



Future Directions in the Humanities and Social Sciences

The Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities and the Social Sciences organizes guest lectures on innovative topics in the humanities and social sciences. The particular aim of these encounters is to promote the dialogue between various disciplines and especially between the «two cultures». For this purpose, the Institute invites scholars who venture outside their own fields into the territory of the natural sciences and medicine, law, economics, politics and other fields.

Tuesday, 26 March 2013, 16:15 – 17:45
Unitobler of the University of Bern, Lerchenweg 36
Room: F022

Darwin's 'late style' and the Two Cultures

Prof. Dr. David Amigoni, University of Keele

There has been re-newed interest in the idea of 'late style' since the publication of Edward Said's work on the subject (*On Late Style: Music and Literature Against the Grain*, 2006). This interest has important critical implications for thinking about creativity in later life; Victorian Studies, in common with other fields, has given increasing attention to the categories of ageing and identity in later life.

This talk asks: did Victorian scientific writers have a late style? Can present day writers of science make appeals to late style, and why? The paper will explore Darwin's last work on earth worms, noting that the earth worm was a topic that Darwin re-visited in 'late life', having visited it first as a young man in the 1830s. The talk will use the case of Darwin to consider more widely the place that 'late life creativity' might occupy in the debate about the place of creative expression in science by focusing on Edward O. Wilson's use of Gauguin in his recent *The Social Conquest of the Earth* (2012).

David Amigoni, Professor of Victorian Literature at Keele University. His book *Victorian Literature* appeared in 2011. He is the author of *Colonies, Cults and Evolution: Literature, Science and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Writing* (2007). His edited collection, with Jeff Wallace, *Charles Darwin's Origin of Species: New Interdisciplinary Essays* (1995), has just been re-printed. He has written widely on Victorian life writing, and the the relationship between Victorian literature and science.

Recently, he has worked on ageing through the NDA-funded 'Ages and Stages' project: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/agesandstages/> and runs, with Professor Gordon McMullan (King's College, London) an AHRC-funded network on 'late life creativity': <http://www.latelifecreativity.org>

In collaboration with:
English Department
Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter
www.ens.unibe.ch

**Institute of Advanced Study
In the Humanities and the
Social Sciences | IASH**
Falkenplatz 16
CH-3012 Bern
www.iash.unibe.ch

**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**