

# New Critical Perspectives on the 'Trace'

## SECOND CIRCULAR

### CALL FOR PAPERS-DEADLINE EXTENDED

#### New Critical Perspectives on the 'Trace'

University of Málaga  
20-22 October, 2011

We are pleased to announce the celebration of the International Conference “New Critical Perspectives on the ‘Trace’”, to be held at the University of Málaga (Spain) on 20-22 October 2011. The Conference aims to explore the critical notion of the ‘trace’ and its applicability to contemporary literature written in English. The notion of the trace draws heavily on Jacques Derrida's early work in the 1970s. His interpretation of the trace emphasised erasure and the irretrievable nature of the past. In contrast to Derrida's view, other critics such as the phenomenologist Paul Ricoeur and Emmanuel Levinas have recently analysed the concept of the trace and its inherent possibilities of retrieval and recuperation, especially in the fields of ethics and historical interplay. The turn to ethics and trauma studies in contemporary criticism has attracted much critical interest. However, little attention has been given to the concept of the trace and the ways in which it engages questions of ethics, memory studies and trauma in contemporary literature. We invite papers that deal with the relevance of the trace in contemporary literature written in English, not only in terms of the in/visible presence of the past, i.e. the Victorian age, but also as providing the means for disciplinary boundary crossing of literature and other arts/fields of knowledge (painting, photography, music, architecture, medicine, science).

This Conference is part of a Research Project, funded by the *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación* (Ref. FFI2009-09242).

Keynote Speakers: Prof. Pilar Hidalgo (University of Málaga, Spain), Prof. Ann Heilmann (University of Hull, UK), Prof. Roberta Maierhofer (Graz Universität, Austria) and Prof. Cora Kaplan (University of London – Southampton University, UK)

We welcome 300-word abstracts, in English, for 20-minute papers, on any of the topics listed below:

1. The trace in recent critical theory
2. The trace in contemporary literary engagements with the past
3. The trace in neo-Victorianism
4. The trace in literature and other arts and fields of knowledge

To submit a proposal:

Proposals should be sent via electronic form at <http://www.thetraceinliterature.com/cfp>

Please note that the submission deadline has been extended to 25 April, 2011. Acceptance of papers will be notified by **30 June, 2011**. We are pleased to announce that we offer **five bursaries** to early career researchers and/or postgraduate/postdoctoral students who wish to present a paper. Please consult the Conference Website for details: <http://www.thetraceinliterature.com/presentation.php>

For more information, please contact the Organising Committee at [thetraceinliterature@gmail.com](mailto:thetraceinliterature@gmail.com)

Organising Committee:

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