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Nachruf: Meenakshi Mukherjee (1937-2009)

Auch nach mehreren Wochen sind Freunde und Kollegen immer noch tief betroffen vom plötzlichen und völlig unerwarteten Tod Meenakshi Mukherjees am 16. September 2009. Auf dem Weg nach Delhi, wo sie ihr jüngstes Buch vorstellen wollte, erlitt sie am Flughafen von Hyderabad einen Kollaps und starb wenig später. Mit ihr verliert die indische Literaturkritik eine der angesehensten Stimmen und die englischsprachige Literatur des Landes ihre wohl bedeutendste und differenzierteste Fürsprecherin während der vergangenen vier Jahrzehnte.

Meenakshi Mukherjee stammt aus Patna, studierte und lernte hier ihren Mann Sujit kennen, der sich ebenfalls einen Namen als Literaturkritiker, Herausgeber und Übersetzer machte. Ihre Dissertation, die sie an der Universität Pune vorlegte, wurde 1971 unter dem Titel *The Twice Born Fiction: Themes and Techniques of the Indian Novel in English* veröffentlicht und stellt bis heute ein Standardwerk der englischsprachigen Romankritik Indiens dar. Lehrtätigkeit an den Universitäten Pune, Hyderabad und Neu Delhi fand Ergänzung durch Einladungen an amerikanische und australische Universitäten. Als Nachfolgerin von C.D. Narasimhaiah, dem Nestor der indo-englischen Literaturkritik, leitete sie die indische Sektion von ACLALS als Chairperson von 1993-2005 und richtete 2004 die in dreijährigem Rhythmus stattfindende ACLALS-Konferenz in Hyderabad aus, ihrem Wohnsitz nach der Beendigung ihrer Tätigkeit an der Jawaharlal Nehru University in Neu Delhi.

Neben *Twice Born Fiction* veröffentlichte Mukherjee weitere Bücher, zahllose Aufsätze, Rezensionen und Beiträge zur Literatur und Literaturszene Indiens in internationalen Zeitschriften und in Zeitungen ihres Landes. Sie edierte auch eine Reihe von Essaysammlungen, so etwa die drei Tagungsbände der ACLALS-Konferenz in Hyderabad. Ihr besonderes Interesse galt neben der indo-englischen Literatur komparatistischen Ansätzen, in denen sie Bezüge zwischen der englischsprachigen Literatur Indiens und den in indischen Sprachen verfassten Literaturen sowie Möglichkeiten einer umfassenden Literaturgeschichte ihres Landes nachging. *Realism and Reality: The Novel and Society in India*, bereits 1985 veröffentlicht, belegt dieses nicht häufig von ihren Kollegen verfolgte Engagement, das im übrigen in ihrer kritischen Haltung gegenüber einem auf englischsprachige Literaturen abhebenden postkolonialen Theoriediskurs seine Entsprechung fand. Deren Niederschlag findet sich wieder in der von ihr mit Harish Trivedi herausgegebenen Sammlung *Interrogating Postcolonialism* (1996), Vorträge einer 1994 in Shimla durchgeführten Konferenz.

Zu weiteren umfänglichen Publikationen zählt *The Perishable Empire: Essays on Indian Writing in English* (2000), der ihr den Preis der Sahitya Akademi für das beste in englischer Sprache verfasste Buch des Jahres 2000 eintrug, eine Auszeichnung, die bisher nur wenigen Literaturkritikern zuteil wurde. Es folgten *Elusive Terrain: Culture and Literary Memory* (2008) sowie ihr letztes Buch, *An Indian for All Seasons: The Many Lives of R.C. Dutt* (2009), dessen öffentliche Vorstellung am 17. September Mukherjee nicht mehr erleben sollte. Die Beschäftigung mit R.C. Dutt

(1848-1909), dem in Bengali und Englisch schreibenden und übersetzenden *Homme de lettres*, unterstreicht noch einmal ihren Einsatz für ein umfassendes Verständnis des Zusammenhangs indischer Literaturen, deren Ausgangspunkt für sie im 19. Jahrhundert lag.

Für viele Menschen, die Mukherjee als Lehrerin, Professorin für englische Literatur, Literaturwissenschaftlerin und -organisatorin, Kollegin und geschätzte Gesprächs- und Diskussionspartnerin kennengelernt haben, hinterläßt ihr Tod eine Lücke, die ich persönlich umso schmerzlicher empfinde, als uns seit den siebziger Jahren eine auf gegenseitigem Respekt beruhende kollegiale Freundschaft verband. So korrespondierten wir und trafen uns immer wieder bei Vorträgen, auf Konferenzen, aber auch in privatem Rahmen in Indien und Deutschland, zuletzt auf der Raja Rao-Konferenz in Bangalore im November 2008. Einmal mehr erlebte ich hier Meenakshi Mukherjees Lebendigkeit, ihren Charme und ihre Aufgeschlossenheit, und schmunzelte über ihre oft leicht ironisch gefärbten, witzig und pointiert formulierten und leicht stakkatohaft wiedergegebenen Einblicke in die indische Literaturszene. Ich trauere und bewahre mit vielen Kolleginnen und Kollegen die Erinnerung an Meenakshi, mit deren Tod ein Abschnitt gemeinsam erlebten und geteilten Interesses an indischer Literatur und Kultur ihr Ende gefunden hat.

Dieter Riemenschneider (Kronberg)

Call for Papers

**Contested Communities:
Communication, Narration, Imagination**

**21st Annual GNEL / ASNEL Conference, University of
Bayreuth, Germany, 13-16 May 2010**

The 21st GNEL/ASNEL conference aims at exploring the concept of community in postcolonial contexts. Both in actual communities – based on everyday interaction between its members – and in imagined communities (Anderson 1983), membership is constructed on an assumption of shared features – be it common values, linguistic codes, geographical origin, gender, sexual identity, ethnicity, religion, professional group or joint interests and practices. But how is membership in such communities achieved, manifested, tested or contested? How voluntary or involuntary is the identification with a particular group? What conflicts of interest may arise in cases of membership in several, possibly conflicting groups? What determines the stability or transience of a community? What new forms of community have developed in the wake of globalisation, translocation and digital media communication? What role do narratives, memory and trauma play in the creation of imagined communities?

