise of nationalisms and social changes brought about by the pandemic. The proliferation of virtual infrastructure (Madianou & Miller 2013) and ‘techno-political terrains’ (Postill 2014) and the investment in transnational networks may be read as (mediated) aspirations to ‘reach out’. We ask about the contradictions inherent in transnational/cosmopolitan orientation, how it reshapes and transcends social worlds while solidifying demarcations from the non-cosmopolitan Other.

We invite papers which critically analyse present-day (re-)configurations of ‘being transnational’. Possible fields of inquiry include cosmopolitan ideas playing out in the creation and consumption of transnational series and music videos, (new) transnational communities created through virtualisation, variants of indigenous cosmopolitanisms, the implementation of (trans)national imaginaries and resources by social movements and NGOs. Questions of interest include, but are not limited to: How do streaming platforms and social media support the emergence of transnational consumer/producer communities? How are boundaries drawn with a (simultaneous) orientation towards transnationalism and the valorisation of local resources? What is the interrelationship between the global ‘cosmopolitan tradition’ (Nussbaum 2019) and its local and/or indigenous variants and who fits into category of the ‘indigenous’ or ‘vernacular cosmopolitan’ (Agamben 1988, Forte 2010)?