

Nomadworld: Global Mobility and the New Anglophones

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Today's globalized world is characterized by the mobility of capital and ideas, and by the movement of professionals, travellers and displaced as well as precarious subjects (cf. Khanna 2021). These mobilities are often anchored in, and articulated by, the English language as it has emerged as the preferred choice of world communication in the fields of software, business, entertainment and international law. Connective patterns of language, literature and transculture have only diversified with the growing profile of migrants and refugees in 21st-century writing (cf. Woolley 2014). In what has emerged as a modern 'nomadworld', motives to move and corresponding accounts are proliferating from expert migration and digital nomads to civil war, persecution, climate change and economic precarity. Much of this new literature of mobility circulates in English, extending to formerly non-Anglophone contexts such as the Arab world, East Asia and even parts of South America. Many of these cross-cultural literary accounts, moreover, explore the complex dimensions of a "politics of mobility" (Cresswell 2010) by uncovering the web of power relations between nationalities, ethnicities, classes and genders.

This section seeks to explore the role of English as a language on the move as well as representations of global mobility in Anglophone literatures and cultures with respect to three analytical categories: (1) discourse, (2) genre and (3) medium:

- (1) How does the expanding currency of English shape, facilitate or empower global mobility? To what extent does this lingua franca reflect uneven power structures even if the links between English, Empire and colonialism seem to have become more tenuous? How do processes of translation as well as subaltern resistance to vernacular languages (e.g. Dalits in India) negotiate the hegemony and mobility of English?
- (2) How do new trajectories of "literature on the move" (Ette 2003) intervene in present economies of genre? How do they conform to or counteract the centrality of the novel in the theory, practice and recent critique of world literature? How do emerging trends of auto- and heterobiography, oral history, performance, testimonies and narrative journalism contribute to charting alternative visions of planetary and climate justice?
- (3) What is the dynamic between global mobility, the digital and the mobility of form? How do oral and written modes, visual media or virtual mobility inform new intermedial aesthetics in Anglophone literatures (cf. Neumann/Rippl 2020)? Which genre- and medium-specific experiments of form does global mobility facilitate, and how are these brought to bear to comment on climate-induced displacement or economic and political migration?

Papers might address, but are not limited to these three areas. Further possible topics include:

- Variety and change in global Englishes
- Literatures of global mobility and legal discourses of migration
- Mobility and eco-narrative
- Mobility and social media technologies
- Gender-specific and intersectional mobility
- Mobility of stories and master narratives across nations and media
- Representations of "cultural mobility" (Greenblatt 2010)

Please send your abstract (300-400 words) and a short bio to the section organizers:
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The deadline for submissions is 15 January 2022.