

‘Boundaries’: transience and intercultural dynamics

With the objective of situating intercultural dynamics within a framework of reference capable of introducing new concepts for reflection, we propose the topic of boundaries. A boundary, as a metaphor, is that space of identification in which what is similar and what is different is decided. Something that we have in common is our difference from others, and through a shared “boundary” we discover what we are and what we are not and where “our” similarity is “their” difference.

We will situate our reflection in a present time that is cosmopolitan and that needs a cosmopolitan outlook in order to observe the increase in interdependence and to understand the new landscapes of identity.

We will question ethnicity or the social organisation of difference. Identity is not an accumulation or a synthesis of various components, but rather a space of diverse forces that interact to determine that which is similar and that which is different. That which is hybrid? Could this be the third space in which the elements encounter and transform each other?

We propose approaching this relatively new area which is visual culture. The intervisual is a field of presences and absences, desires, invisibility, stereotypes and processes of negative identification that visualise this “boundary” between us and them.

Absence of boundaries: the cosmopolitan vision

9th March 2007

What does "cosmopolitan vision" mean? It means sense of the world, sense of the absence of boundaries. It means an everyday outlook, historically alert and reflexive, a dialogical view of the ambivalence that exists in the surroundings characterised by differentiation in the process of disappearing and cultural contradictions. It does not show us only the anguishes but also the possibilities of shaping life itself and co-existence in the cultural hotchpotch. It is, at the same time, a sceptical outlook, one without illusions and critical of itself (Ulrich Beck).

Programme

Morning

- 9.30 **Opening session**
Narcís Serra, President of the CIDOB Foundation
- 10.00 **Presentation of the seminar**
Yolanda Onghena, Intercultural Dynamics Programme of the CIDOB Foundation
- 10.10 **Global generations in a world risk society: a cosmopolitan vision**
Ulrich Beck, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München / London School of Economics
- 10.30 **Debate**
Convenor: Yolanda Onghena, Intercultural Dynamics Program of the CIDOB Foundation
- 11.00 **Coffee break**
- 11.20 **The cosmopolitan imagination**
Gerard Delanty, University of Liverpool
- 11.40 **A world without surroundings**
Daniel Innerarity, University of Zaragoza / University of Bordeaux
- 12.00 **Debate**
Convenor: Sandra Camps, journalist
- 13.30 **Lunch**

Afternoon

- 15.30 **Open cultural spaces looking for new frontiers**
Nada Švob-Đokić, Institute for International Relations, Zagreb
- 15.50 **Cosmopolitanism and methodology**
Kevin Robins, City University of London

16.10 **Coffee break**

16.30 **Debate**

Convenor: **Jordi Tresserras**, University of Barcelona

17.30 **Final Discussion** among all participants, presented and chaired by
Hanan Rabbani, Human Rights Officer Amman, U.N. Human Rights Office

19.00 **Closing speech**

Alfons Martinell, Director-General of Cultural and Scientific Relations (AECI)

Guests for the discussion slot

Christian Bataillou, University of Perpignan

Norbert Bilbeny, University of Barcelona

Lluís Bonet, University of Barcelona

Rafael Bueno, Casa Asia

Francesc Carbonell, Department of Education, Generalitat of Catalonia

Agustí Colomines, UNESCO Catalonia

Senen Florensa, IEMed

Mercedes Giovinazzo, Interarts Foundation

Seán Golden, Autonomous University of Barcelona

Eduard Miralles, CERC

Jordi Marti, ICUB

Julieta Piastro, Ramon Llull University

Rosa Maria Plans, Caixa Catalunya Foundation

Montserrat Ribas, Pompeu Fabra University

Jordi Sánchez, Jaume Bofill Foundation

Bernard Scheou, University of Perpignan

Antoni Traveria, Director Casa America Catalunya

Further information

Location: Maragall Hall, CIDOB Foundation
Elisabets, 12. 08001 Barcelona

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