

Conference

Liberty and Death.

Pirates and Zombies in Atlantic Modernity

January 18-19, 2018

IFK

Reichsratsstraße 17, 1010 Vienna

Since early modern times, both zombies and pirates have shared a history of diverging appropriations and attributions. The Caribbean marks a crossroad in the circulation and transformation of these figures in the context of an “Atlantic modernity” (Stephan Palmié). The participants discuss this entangled cultural history from a trans-disciplinary perspective.

Questioning the opposition of freedom and slavery, life and death, zombies and pirates have negotiated (post)colonial relations for centuries. Zombies, in the cultural imaginaries of the Caribbean understood as bodies or spirits doomed to serve a master beyond the moment of death, thematize histories of enslavement and rebellion, while pirates were used to articulate colonial adventure and exploitation on the one hand and the idea of a resistant collective beyond established power relations on the other. Both have been cast as figures of exception (Giorgio Agamben) who are discursively located beyond law and state while simultaneously playing a constitutive role for both; both are marked by ambivalent characterizations—hero and criminal, rebel and slave, perpetrator and victim.

The conference examines the conjunctures of these figures in the transatlantic realm with a focus on their cultural-historical functions for empire and nation building, legal discourses and the history of ideas as well as for contemporary artistic research.

| IFK | | Thu., January 18, 2018 |
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| 10.00 | Thomas Macho Welcome | |
| | Alexandra Ganser and Gudrun Rath Opening: Figures of Liberty and Death. Pirates and Zombies | |
| 11.00 | Coffee Break | |
| 11.30 | KEYNOTE I Richard Frohock From Hawkins to Jenkins: Interpreting Violence in English Piracy Narratives Chair: Alexandra Ganser | |
| 13.00 | Lunch Break | |
| 15.00 | MODELLING A CONCEPTUAL HISTORY Chair: Doris Posch Laënnec Hurbon La figure du zombi et la mémoire de l’esclavage outre-Atlantique Sonja Schillings Traitors and Aliens: The Invention of Race in British Pirate Law Kieran Murphy Tragedies of the Caribbean. Zombies, Pirates, and the Tragic Mode of History | |
| 17.30 | RECEPTION Installation Antonia Prochaska: „THE MONSTER INSIDE ME“ | |
| 19.00 | End | |

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| 10.00 | CONTEMPORARY REMEDIATIONS Chair: Alexandra Hauke Florian Krautkrämer Cosmopolitan Figures Eugen Pfister Don't eat me! I'm a mighty pirate! - Cultural Imaginations of Piracy in Video Games |
| 12.00 | Lunch Break |
| 14.00 | ARTISTIC RESEARCH Chair: Karin Harrasser Sibylle Peters Paralogistics – From Somalian Pirates to the African Terminal Antonia Prochaska THE MONSTER INSIDE ME II dialogues about drastic aesthetics, the fictional monster and boredom in the midst of the apocalypse |
| 16.00 | Coffee Break |
| 16.30 | KEYNOTE II (Video lecture) Doris Garraway Raising the Living Dead in Postrevolutionary Haiti: The Case of the Monarchy of Henry Christophe Chair: Gudrun Rath |
| 18.00 | General Summary Jean Comaroff, Alexandra Ganser, Gudrun Rath |
| 18.45 | End |

General Respondent: **Jean Comaroff**

Concept:

Alexandra Ganser (University of Vienna/FWF), Gudrun Rath (University of Art and Design Linz/FWF)

Participants:

Jean Comaroff (Harvard University)
Richard Frohock (Oklahoma State University/Tulsa)
Doris Garraway (Northwestern University)
Karin Harrasser (University of Art and Design Linz)
Alexandra Hauke (University of Vienna)
Laënnec Hurbon (UEH, Port-au-Prince)
Florian Krautkrämer (Braunschweig University of Art/Mainz)
Kieran Murphy (University of Colorado at Boulder)
Sibylle Peters (Hamburg)
Eugen Pfister (Bern University of the Arts)
Doris Posch (University of Vienna)
Antonia Prochaska (Vienna)
Sonja Schillings (University of Gießen)