This interdisciplinary conference tries to critically investigate the usefulness of the concept of community in postcolonial language situations as well as in postcolonial texts and media. Focus of investigation should lie on processes of **communication**, on **narration** and the narrativization of belonging or unbelonging, as well as on **imagination** as the mental aspect of community construction. We are particularly interested in bringing together perspectives from linguistics, literary studies, cultural studies and related fields. In view of the African studies focus of the University of Bayreuth, suggestions with an African or Black Atlantic orientation are particularly welcome.

Possible topics of papers include

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Discourse communities online</i> ● <i>The Black Atlantic</i> ● <i>Contemporary African narratives: reconstructing community – redefining identity</i> ● <i>Performing African Theatre in the North: communities, companies, concepts</i> ● <i>Language, style, and belonging in music</i> ● <i>Linguistic and literary representations of diaspora communities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Language crossings in transnational music cultures</i> ● <i>Imagined communities: fictions of the city</i> ● <i>Changing identities, changing memberships: converts and converted</i> ● <i>Post-colonial youth cultures in the metropolis</i> ● <i>Rites and rituals: membership in closed communities</i> ● <i>Speech communities revisited: new perspectives</i> ● <i>Global Theatre</i>
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You can email abstracts of papers (20 minutes) to the following address: gnel2010@googlemail.com. The call for papers will close on **15 January 2010**.

Please visit our website: www.gnel2010.uni-bayreuth.de

CONTESTED COMMUNITIES

Communication, Narration, Imagination

21st Annual GNEL / ASNEL Conference
University of Bayreuth, Germany
13-16 May 2010
www.gnel2010.uni-bayreuth.de

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Carolyn J. Cooper (UWI Mona, Jamaica)
Ranka Primorac (U Southampton, UK)
Robert J.C. Young (NYU, USA)



“Connecting Cultures”: 9th Summer School on the New Literatures in English, Hanover, September 14-18, 2009 A Participant’s View

Postcolonial theory teaches us that the subaltern is preoccupied with questioning existing modes of narration and with analysing structures and discourses. In this vein, the assessment at hand attempts to go beyond the descriptive to the analytical level. This paper, which deliberately avoids the term ‘report’, abstains from giving a chronological overview of the events surrounding the *9th Summer School on the ‘New Literatures’ in English*, but instead takes up some of the core issues that dominated these five days and tries to discuss them against the background of this academic gathering.

It will not have escaped the attention of avid readers of *Acolit* that in the issue no. 62, published in July 2008, the organising team of Hanover University advertised the upcoming Summer School and emphasised its novelty: the organisers ventured to stretch their agenda beyond the borders of English philology and invited representatives of other disciplines, most notably the history department of Leibniz University, to participate in the lecture series. The inevitable question to ask in the aftermath of the workshop is whether the expectations of the dedicated band of organisers have been met. Interdisciplinarity, or even transdisciplinarity, indeed is the name of the game; it figures among the most prominent and popular terms in the changed and changing German academic landscape. But what is its value-added?

The Hanover Summer School has shown that other academic disciplines have a story to tell and an argument to make which might or might not reinforce the approach of philologists to the field of postcolonialism. The title of the opening lecture delivered by Jana Gohrisch, ‘How exactly does it all connect – or doesn’t it?’, is of direct relevance not only to the structure of postcolonial studies itself but also for the agents involved in those studies. Yet, it would be flawed to depict the Summer School as focussed on the postcolonial condition only. Lectures touched upon and seminars further discussed the fact that the postcolonial is not a period which can be studied in isolation but which has to be seen in connection with the colonial and imperial periods that preceded it – hence the importance of contributions by historians and experts from neighbouring disciplines. Over the centuries, people met, were separated and then re-united within the realm of cross-cultural encounters. This, however, was never a continuous or linear process, but one dominated by disruptions and fragmentation. ‘Memory’ was therefore one of the key concerns that underpinned the series of lectures and seminars. While this is a category which is known to be at the centre of attention of postcolonial studies, other variables, such as ‘transculturality’, ‘globalisation’ and

'citizenship' were less familiar to the audience, which consisted predominantly of established and soon-to-be scholars of English literature. The introduction of these concepts was undoubtedly an enrichment of the canon of philological *topoi*; a problematisation and discussion of these terms, however, would have facilitated their possible employment by students.

This Summer School was, however, not only marked by a diversity of concepts but also by a heterogeneity of student participants. This showed also on the lecturers' side. Not only did the Summer School attract students and scholars from six different countries, it also appealed to people at various stages in their career. Crucial for the success of the conference was, however, the academic exchange and, as stated above, the overcoming of subject boundaries. Since English philology in the German university undergraduate curriculum is only offered as a joint degree, the vast majority of students was interdisciplinary and celebrated that state in various discussions. Exchange was sometimes controversial, always lively, and often continuous and ongoing. The lectures were often equally interdisciplinary but sometimes fell short of getting across the enthusiasm for their subject's approach. The speakers ought to have stated their *raison d'être* in relation to the study of new literatures in English and the comparative advantage which their participation in the Summer School certainly brought with it. While many of the scholars who were not anglicists but rather had a background in history, media studies, translation or area studies resorted to discussing a novel, they could have broadened participants' horizons by stating the approach of their respective field to the broad term of culture and that which is new to it. This would have contributed not only to the conceptual stretching of the term but also to its analytic refinement. Regrettably, it was a general phenomenon, at least of the lectures given at the Summer School, that the concept of *culture* remained ill-discussed and under-theorised. Having said that, the fact of permitting other voices to enter the discourse, can, if established as a continuous practice in subsequent Summer Schools, only turn out to be an asset for everybody involved.

With regard to the conceptualisation of culture, it should also be mentioned that the group of student organisers was careful to not let this Summer School become a solely theoretical undertaking. An elaborate evening programme with readings, music, food and drinks allowed for the setting up of networks also with non-academics from diverse backgrounds.

Among many other things, this evening programme also showed that such a Summer School has to be seen as one of the few opportunities at which undergraduate students can enter in a direct conversation with scholars. As the organising committee states in its report on the workshop, special attention was directed to the establishment of personal ties between the students as well as between students and lecturers. Flat hierarchies, and the time slots which followed the lectures and which were allocated to question and answer sessions, enabled participants to interact with specialists in their field. While most attendants of the lectures and seminars used this opportunity, an intensification of debates is always possible and desirable.

