



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.

Thursday, 19 May 2011, 16:15 – 17:45
Unitobler of the University of Bern, Lerchenweg 36
Room: F022

Panopticism: From Bentham and Foucault to Critical Theory and the Realities of Carceral Space

Prof. Dr. Monika Fludernik, Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg

The Panopticon, designed by English philosopher and social theorist Jeremy Bentham in 1785, has attracted wide interest in the wake of philosopher Michel Foucault's *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (originally published in French in 1975) and has been used as a model to explain prisons. The term surveillance is still very popular in crime control studies and in literary theory the concept of panopticism has seen various mostly metaphorical uses. The lecture will introduce the audience to the panopticon and these various extensions of Bentham's original proposals and also discuss the relatively minimal adequacy of the concept for the discussion of actual prison conditions. The paper will also devote some time to the analysis of the literary works by British authors Sarah Waters and Angela Carter.

Monika Fludernik is Professor of English at the University of Freiburg in Germany. She has published widely in narratology, postcolonial literary theory and eighteenth-century studies. She is completing a monograph on English prison settings and prison metaphors. Her publications include *The Fictions of Language and the Languages of Fiction* (1993), *Towards a 'Natural' Narratology* (1996), and *An Introduction to Narratology* (2009). She has edited several special issues of journals (on second-person fiction, *Style* 1994; on metaphor, *Poetics Today* 1999; on voice, *New Literary History* 2001; on German narratology, *Style* 2004) as well as a number of collections of essays for instance: *Beyond Cognitive Metaphor Theory: Perspectives on Literary Metaphor* (2011), *Postclassical Narratology: New Essays* (2010, with Jan Alber); *In the Grip of the Law: Prisons, Trials, and the Space Between* (2004, with Greta Olson); *Diaspora and Multiculturalism* (2003); *Hybridity and Postcolonialism* (1998). Her essays have appeared, among others, in *Anglia*, *Arial*, *Diacritics*, *English Literary History*, *English Studies*, *Narrative*, *New Literary History*, *Poetica*, *Semiotica*, *Style*, and *Textual Practice*.

In cooperation with the English Department of the University of Bern.

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