

Call for Papers

Swiss Association for North American Studies
Austrian Association for American Studies

Conference 2012

Cultures in Conflict / Conflicting Cultures
University of Zurich, 9 & 10 November 2012

The conference proposes rethinking issues of aesthetic production in the light of cultural differences by introducing the concept of conflict into the debate. At stake is conflict as a theme, as an aesthetic practice, and as a description of a specific historical-cultural context. To speak of cultures in conflict allows one to look at the different types of articulation that make up a cultural field. This could include semantic conflict on the most simple level, namely within the rhetorics employed by a text, but also conflict as the fruitful tension between the visual, the verbal, and the acoustic. It could also refer to the manner in which texts fruitfully negotiate different genres in which they give voice to contradictory meanings, or sustain an ideological antagonism. To speak of conflicting cultures, in turn, means rethinking Huntington's clash of cultures in a productive way, so as to ask how the production of national and personal identity presupposes alterity as well as internal difference.

Possible areas of investigation include, but are not limited to:

- **Film**
Intermedial negotiations with literature
- **Literature**
- **History**
documentaries, history film, newsreels
- **Politics**
propaganda film, visual rhetoric, newspapers
- **Popular Culture**
sensationalism, fairground attractions, expositions, vaudeville
- **Science**
medical museums, scientific imaging and its popularizations
- **Ethnography and Geography**
ethnographic photography and film
- **Minorities**
minority art and cinema, politics of ethnic display
- **Gender**
shaping and visualizing gender identities
- **Art History**
abstract painting, art film, animation, design, landscape photography
- **Architecture and Urban Studies**
department store, public art, urban landscaping

Scholars should send 200-word abstracts suitable for 20-minute papers to the conference organizers by 1 May, 2012:

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