The presentation of results of the seminars on the last day of the Summer School provided another opportunity to see how similar themes were analysed in different settings. While this was a positive experience, it would have been nice had the lecturers followed suit and summed up the outcome of a week's work on different issues. A tentative answer to the initial question of whether and how it all connects would have helped the event to come full circle without preventing the participants from arriving at their own conclusions.

From what has been written on this Summer School it is evident that the rich programme would not have been possible without the unprecedented optimism with which the Hanover students coped with the challenges that lay ahead of them. They rightly saw the inclusion of other disciplines as a benefit for the Summer School. The turnover and fluctuation of team members, caused by the rigidness of the restructuring of the German university degrees and the adaptation of the international Bachelor and Master programmes (against which German and Austrian students have now organised nation-wide protests), was not perceived as an obstacle to the desired outcome of their Summer School but as a source of 'new ideas and new spirit'. Such sanguinity, combined with organisational skills, intellectual curiosity and academic fervour should be the threshold of the next 'Summer School on the New Literatures in English' to come.

Lion Koenig (Heidelberg)

“Connecting Cultures”: 9th Summer School on the New Literatures in English, Hanover, September 14-18, 2009

A Lecturer’s View

An account from the perspective of a lecturer can hardly do justice to the whole academic and supporting programme of the *Summer School Connecting Cultures 2009*, especially since I was not able to participate in all of the events due to time constraints.

My own contribution was a seminar on the topic of *New Englishes and New English Literatures: The Politics of English as a World Language* for which a group of highly motivated students from various countries gathered every afternoon. Besides reading up on the theory of English as a world language and studying research on different Englishes from the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, students were also able to analyse everyday texts as for instance news reports and newspaper articles as well as literary texts. It was especially inspiring to discover the interconnectedness of issues raised in the seminar with the topics of the lectures in the mornings. This was also true for the evening readings, which the team in Hanover had organised; especially for the reading by Amma Darko, whose West-African variety of English had been subject to analysis a couple of hours earlier in the seminar.

The relaxed but at the same time focused atmosphere during the *Summer School* allowed for many interesting conversations with colleagues as well as students during the conference. The organising committee succeeded in providing a comprehensive treatment of the subject matter from very different angles due to the interdisciplinary approach taken in the organisation of the programme, which led to many new insights for us all. I am, therefore, looking forward to the term papers some of the participating students are writing presently.

As a lecturer, it is important to me to also highlight the good support by the organisers as well as the technical support team – no special request for additional media or equipment in the seminar room remained unfulfilled, no question unanswered. The *Summer School 2009* was my first encounter with this GNEL-specific conference organised by students for students, but it certainly will not be the last.

Andrea Sand (Trier)

“Connecting Cultures”: 9th Summer School on the New Literatures in English, Hanover, September 14-18, 2009

An Organising Committee’s View

The 9th *Summer School on the New Literatures in English* took place at the English Department of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hanover from the 14th to the 18th of September 2009. According to the topic “Connecting Cultures” students of different nationalities, for instance from Finland, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland and Germany, as well as national and international academics and authors met for academic work and cultural exchange.

The Hanover Summer School aspired to promote an internationalisation of study and to collectively explore the cultural and literary diversity of the anglophone world. For the first time since the Summer School tradition came into existence, we offered the participating students an interdisciplinary approach to the new literatures in English. On this account, we not only included lectures and seminars on anglophone linguistics in the schedule but also took the chance to cooperate with the History Department of the Leibniz Universität Hannover. Additionally, students were able to earn ECTS credits.

During the Summer School, students attended fifteen interdisciplinary lectures with different emphasis on the subject as well as one seminar discussing specific aspects. Both, lectures and seminars were offered by high-level lecturers from Germany and other European countries. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all participating lecturers for their support.

By attending the Summer School, more than 50 students took the opportunity to explore the cultural and literary variety of the English-speaking world. The participating students broadened their knowledge in seminars on topics such as Women’s Novels on the Partition of India, Black and South Asian British Theatre, African Children’s and Young Readers’ Texts, Anglophone Caribbean Literature, Seminal Writings from Colonial, Imperial and Post-colonial Perspectives, Representations of the Middle Passage as well as New Englishes and the Politics of English as a World Language. The lectures focussed on various literary, historical and linguistic topics as, for example, Canadian History, Multicultural Britain, Globalisation Novels, Postcolonial Translation, specific authors such as Amitav Gosh, Meshack Asare or Claude McKay, Indian English Literature, Arab Writers, Indigenous Literatures, Anglophone Globalisation and Asian American Culture. Furthermore, an appealing evening programme contributed to the event including readings by Amma Darko from Ghana, Meja Mwangi from Kenya and Jonas Hassen Khemiri from Sweden as well as a “night of intercultural encounter” with a homemade buffet and an interactive drum circle.

The organisation and implementation of the Summer School offered us – the organising committee – great potential for our personal and professional development. Although key competences are an integral part of the curriculum during the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, contents in seminars on, for instance, project management are only indirectly touched upon. The Summer School gave us the chance to attend to a project for the course of two years, for the success of which we were responsible. We bore this responsibility both on an individual level by performing various tasks as well as on a collective level within the form of our teamwork.

Already at the beginning of our organisational efforts in autumn 2007, we had one primary objective: to interconnect academic work with cultural experience and exchange. Special attention was therefore paid to the personal connections among the participating students as well as between students and academics. All participants were given the chance to establish new contacts as well as to maintain existing relationships through the conception, organisation and implementation of the Summer School at the Leibniz Universität Hanover. The following quotation from our evaluation survey shows that this aim has been achieved: "I am very happy that I got to know so many interesting people who I became friends with, on a personal as well as on an academic level, during this exciting week."

The Summer School on the New Literatures in English "features an organisational structure beyond compare", as emphasised by the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony Christian Wulff. Therefore, we – the organising committee of the Summer School "Connecting Cultures 2009" – hope that dedicated students will be given the opportunity and support to uphold this tradition, which has been going strong since 1992, of organising and implementing the Summer School in the future.

