

**GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
AUSTRALIEN-STUDIEN e.V.**



**ASSOCIATION FOR
AUSTRALIAN STUDIES e.V.**

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AUSTRALIEN – AUSTRALIA: Raum und Bedeutung - Making Space Meaningful

**9. Zweijahrestagung der
GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSTRALIEN-STUDIEN e.V. (GASt)**

**9th Biennial Conference of the
ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDIES**

**at Warburg Haus, Heilwigstraße 116, 20249 Hamburg, Germany
October 6 - 9, 2004**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Australia – still more or less a geographical void (an ‘empty land’) or a busy and inspiring place forming part of the “global village“?

We invite proposals for papers on a wide range of issues emerging from the dialectics of space, time and society in Australia. This interdisciplinary conference seeks to examine intellectual, aesthetic, and cultural attempts to cope with the extraordinary spatial dimensions of the “Fifth Continent“ by making them meaningful to the individual human being as well as to society as a whole.

The organisers of this conference are aware of the fact that “space“ in general is a major issue of interest in the context of current debates in various disciplines, and that there is a tendency to (re-)mythicise “space“. Obviously, “space“ as an analytical concept seems to open up new roads to an innovative understanding of man and society. Speakers are therefore invited to integrate their contributions into the context of ongoing theoretical discussions of “space“.

The following questions may be helpful when it comes to conceive and structure possible contributions:

- What is space in general terms? (How do we perceive, experience, conceptualise, communicate, and map space in its multiple forms, such as body, site, place, neighbourhood, city, countryside, landscape, locality, region, territory, scale, world etc.?)
- Can the concept of space function as “common ground“ for cultural and literary theory?
- How do new concepts of multiculturalism, environmentalism, feminism and post-modern geography influence our notion of space?
- What does a confrontation of aboriginal concepts of space as a kind of mythical home and Anglo-European approaches to space as an inexhaustible resource of raw material teach us?
- What are the meanings of sanctified forms of space such as, for example, the Australian icon Uluru?
- How does space exist in male and female imagination, and are there places assigned to a particular gender ?
- What are the relations of space to, and possible bearings on, politics?
- What may be the role and function of space in the context of non-linguistic communication systems?
- What is the interpretative potential of built environment?
- How do artists, writers and composers respond to space in Australia?

Speakers are expected to give a lecture of ca. 30 minutes to be followed by a discussion of ca.15 minutes. The lecture may be either in English or German. Speakers are invited to submit proposals along with an abstract of ca. 400 words by 31 March 2004 to:

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If possible use e-mail and send your abstract as attachment. After the conference a selected number of papers will be published as a volume of the series KOALAS, edited on behalf of the GAST.

More information about the conference, including details concerning registration fee, accommodation, supporting cultural programme etc. will be available in due course, via links provided by Hamburg University (www.uni-hamburg.de), the GAST (www.australienstudien.org) and possibly other institutions. For information about the venue please visit the homepage of Warburg-Haus Hamburg (www.warburg-haus.hamburg.de). Warburg Haus is an academic institution that is associated with Hamburg University.