

**“Transnational Conversations”.
Multilingual Writing and Cultural Exchange
in Europe and the Americas**

**University of Fribourg, December 6, 2019
(organizers: Thomas Austenfeld, Sebastian Imoberdorf, Ralph Müller)**

Call for papers
swissuniversities

Doktoratsprogramm Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft
Programme doctoral Littérature générale et comparée

Literary conversations and cultural exchange increasingly take place across linguistic boundaries. Writers and scholars transcend their national boundaries--even their multilingual national boundaries--and seek inspiration as well as solidarity in linguistic and ethnic spaces that are geographically remote or that have been socially removed from interaction heretofore. Texts are created in new spaces: online, in transit, in situations of crisis and trauma. Writers may choose a new language in which to express themselves, or they may embrace discourses and values that differ from their original ones. Writers also cross and re-cross national boundaries or seek relationships across old linguistic divides.

While the title of the conference highlights transnational relations, we invite all doctoral students who are enrolled in a Swiss University and who work across language and cultural boundaries to present their work in progress at a one-day workshop in Fribourg, Switzerland.

Topics of investigation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Writers who work in more than one language
- Definitions of cultural boundaries and their challenges
- French-Canadian, Swiss-Québec, German-French, Swiss-Belgian literary connections, Francophonie.
- North-American crosscurrents: Mexican writers in Spanish and English, U.S. American writers in English and Spanish
- Issues in multilingual publication
- The question of audience: who is addressed in more than one language?
- Questions of identity
- Hybridity in cultural exchange
- The nature of the image across cultures
- Multilingual communication in popular culture
- Public language vs private language
- Autobiography in more than one idiom
- Migration literature, exile and literature
- Oral histories
- Spain and Mexico, Mexico and the U.S.
- Latin American poetic theories and poetics
- Reception in translation

Presentations may be in English, French, German or Spanish; the discussions will be in English, French and German.

Interested doctoral students, please submit an abstract of about 300 words as well as a one-paragraph biography including recent publications by September 14, 2019 to emily.eder@unifr.ch

Our keynote speaker is **Jennifer A. Reimer**, currently a Lise Meitner senior postdoctoral fellow in the American Studies department at the University of Graz (Austria). Jennifer received her PhD in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 2011, and her MFA in Writing from the University of San Francisco in 2005. She is the 2011 winner of the American Studies Association's Gloria E. Anzaldúa Award and currently serves as Chair on the ASA's International Committee. Jennifer's scholarly work has appeared in *Western American Literature*, *ARIEL (A Review of International English Literature)*, *The Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *Latino Studies*, *The Journal of Transnational American Studies* as well as the new *Routledge Companion to Transnational American Studies*. Her first prose poetry book, *The Rainy Season Diaries*, was released in 2013. The Turkish translation of *The Rainy Season Diaries* was released in 2017 by Şiir den Press (Istanbul). Poems from her current poetry manuscript, *Keşke*, have won several awards. She is the Forwards Editor for the *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, the co-founder and co-editor of Achioté Press, and a proud native Californian.