The Organising Committee: Sandra Dinter, Sorina Ford, Stefanie John, Sascha Klein, Oliver Preuß, Svenja Schimanski, Kristin Unger and Anika Werner (Hanover)

"Facing the East in the West": A Conference Report

With issues of migration, identity and intercultural understanding just as relevant today in Britain as ever, the conference *Facing the East in the West: Images of Eastern Europe in British Literature, Film and Culture* proved important in exploring the way in which Eastern Europe is portrayed and related to in Britain today. Furthermore, contemporary stereotypes, myths and the actual physical presence of the East in Britain also function to question and shape the identity and insecurities of modern Britain. As a multiethnic society, Britain has often been forced to consider its identity and culture from many angles, and it is this facet of multiethnicity and the social and political issues, which arise from this, that the conference aimed to explore. Organized by Barbara Korte (Freiburg), Eva Ulrike Pirker (Freiburg) and Sissy Helff (Frankfurt), the conference took place at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies from 23rd - 26th of July. Papers were presented not only by researchers from Germany but also by a number of international guests from countries such as Italy, England, Poland, Lithuania and even Taiwan, resulting in a wide range of academic and cultural approaches to the portrayal of Eastern Europe in Britain.

In her introductory lecture, Barbara Korte mentioned that the conference coincided with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which ended the Cold War and altered the relationship between Eastern and Western Europe considerably. She said that the recent waves of migration from Eastern Europe pose new challenges, both political and social, for Britain, and that the stereotypes derived from earlier waves of migration have not yet been abolished. From a theoretical angle, migration from Eastern Europe raises issues which can be addressed in terms of post-colonial studies as a way of looking at Britain as a multi-ethnic society. British literature and culture can no longer be studied from a purely Western, English-speaking point of view, as this would be too limited and embody an essentialist view of British identity. Therefore, conference organizers selected participants not only from English literature or postcolonial studies backgrounds but also other faculties and research areas in order to prove that British Cultural Studies must also be concerned with the way that Britain is defined and destabilized by, as well as drawn to, its 'Other'.

For instance, Elizabeth Cheauré, Dean of the Faculty of Philology at Freiburg University, gave a presentation from her perspective as professor of Slavonic Studies. Speaking about the way in which Russia and Eastern Europe as the West's Other function to in fact mirror the West, she suggested that while Russian culture could be seen as European, Russia has actively constructed itself as Europe's Other in the past. Her ideas were reflected in other presentations such as that of Christiane Bimberg, who explored issues of identity and communication in Joseph Conrad's *Under Western Eyes* in order to investigate the question of Russia's position within Europe and Europe's attitudes towards Russia. The question of Russia was further pursued in Nadia Butt's discussion of the film *Eastern Promises*,

where Butt was particularly concerned with the spaces in which different cultures meet. Elmar Schenkel added to this topic by examining changing British stereotypes of Russia as well as Russians' perceptions of Britain. Pao-Hsiang Wang from Taiwan presented a consideration of Jewish migration from Russia and Moldova to the USA and England, as exemplified in Israel Zangwill's *The Melting Pot*.

The question of Russia as Other was also explored by Jonas Takors, who looked at the depiction of Eastern Europe in the James Bond series, suggesting that while Ian Fleming's original novel *From Russia with Love* presented the Russians as a mighty Cold War opponent, the later film adaptation and video game made international terror organizations the new antagonists. These presentations explored the different ways in which Russia has been perceived and portrayed in Britain over time, or has constructed its own unique, changing presence in the West. Russia is at once the Other and a mirror to the West. It cannot be ignored in studies of Britain's multiethnic society because, despite its physical distance from Britain, it has an identifiable role in shaping British identity.

The question of where the East begins was approached from various different angles, demonstrating that the West's Other is not simple to identify. Wolfgang Hochbruck, Elmo Feiten and Anna Tiedemann analysed the portrayal of the East in Joanne K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* novels, suggesting that the East is not only presented through the novels' portrayal of Albania and Transylvania, but could even begin in Rowling's depiction of France or her use of Norman French names. Border crossing, exile and travelling was another major concept explored at the conference, as it suggests that identities and stereotypes are not fixed or tied to one place but are rather areas of constant negotiation and movement. A discussion of borders and history in Eastern Europe was brought up by Cinzia Mozzato, and Michael Szczekalla, who discussed a selection of contemporary British novels, explored the effects of cultural memory crossing national boundaries. Sissy Helff discussed the Hungarian Arthur Koestler's autobiography and his increasingly ambivalent views towards communism as a result of his travels. The communist party was also discussed by Dirk Wiemann who examined excerpts from the 1930s publications of *The Left Book Club* as more than simple radicalism on the parts of British people fascinated by the communist experiment.

The conference also approached the issue of stereotypes of the East in the West. Susanne Schmid's discussion of *Borat* suggested that the film alerted western viewers to their own stereotypical ideas regarding the East and thus functioned to criticize Western stereotypes of Eastern countries. From a different angle, Martin Hermann's investigation of Czech responses to the portrayal of Czechs in the Irish film *Once* demonstrated the pluralities that exist within the Czech identity. This idea was also reflected in Barbara Puschmann-Nalenz's discussion on images of Eastern Europe in British short stories, focusing on the narrative styles and strategies that functioned to present very different images of the reality of life in Eastern Europe.

Ingrida Zindiziuviene explored the changing values and traditions in Eastern Europe with a focus on Lithuania, while Doris Lechner presented an analysis of

the use of stereotypes in as well as the marketing of Marina Lewycka's novels. Additionally, keynote speaker Kapka Kassabova looked at stereotypes of Bulgaria in Western media, including the faux travel guide *Molvania*. Kassabova also drew on her own experiences in terms of the public reception of her works in order to discuss the love-hate relationship that many Bulgarians have with their country. Her talk was complemented by Claudia Duppe's presentation on Kassabova's *Street Without a Name* as well as Vedrana Velickovic's discussion of ways in which Vesna Goldworthy's works critique 'Balkanism', examining issues of self-othering and notions of history, which function to destabilize the Balkanist discourse. Christian Schmitt-Kilb also approached this topic by discussing the gypsy identity as the Other in Britain.

These presentations demonstrated how essential it is for academia to approach cultural studies from an intercultural perspective, in that no nation possesses a stable identity and within cultural groups there exist many different self-perceptions and methods of distinguishing oneself from the Other, a term which is also negotiable and unclear. All of these elements function to shape the complexity of Britain's identity and self-perception, suggesting that the very borders of Britain, in a cultural sense, are in fact liminal spaces that exist both within the nation and outside of it, shaped by multiculturalism and the constant negotiation that occurs between different identities affected by forces of inclusion, exclusion, self-perception and othering.

