

The HOMES (HOSts Migrations Exchanging Stories) Project
ILCEA4 & LISCA Université Grenoble Alpes, France
Invites you to a Two-Day (staggered) International Conference on

'MAKING KIN'¹:

Hos(ti)pitalities and (Trans)Migrations across Species, Technologies, Cultures, Genres

Day 1: 15 October 2021; Day 2: 29 October 2021

Species, including human beings, have migrated from one place to another from time immemorial, coming in direct encounter with various Others, including machinic others, facing and practising hostility as also acceptance and hospitality, and in the process adopting newer forms, making newer kins, forging newer narratives, or at least bringing to the fore the necessity of doing so.

First, needless to say, neither migration nor hostpitality is restricted to human beings alone. Not only do non-human animals migrate, and are integral players, in any case, in inter-species hostility and hospitality, they also often become part of the migrant human cultural domain through their appropriation as totems and taboos, as religious icons, and through notions like metempsychosis and reincarnation. The resultant toleration, and even veneration, by humans of non-human animals through animism, as also their otherization through the foregrounding of the apparently unique human faculty of language, need to be rethought in this context, especially in the light of the ethical imperative of sustainable inter-species connections in an increasingly ecologically hostile world. These post-human and trans-human concerns also twin with our kinship with machines, in terms of human-machine connections and conflicts in an increasingly digitalized and technologized world.

Secondly, non-human animals and inanimate machines apart, the issue of human migration, cultural assimilation and hybridization, and the articulation of the same through narratives, indeed gathered greater momentum from the late medieval era, with the Crusades and the opening up of terrestrial trade routes on a larger scale than ever before. These were thoroughly crystallized during Early Modernity and the colonial era, with the discovery of maritime trade routes and the migration of Europeans to different parts of the world on a massive scale, and the resultant global exchange and diaspora of populations to and from diverse corners of the globe. And, one can notice a further accentuation of the same in today's globalized and yet strife-torn 'post-colonial' world, where émigrés, refugees, and exiles, or those simply looking for a better life, seek hospitality from the developing countries in what purports to be the 'developed' world, to probably gain acceptance but probably also face hostility, and weave their own narratives out of these experiences.

Thirdly, what happens when tales of migration themselves migrate – across times, across cultures, across languages, across genres, across cultural universes – through translation, adaptation, bowdlerization, fan-fictional production, unauthorized plagiarism? How much is a text welcomed in an alien cultural universe, in another language, another medium, what kind of hostilities does it face in the host culture? Or conversely, how accepting is the originary established canon when a text of its strays and migrates elsewhere to have an afterlife of its own? Do all the members of a dispersed textual universe – say Robinsonades – ever succeed in making kin with each other?

These are the three issues that the conference wishes to raise over two staggered days, through three sessions, in the reverse order in which the issues were posed above, through presentations on the same by eminent scholars from various countries – France, Germany, Switzerland, India, UK, and the USA – as detailed in the programme that follows.

¹ Though otherwise a common phrase, the use of 'Making Kin' here is attributable to the subtitle of Donna Haraway's book *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* (Duke University Press, 2016).

PROGRAMME

Day 1: 15 Oct 2021 (from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm), Grande Salle des Colloques (Stendhal G, 4th floor)

Session 1: Textures of Migration: The Curious Case of Robinson Crusoe

Chair: Prof. Marie Mianowski, Université Grenoble Alpes, France

- 3.00 pm - Prof. Isabel Karremann, Universität Zürich, Switzerland:
"At home in the world? Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* between island territory and global terrain"
- 4.00 pm - Prof. Saugata Bhaduri, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India:
"Polycolonial Connections: Robinson Crusoe in India"

Day 2: 29 Oct 2021 (from 10.00 am to 5.15 pm), Salle J. Cartier, Maison des Langues et Cultures

Session 2: The Poetics of the Other: Hospitality and Hostility in Contemporary Migrant Literature

Chair: Maëlle Jeanniard du Dot, PhD candidate, Université Grenoble Alpes, France

- 10.00 am - Prof. Marie Mianowski, Université Grenoble Alpes, France:
Introduction to the HOMES project followed by a portrait of hosts in contemporary Irish fiction
- 10.45 am - Prof. Vanessa Guignery, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France:
"A Precarious Balance: Breaking and Connecting in Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* and Helon Habila's *Travelers*"
- 11.30 am - Jessica Small, UK (PhD candidate, Université Grenoble Alpes, France):
"Contemporary refugee literature as the embodiment of border crossing"

[12.15 pm - 2.00 pm: LUNCH BREAK]

Session 3: 'When Species Meet'²: Of Human-Animal and Human-Machine Hospitalities

Chair: Prof. Saugata Bhaduri, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

- 2.00 pm - Prof. Claire Joubert, Université Paris 8, France:
"Global to digital: work in progress on the epistemologies of digital humanism"
- 2.45 pm - Prof. Zeno Ackermann, Julius Maximilians Universität Würzburg, Germany:
"Articulation and Sustainability: The 'Languaging' of Connectedness"

[3.30 pm – 3.45 pm: SHORT BREAK]

- 3.45 pm - Prof. Jonathan Pollock, Université Perpignan Via Domitia, France:
"Animism and Transmigration in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*"
- 4.30 pm - Prof. Laura Reeck, Allegheny College, PA, USA:
"Interspecies relations in *Arrival* (Denis Villeneuve), and reflections on translation and hospitality upon arrival"

ORGANIZERS

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² The phrase 'When Species Meet' is from the title of Donna Haraway's book *When Species Meet* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007)