



TRANSITIONS SEMINAR NEWSLETTER 5

November 2022

Bimonthly, edited by M. Aguirre (for now)

The *Transitions Seminar* is a permanent initiative set up in 2019 by the LIMEN Research Group. It convenes approximately on a monthly basis. It provides a forum for debate on liminality and related issues, and a research-training ground for PhD candidates, as well as functioning as a venue for the current *Transitions Project*. It is linked to The Gateway Press and the websites *LIMEN & TEXT*, *The Northanger Library*, and *The Janus Gate Project*.

<http://www.limenandtext.com/rst.html>
<http://www.limenandtext.com/index.html>
<https://northangerlibrary.com/>
<http://janusgate literature.com/>

WELCOME

Two new members of the LIMEN Research Group: Verónica Frejo, who recently defended her MA thesis, and Carlos Velasco, due to complete his MA thesis this year. They have both been following our seminar for some time, and shown a decided interest in liminality studies. Besides joining the group's growing ranks, they will be cooperating with the organisers of the PS[L]S, and contributing to the *Transitions Project*. A hearty welcome to them.

RECENT EVENTS

Our seminar run for 2022-23 began on 19 October with a talk by Aguirre titled 'A Typology of Transitions', which was followed by a lively debate. The gist of the talk concerned the possibility of subsuming a large variety of processes within the single concept of transition. A video recording of the session will soon be available at LIMEN & TEXT, http://www.limenandtext.com/rst_online%20videos.html. A revised version of the talk is now scheduled to appear in *The TRELIS Papers* over the next few months.

A PROPOSAL FOR 2022-23

A number of us positively miss the relaxed cosiness of our old face-to-face encounters in room Vibis.312, which were handy for discussing practical project matters. Now that the pandemic situation seems under control, it has been agreed to revive these sessions. On the other hand, we also feel that online encounters have opened up exciting possibilities, not least that of reaching out to scholars distant in space (researchers from no less than nine different countries attended our latest). It is therefore proposed to hold both kinds of seminar in alternate months.

Accordingly, on Wednesday 16 November we will hold an on-site meeting in the Faculty of Humanities. On the agenda, aside from several practical issues, is a survey of the latest revised version of the *Transitions Project*.

COMING EVENTS

Our next **online** session will take place on Wednesday 14 December at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Our guest speaker will be

Ineke Jolink

former lecturer at the Université Catholique de Paris,
with a talk entitled

Liminality and the New Diasporic Space of “Transnationality”: Between Empathy and Apathy in Taiye Selasi's *Ghana Must Go* (2013)

ABSTRACT

The creation of empathy is an issue that is studied very seriously these days, and from a multitude of different perspectives: neurological and psychiatric, but also philosophical, literary and linguistic. In this paper I would like to discuss the creation of *empathy* and its failure, *apathy*, from these perspectives, in a number of novels concerned with immigration into America from different African countries, in particular Taiye Selasi's *Ghana Must Go* (2013), in which the characters find themselves within a liminal space: "lost in transnation," as Selasi suggests it in her article "What is an Afropolitan."

As usual, you will all receive a Zoom link one or two days before this event. The talk will last some 40 minutes, and there will be ample time for questions and debate afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

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