Some presenters also brought up the topic of Black Britain. Eva Ulrike Pirker claimed that it was important to explore how the Black presence is marked in Eastern European spaces, and how discourses about a Black or multiethnic Britain can make use of or reflect the Eastern European presence. Keynote speaker and Black British writer Mike Phillips also spoke on "Narratives of Desire", suggesting that the recent expansion of the EU offers European literature a unique opportunity to explore cultural diversity. This reinforced the conference's focus on the importance of a consideration of the Eastern European presence in Western literature and culture.

With the expansion of the EU, the issue of increased Polish and other Eastern European migration to Britain has become a major point of debate in British literature and popular culture. This debate had antecedents in the 19th century, which was reflected at the conference when Vera Alexander suggested that the otherness in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* transcends national borders and constitutes a threatening periphery to Western European civilization. In this way, the East has a function in that it can expose certain fears, instabilities and insecurities inherent in Britain and the West. As Michael McAteer asserted, representations of Eastern Europe in Northern Irish literature reflect Ireland's destabilization of British national identity. Furthermore, Marie-Luise Egbert argued that Poles are portrayed in some contemporary literature as the 'new Blacks' of Britain, thus constituting a threat to British national identity and causing much debate in Britain as to what it actually means to be British. Further reflections on Poles in Britain were provided by Przemislaw Wilk, who gave an insight into how Poles and Poland are portrayed in *The Guardian*, while Dirk Uffelmann and Joanna

Rostek examined the portrayal of the exploitation of Polish migrants in British and Polish literature and film.

Thus, the conference explored the idea that the British reaction to and portrayal of its relationship with Eastern Europe says as much about British identity as it does about Eastern European identity, suggesting that the two are not mutually exclusive but rather an integral part of each other's image. The fact that so many recent British works portray the East in terms of mystery, stereotypes, and as a destabilizing factor suggest that despite the expansion of the EU, Eastern Europe remains very much the Other and is still subject to insecurities and debate on the part of the British, while at the same time penetrating many aspects of British identity. Furthermore, much contemporary literature by Eastern European writers demonstrates an instability within the self and a need to explore their own identity in relation to the West, thus creating a connection and crossover between Eastern European and British literature. In this way, the conference in Freiburg proved an important addition to current thinking in British cultural studies, offering a wide range of views and exploring various examples in order to highlight the issues faced in questions of British cultural and national identity today.

Natalie Churn and Elmo Feiten (Freiburg)

LEHRVERANSTALTUNGEN IM WINTER 2009/10: DEUTSCHLAND, ÖSTERREICH, SCHWEIZ

[zusammengestellt aus *AREAS - Annual Report on English and American Studies*,
Band 37 (2009/2010) sowie aus Zusendungen von Mitgliedern der GNEL]

Deutschland

AACHEN

Griffig	World Englishes
Brown	Teaching English as a World Language

AUGSBURG

Mahamied	Refugee Writing
Ugorji	Sociolinguistics: English in Nigeria
---	Nigerian English

BAMBERG

Beuter	English in Africa
Schützler	Varieties of English
Hilbert	English in Asia

BAYREUTH

Mühleisen	English in Asia
---	Genre across Culture
Nicklas	Africa on Film
Lindner	Africa and the British Imagination

BERLIN, HU

Peter	Contact Situation: English Related Pidgins and Creoles
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BIELEFELD

Skorge	An Introduction to South Africa
N.N.	The English Language and its Neighbours: an Introduction to Pidgins and Creoles

BOCHUM

Niederhoff	Fictions of Empire (Stevenson, Conrad, Kipling)
Viol	Reggae Cultures
Meierkord	English on the African Continent

BONN

- Meyer British and Postcolonial Crime Fiction
 --- The Empire writes back – in Theorie und Praxis
 Schmidt-Haberkamp Postkoloniale Literaturen und Kulturen
 --- Frantz Fanon
 Sammon Gesellschaft, Landeskunde: Anglophone Welten

BRAUNSCHWEIG

- Kinzel Canadian Short Stories

BREMEN

- Schaffeld Australian Writers: Peter Carey
 --- Margaret Atwood's Historical Fiction
 Junker Literary Representations of Slavery, Abolition and
 Diaspora, 20th-21st century
 Esders Key Moments in the Cultural History of the English
 Speaking World

CHEMNITZ

- N.N. Using and Learning English World-Wide
 Detmers Introduction to the Study of Literature(s) in English
 --- Survey of Anglo-Canadian Literatures and Cultures
 Heidemann Australian and Canadian Life Histories
 Sandten Reading Margaret Atwood
 --- Metropolises in Africa
 Raji African Drama and the Postcolonial City

DORTMUND

- Bell Project Design and Evaluation: Australia/New
 Zealand/USA
 Kramer Hanif Kureishi

DRESDEN

- Schlemper "Rule Britannia – Britannia rule the Waves" – Britain
 1815-1914
 Patcheva Short Fiction by Katherine Mansfield and D. H.
 Lawrence

DÜSSELDORF

- Gomille Translation and Postcoloniality

DUISBURG-ESSEN

Lehrende des Fachs	Studying and Teaching Anglophone Cultures at Duisburg-Essen University
Hamacher-Lubitz	Boy meets girl meets ...? Varied Concepts of Love in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction
---	Fantastic Creatures - Neo-Gothic Tendencies in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction?
---	Postcolonial Poetry
Rüschhoff	Canada: History, Culture, Languages, Current Affairs
Hickey	English as a Global Language
Sift	Multiculturalism in Australia
Kern-Stähler	Imagining the North: Colonial and Postcolonial Constructions of the Arctic
Drawe, Horn	Slave Narrative from North America, the Caribbean and Africa
Reckwitz	Key Themes in Postcolonial Studies

ERFURT

Mohr	Postcolonial Canada
Wilton	Native Speaker Varieties of English

ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

Gruß	Slavery and Abolitionism in Great Britain
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FRANKFURT

Arndt	Postcolonial Theories and British Writing: Critical Occidentalism and Critical Whiteness
---	Narrating Slavery, Colonialism and Empire: Strategies of Aestheticising Violence in British Writing
Brancato	Dub, Reggae, Spoken Word: Poetry in Performance
Gutberlet	Fantasma Africa
Ikas	Robinsonades: Anglophone Stories of Castaways from the 18 th c. to the Modern Times
---	"When (a Nation's) Sorry Isn't Enough": Reconciliation in Australian and Canadian Literature

