

Postgraduate Workshop: Transcultural Autobiography

April 9 and 10, 2014, University of Münster

Organizer: Prof. Dr. Katja Sarkowsky, Chair of American Studies

Transcultural autobiographies, particularly those texts that deploy narratives of migration and/or the experience of cultural marginalization, present on the one hand “cultural negotiation[s] of a self between a country of familial origin and a country of residence” that “contribute[] to the formation of a transcultural self and prefigure[] a transnational affiliation” (Hornung 2013, 12). On the other hand, they more generally investigate and stage complex cultural negotiations that place the narratively constructed self in constellations shaped by conflicts between diverse cultural practices and expectations, not only across and between but also within specific national contexts.

Central to this workshop is an investigation into the different facets of negotiating cultural practices and meaning-making systems as crucial reference points for narrative self-formation. Topics for submission include but are not restricted to:

- Diaspora and transcultural autobiography
- Intergenerational conflict in autobiographical narratives of migration
- Transcultural autobiographies and narratives of the nation
- The significance of place and space for narrative constructions of self
- The relationship between transcultural autobiographies and other forms of life narratives
- Transcultural autobiographical forms

The overall number of participants is limited to 15 as the format of the workshop stresses discussion rather than on-site presentations. Each participant is expected to submit a short text in advance (a statement, a project description, an article, a book chapter etc.), which will be circulated among and read by all participants in preparation for the workshop. The on-site meeting (April 9, 2014, 4pm to April 10, 2014, 3 pm) will be devoted to the discussion of issues raised in the submissions and a set number of theoretical texts to be agreed on once participation has been confirmed.

Please submit a CV and short abstract (500 words) to Mrs. Chris Wahlig at seksarkowsky@wwu.de by **February 3, 2014**; notice will be sent out by February 7. **In case of acceptance, please be ready to have your contribution (10-25 pages) ready for circulation via email by February 14.** Confirmed participants will be reimbursed for travel costs (DB 2nd class coach) and accommodation (one night).