



Call for Papers: Sixth Autumn Conference of the Centre of Excellence in Cultural Theory

EMBODIMENT, EXPRESSIONS, EXITS:
TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE AND CULTURAL IDENTITY
University of Tartu, Estonia
October 30th – November 1st, 2013

Key Dates and Deadlines:

Abstracts Due: June 1st, 2013

Acceptance Notification: July 1st, 2013

Registration Deadline: September 15th, 2013

Full Paper Submission: October 15th, 2013

The Sixth Autumn Conference of the Centre of Excellence in Cultural Theory (CECT) focuses on the issues of embodiment, personhood, subjectivity, and experience, as well as on the connection of these concepts with the understanding of cultural identity. The notion of identity is often treated in the framework of controversial efforts of dialogic interpretation. Recognising the individuality of the studied subjects, it becomes tricky to merge a variety of self-understandings into a coherent whole. Identity appears to us as an interconnected play of superficial and fundamental, ideological and physical, essentialised and dialogic. The conceptual initiative of our conference is inspired by these controversial cognitive dimensions. We encourage our colleagues to develop theoretical and empirical approaches through a conceptual matrix that focuses primarily on the proposed concepts of understanding and interpreting cultural identity.

The organising committee of the conference invites proposals for presentations at the CECT Sixth Autumn Conference. Interested participants are encouraged to think about how their work addresses any of the following themes listed below. For detailed information on panel subtopics see the CECT homepage.

Panel I: Revisiting key issues in the methodology of studying culture: reflexivity, representation and experience

This panel invites scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to revisit and reflect upon recurring methodological issues in the study of culture, many of which are furthermore tied up with epistemological questions and ethical concerns. In the face of the recent interest of the humanities in questions of embodiment, personhood and experience, we ask how these concepts pertain to researchers' own subjectivity as well as their scholarly interests and choice of research methods

Subtopics:

- The (scholarly) self as a source and tool in the study of culture
- Subjective ethnographic strategies
- The field and representations of the field



Panel II: Negotiating embodied experiences

This panel focuses on embodied experiences which are shaped by our relationships with other people and surrounding environment, our everyday life and also our bodies' physical functioning. Panellists are welcome to discuss how corporeality determines the limits of perception, shapes the content of human experience in cooperation with culture, and how the bodily aspects of individuals' actions and interactions are socially structured. Attention will be paid to the process of mediation and role of intermediaries in the course of expressing and interpreting embodied experiences in various contexts.

Subtopics:

- Bodily based experiences: borders, expressions, and transformations
- Embodied brokerage: cultural intermediaries and interpretations

Panel III: Learning landscapes: stories, senses and sensitization

The aim of this panel is to explore the scope for a constructive dialogue among different methodologies of understanding landscapes. In particular, we attempt to find ways of bridging the gap between embodied and mediated-constructional approaches to learning landscape. Recently, this tension has been addressed in writings discussing the multiplicity of landscape interfaces and labelled as post-phenomenological, material-semiotic, post-structuralist, more-than-human, etc. We would like to take this forward by probing into the relationships between the 'stories' (representations, narratives and performances), 'senses' (embodied experience) and 'sensitization' (attuning of experience in relation to particular discourses) involved in coming to know landscapes.

Subtopics:

- The relationships of environmental experience and landscape representation
- The simultaneously affective and mediated processes of learning about landscapes
- The role of direct perception in landscape learning

Panel IV: Dynamics between public and private

The panel focuses on the cultural processes of becoming public and remaining private. Panellists are invited to discuss how the public-private divide is constructed, demarcated, negotiated, and crossed in media, arts, religion and landscape. Where are the hidden borders and transitions between the private and public? When and how do private experiences become public, enter into public space? What remains private and outside public interest and access? What is the role and relevance of private experiences and values in culture? How are they revealed in the boundaries and dynamics of personal and cultural basic values?

Subtopics:

- Mediation of private stories in public
- Demarcation and dynamics of private and public in landscape
- Interaction between cultural and individual values and beliefs



Panel V: Death as the transformation of personhood

The panel aims to investigate how death transforms the personhood of the deceased as well as of the living, as death is considered to be one of the most dramatic changes of human agency. In the context of this panel personhood is understood as a condition/relational state of being a person, involving constant change, created, maintained and transformed through relationships with humans, things, places, animals, etc. Conceptually personhood is understood as embracing various modes of existence: selfhood, individuality, identity, subjectness. Questions related to death and transformations of personhood will be addressed from different perspectives of cultural research focusing on their various forms in past and in present..

Subtopics:

- Various techniques of changing the personhood of the deceased
- Death as the transformation of personhood in social relations
- Dying and death as the transformation of personhood against the background of ultimate values
- Personhood in the face of death and cessation

Abstract submission: proposals for individual papers should be submitted by **June 1st, 2013**. Please send your submission form to the conference administrator (cect@ut.ee). Submission forms are on the CECT homepage.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by **July 1st, 2013**.

Manuscript submission: Once the abstracts are accepted, the full papers, for presentations of 20 minutes, are expected by **October 15th, 2013**, to be submitted to the conference administrator. A full paper is a prerequisite of consideration for publication in an edited volume.

Poster presentations: proposals for poster presentations should be submitted by **June 1st, 2013**. Please send your proposal to the conference administrator (cect@ut.ee). Submission forms are on the CECT homepage.

A conference fee is not required but there will be no reimbursement for accommodation and travel costs for conference guests (except for CECT members). More information about accommodation choices will be provided after acceptance.

Conference administrator: Monika Tasa, cect@ut.ee, (+372) 737 6535

CECT home page: <http://www.ut.ee/CECT>