FREIBURG

Leung	Language and Culture in the Caribbean
Korte, Hochbruck	Ireland - Transcultural Perspectives

Woods-Czisch	New Zealand – Fact and Fiction
FREIBURG PH	
Alecu	Australia Today
GIESSEN	
Grau	Teaching Culture: Focus on Atlantic Canada – Sprach- und Landeskundedidaktik
Rummel	Literature and Politics: Salman Rushdie
Spies	Contemporary Indian Literature in English
Horstmann	Südafrikanische Kurzgeschichten: Herman Charles Bosman
Kovacevic	Postcolonial Shakespeare
GÖTTINGEN	
Glaser	New English Literatures
---	Australia and Canada Compared: Two Histories, Cultures and Literatures
Küsgen	Introduction to the New English Literatures in English
Griebeler	After Midnight: Contemporary Anglophone Indian Fiction
Sandrock	Postcolonial Nobel Prize Winners
GREIFSWALD	
Lutz	Canadian Women Novelists and Wilderness
---	Indigeneity and Environmental Ethics: The Case of First Nations (Literatures)
Suchacka	Identities in Ukrainian-Canadian Literature
Klein	Peaceful Resistance: Mahatma Gandhi or The End of the British Raj
Susemihl	Canadian Popular Culture and Media
HALLE-WITTENBERG	
Busse	Varieties of English
Bergmann	Das britische Regierungssystem in vergleichender Perspektive (USA, Kanada, Australien, Neuseeland)
Meyer	The Raj in Literature
Grabbe	The Suez Crisis of 1956 – Britain Becomes a Second-Rank
Bergmann	Early Modern Britain: The Origins of British Empire

HAMBURG

- Berg Varieties of English
 Berns Two South African Novelists: Nadine Gordimer and John M. Coetzee
 Böger Black Atlantic/Diaspora Literature and Cultures

HANNOVER

- Jones/Menis Varieties of English
 Gohrisch, Füllberg Colonial Nigerian Historiography and Literature - Die Kolonialgeschichte Nigerias in Geschichtsschreibung und Literatur
 Grünkemeier, Rüther Listening to the Voices: Literary and Historical Approaches to South African Life Writing
 Schröder Pidgins and Creoles

HEIDELBERG

- Bölling Varieties of English
 --- Pidgins and Creoles
 Schäfer Visions of India
 Polzenhagen Approaches to World Englishes

HILDESHEIM

- Ernst Popular Culture in Canada

JENA

- N.N. Kazuo Ishiguro, *Novelist: A Pale View of Hills* (1982), *The Remains of the Day* (1989), *Never let me go* (2005)

KASSEL

- Degenring Canadian Dystopias: Atwood, Coupland, Doctorow
 Borschel Canada: Education and Multiculturalism
 Göske/Pfeffer Caribbean Literature in Translation

KIEL

- Zimmermann Postcolonial Literature and Theory in the North American Context
 --- Canadian Literature as Postcolonial Literature
 Meyer Variation within Canadian English
 --- An Introduction to Canadian English
 Rosenberg The Development of the British (and Commonwealth) Short Story: From its Origins to the Contemporary Period

Groß	Canadian Multiculturalism
KOBLENZ-LANDAU	
King	Varieties of Modern English
Pütz	Postcolonial English: Varieties around the World
KÖLN	
Adone	Australian Languages and Cultures
Bölling	Contemporary Canadian Literature
Neumeier	Performing Australia
Rau	Living Along the 49 th Parallel: US-Canadian Relations in Canadian Literature in English
KONSTANZ	
Schwarz	The Postcolonial Gothic
Reif-Hüser	The Essay as philosophical and as literary form: from Montaigne to Coetzee
Windisch	The El Dorado Quest: Sir Walter Raleigh, Wilson Harris, V.S. Naipaul, Pauline Melville
Payne	Area Studies Canada. The Multicultural Mosaic
LEIPZIG	
Pollner	Varieties of English
---	Phonological, Morphological and Syntactic Features of New Zealand English
Ronthaler	Insular Identities: The Isle as Model from Moor's Utopia to Coetzee's Foe
Welz	Literary and Cultural Perspectives on Australia and New Zealand
LÜNEBURG	
Fetzer	Postcolonial English
MAGDEBURG	
N.N.	Coping with the Demise of the British Empire
Ebeling	English in Postcolonial and Transcultural Contexts
MAINZ	
G. Lampert	Black English in Britain and the US
Tancke	Fictions of Britishness: Migration, Ethnicity and Cultural Identity in Contemporary Writing
Riedel	Canadian Short Stories

Thakkar	A Home in the World: Family, Intimicy and Love in the Global Imaginary
Stein	Indian English Literature: From Salman Rushdie to Aravind Adiga
1x	Cultural Studies III (Neuseeland)
Rüttgers	Der Roman als Filmvorlage und Roman zum Film: Babsi Sidhwa's 'Cracking India'

MANNHEIM

Winkgens	International Cultural Studies - Intercultural Encounters and Postcolonial Constellations
---	The Ambivalence of Colonial Criticism in Novels by Conrad, Forster and Lessing
---	Variants of Intercultural Encounters in Literature
Trips	Varieties of English
Metzger	Caribbean Literature
Roller	Intercultural Encounters and Postcolonial Constellations
Griffiths	Australia: History - Culture - Environment
Krug (2x)	Landeskunde Kanada - Introduction
Heinz	A Survey of Postcolonial Theory

MARBURG

Fielitz	Introduction to the Study of Anglophone Literatures
Birkle	The Two Margarets: Atwood and Laurence
Kuester	Recent Novels from Great Britain and the Commonwealth
Langwald	Writing the Nation: Lyrics of Poets Laureate from the Anglophone World

MÜNCHEN

Ungerer	Varieties of English: Sociolinguistic approaches and beyond
Thalhammer	(New) Englishes
Rennhak	Postcolonial Plays
Grundmann	Australian Literature and Culture
Zips	Der Blick in den Spiegel: Performing Identity in Postcolonial and Postmodern Literature
Klopfer	"I am a Canadian": Einführung in die kanadische Geschichte
Schmidt	Trickster Discourse: Native Writing in the United States and Canada

MÜNSTER

Stein	Postcolonial Literatures
---	The Colonial Rise of the Novel
---	Postcolonial, Transnational and Transcultural Studies
Schmitz	The Colonial Home: Representations of the Rural in 19 th Century British Literature
---	Permission to Narrate: Palestinian Autobiographies in English
Stroh	Caribbean Short Stories

OLDENBURG

N.N. (3x)	Introduction to Anglophone Cultural Studies
--- (4x)	Analysing Anglophone Cultures
Kirchhofer	Fictions of India: Colonial, Postcolonial and Contemporary Issues
Geluykens	English as a Global Language
McLaughlin	Global English

OSNABRÜCK

Asu	English-Speaking Africa
Sexson	Global English
Kullmann	Images of India in 19 th -Century Britain

PADERBORN

Pienemann	Australian English
Ehland	African-British-Relations: A Literary Perspective
Schäfer-Wünsche	Global Encounters: Reading Colonial and Postcolonial Narratives

PASSAU

Pleißke	Migration in British Film and TV
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POTSDAM

Kinsky-Ehritt	Introduction to Postcolonial Studies
Bartels	The Making of the British Empire
Wolf	Asian and African Englishes

REGENSBURG

Schneider (2x)	World Englishes: Evolution and Text Analyses
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Bauer (2x)	Listening to World-Wide English: Issues of Pronunciation
McIntosh-Schneider	Commonwealth of Nations
ROSTOCK	
Bös	Geographical and Social Varieties of English
Hörmann	Cultural Representations of Caribbean Slave Revolts
Mackenthun	Globalization and 'Entangled Modernities' in Literature and Religion
SAARLAND	
Ghosh-Schellhorn	Vorlesung zu den englischsprachigen Literaturen und Kulturen
---	Kolloquium (Neue englischsprachige Literaturen und Kulturen)
N.N. (2x)	Nordamerikanische Literatur und Kultur
SCHWÄBISCH	
GMÜND	
Baier	Slumdog Millionaire
Kornetta	English all over the World
SIEGEN	
Banerjee	Magnum meets the Beach Boys: Hawai'i in American Literature and Film
Georgi	Reading the Black Atlantic: Canadian, US American and Caribbean Women's Writing
Rieuwerts	The Empire writes back: English classics and postcolonial re-writings
Waegner	"From-Heres" and "Come-Heres": Perceptions of the Immigrant Other and Transcultural Encounters
STUTTGART	
Dengel-Janic	The Politics of Gender and Culture in British-Asian Fiction and Film
Metzger	Caribbean Literature
Rodoreda	Rewriting Australia: Contemporary Literature
---	Identity and Culture Down Under, Cultural Studies
Göbel	Colonial and Postcolonial Literature and Theory
Holtkamp	Conversation with Globalization. America, Europe, India, Cultural Studies

TRIER

- N.N. Michael Ondaatje: Postmodern Theory and Practice
Linetsky Contemporary Canadian Female Writers
Sand English in South and Southeast Asia
N.N. Advanced Survey of Canadian Literature and Culture

TÜBINGEN

- Tan Representations of Canada in Literature and Music
Reinfandt Multi-Ethnic Britain Today: From Englishness to
Britishness and Beyond
Stieverman Colonial Literatures
Kohn/
Abi-Mikasa English as a Global Lingua Franca

WEINGARTEN

- N.N. Films from English Speaking Countries

WÜRZBURG

- N.N. Landeskunde Canada/USA
--- Landeskunde Canada/USA

WUPPERTAL

- McIlwaine Australian Culture and Society
Heinen The Anglo-Indian Novel
Sommer Postcolonial Literature and Theory

Österreich

GRAZ

Smit World Englishes

INNSBRUCK

Pichler Introduction to British and Postcolonial Literary Studies
 --- British and/or Postcolonial Literature: The Urban and the Rural in (Black) British Literature
 Marinell British and/or Postcolonial Literature: The Urban and the Rural in Australian Literature
 Milne-Skinner Concepts, Contexts, Theories of Cultural Studies: British and Anglophone Cultures
 --- Discourse/Identity: British/Anglophone Cultures: The Scottish Diaspora
 --- Critical Interfaces: British/Anglophone Cultures: British Cultures and Subcultures Past and Present
 Ramsey-Kurz English Literature and Culture: Canadian Stories of Migration
 Zach Modern Australian Literature and Culture

KLAGENFURT

Puff Black Women Writers
 Schallegger Canadian Dramatist Brad Fraser
 Wimmer Survey of Anglophone Literature
 --- Main Developments in Australian Studies/Studies in New Anglophone Cultures: The British Empire and Australia
 Wildburger Advanced Topics in Cultural Studies: Yarrtij. Narratives from the Great Sandy Desert
 James Research Forum II: Global English Linguistics

SALZBURG

Grosser The Globalization of English

WIEN

Ozvalda World Englishes: Economy, Linguistic and Culture Observations

Schweiz

BASEL

- Steffen "Living the City" in Recent South African Fiction
 Arlt/Houssouba The Epic of Sunjata and the Making of National Narratives
 Arlt/Förster/Harris/Macamo/Nagel/Tanner Introduction to African Studies

BERN

- Escherle Religion and Violence in contemporary South Asian English Novels
 Huber Writing the Other
 Shaw Theoretical Approaches to Non-Western Arts
 Shaw/Schneemann Modern & Contemporary Art Outside the West

GENÈVE

- Challet The Tragic Mulatta
 Leer Tales of the Islands: Caribbean Fiction
 --- Australian Literature
 --- Migrant Tales
 --- The Postcolonial Body I
 --- The Postcolonial Body II
 Madsen Performing Race, Writing Indians

ZÜRICH

- Bronfen British-Asian and American-Asian Hybrids: Hanif Kureishi and Jhumpa Lahiri

ABGESCHLOSSENE DISSERTATIONEN

BERLIN, HU

Haschemi Yekani, E.: The Privilege of Crisis. Narrative Patterns of Masculinities in English Colonial and Postcolonial Literature, Photography and Film. (Kilian)

BREMEN

McPherson, A.: Post-colonialism and Gender in Marina Warner's *Indigo* and Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*. (Broeck)

DÜSSELDORF

Capelle, B.: TIME: A Comparative Study of Temporality in American Transcendentalism, Pragmatism, and East Asian Thinking (Friedl)

DUISBURG-ESSEN

Bendels, geb. Rathofer, K.: White Africans? Negotiating Identity in White South African Writing (Reckwitz/Gurr)

ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

Boutros, F.: Representations of Slavery in Modern Caribbean Fiction (Breinig)

FRANKFURT

Moura-Kocoglu, M.: Narrating Indigenous Modernities: Transcultural Dimensions in Contemporary Māori Literature (Schulze-Engler)

Butt, N.: "Overlapping Territories, Interwined Histories": Transcultural memory and the Indo-English Novel (Schulze-Engler)

FREIBURG

Jantos, S.: Morphosyntax in Educated Jamaican English: A Comparison of Spoken and Written Usage in ICE-Jamaica (Mair)

Pirker, E.: 429 and More: Recent Narrative Projections of a Black British History (Korte)

Rosenfelder, I.: Jamaican English Pronunciation: An acoustic Analysis of the Spoken Component of ICE-Jamaica (Mair)

Spittel, Ch.: Based on a True Story: The Great War in Australian Novels, 1914-2008 (Korte)

GIESSEN

Rupp, J.: Genre and Cultural Memory in Black British Literature (Nünning)

HEIDELBERG

Haliloglu, N.: The Staging of Female and Colonial Selves in Jean Rhys's Novels

KLAGENFURT

Weber, B.: German Influence on Cameroon Pidgin

KÖLN

Boge, Ch.: Outlaws, Fakes and Monsters: Doubleness, Transgression and the Limits of Liminality in Peter Carey's Recent Fiction (Antor)

MAGDEBURG

Offergeld, N.: Letters to the Editor in Indian and British Newspapers: Studies on Linguistic Concepts in Public Discourse (Bergien)

MARBURG

Freiesleben, S.: Geographical Region or Region of the Mind? – Narrating the Canadian North in the Franklin Story (Kuester)

Radu, A.-R.: Intertextuality in Canadian Artist Novels (Kuester)

MÜNCHEN

Maxharraj, U.: English-Indian Fiction and the Politics of Nation Formation in the Twentieth Century (Döring)

REGENSBURG

Biermeier, T.: Word Formation in New Englishes (Schneider)

Hoffmann, T.: Preposition Placement in British and Kenyan English: Corpus and Experimental Evidence for a Construction Grammar Analysis (Schneider)

Spiegel, J.: The Geographies of Jewish Canadian Women Writers (Emig)

Trüb, R.: American English impact on South African English: An empirical analysis of its manifestations and attitudes towards it (Schneider)

ABGESCHLOSSENE HABILITATIONEN

DUISBURG-ESSEN

Hamacher-Lubitz, K.: The Rediscovering of the Extraordinary. Magischer Realismus in englischsprachigen Romanen der Postapartheid (Reckwitz)

WÜRZBURG

Merkel, M.: Identität und Fremdverstehen. Eine kulturwissenschaftliche und fachdidaktische Untersuchung der kanadischen Minoritätenliteratur der Gegenwart (Ahrens)

Forschungsergebnisse



Anne Barbara Koch, "The Quest for White and Black Australian Identity in Alex Miller's Novel *Journey to the Stone Country*", Staatsexamensarbeit, 2009, Universität Trier (Prof. Gerd Hurm).

Since the 1960s and 70s, indigenous Australians have been fighting for improved legal rights, and struggling to redefine their position within the wider Australian society. However, the quest for Aboriginal identity has been greatly impeded by the irreversible loss of traditional knowledge, clan membership and land ownership, as well as the new circumstances of life in a modern society. White Australians, on the other hand, have been striving to accept the shortness and violence of their history, as well as the devastating effects their occupation has produced on the indigenous population. Consequently, the quest for white Australian identity has constantly been hampered by feelings of non-belonging, exile and guilt.

In his novel *Journey to the Stone Country* (2002), the Australian author Alex Miller offers a realistic portrait of Black and White Australia's quest for identity, focusing on the interwoven issues of displacement, historical guilt, cultural loss, and racial tensions. This thesis first puts *Journey to the Stone Country* into the context of Miller's complete works, showing that he draws from his personal experience in all his novels, each of which culminates in its main characters' search for identity. It then offers a detailed analysis of Miller's representation of white and black Australian characters and their individual quests for identity in his novel *Journey to the Stone Country*. Furthermore, it examines the significance of sacred sites and objects for white and black Australian identity formation. Finally, it attempts to probe into Miller's approach to a possible solution to Australia's identity crisis.

Throughout his novel Miller emphasises the importance of historical connections for individual and national identity. The journey of his white protagonist Annabelle Beck mirrors the development of white Australian society since the 1960s, leading from the repression of knowledge about historical wrongs to the acknowledgement of guilt-by-association. Miller further stresses the inseparability of Aboriginal identity from traditional knowledge, sacred land and ancient customs. It thus becomes apparent how deeply cultural loss impacts on indigenous identity.

Journey to the Stone Country emphasises the importance of both cultures, black and white, facing the process of Australian identity formation simultaneously and together. Only with the support of Black Australia can white Australians gain a sense of belonging, thereby ridding themselves of the devastating weight of colonial guilt. White Australia has to reconcile with its relatively short and violent history, and to consider its own willingness to become as much part of the

continent as the indigenous population. Indigenous Australians, on the other hand, have to come to accept White Australia's enduring presence on the continent and adapt to the mechanisms of modern society, while still maintaining vital links to their traditions and their land.

Miller draws a very clear picture of the destructive effects of interracial hatred and segregation, setting them in stark contrast to the uniting powers of love and respect. The path he proposes is not one of assimilation and cultural conformity. Instead, his main characters achieve the formation of new Australian identities by preserving deep ties to their own core culture, while adopting parts of the other culture. By acknowledging and accepting the differences between indigenous and white culture, they nonetheless establish intercultural identities which contain characteristics of both worlds. Thus, Miller's characters are continually bridging the chasm between blacks and whites, transcending apparently insurmountable cultural barriers through respect and open-mindedness.

Alex Miller's choice of an open end for his novel is highly significant. Like present-day Australian society as a whole, his characters have only just started to redefine their existence and identity, pursuing their path into a new future without any certainty as to a possible outcome. Miller's imaginative attempt to take his characters into the land of Aboriginal ancestors in a quest for new Australian identities might fail in real life. Yet Miller deserves respect for exploring a noteworthy attempt to find a sustainable solution to white and black Australian identity crises.