

WRITING FOR LIBERTY

SOUTH AFRICA



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE



Centre for Multilingualism
and Diversities Research

Lancaster
University



Centre for Multilingualism and Diversities Research and UWC
CREATES, [University of the Western Cape](#), in collaboration with
[Lancaster University, UK](#).

At the University of the Western Cape, 27-29 March 2017.

Keynote speaker: Professor Antjie Krog, University of the Western Cape.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This will be the second Writing for Liberty conference. Its aim will be to build upon and extend the dynamic debates and discussions begun during the first WFL Conference, hosted by Lancaster's Centre for Transcultural Writing and Research in 2015. Once again it will seek to promote debate around fundamental issues of human liberty through the agency of creative and critical writings. We are now requesting academic papers and new creative writings for reading and performance. The Writing for Liberty Conference 2 will be a three-day conference that will focus on the relationship between

forms of creative writing and questions of personal, artistic, social, and political liberty. Contributions may refer to any period in history and to any social, political or cultural context, though our main emphasis will be on contemporary writing practice and critical/theoretical response.

Topics for proposals may include, but are not limited to:

- Writing and questions of textual authority
- Writing and political authority
- Writing and artistic/personal/political freedom
- Writing as resistance
- Writing as liberation

- Writing and censorship
- Writing and the nation state
- Writing between and beyond national contexts

The Centre for Multilingualism and Diversities Research

The central brief of the Centre for Multilingualism and Diversities Research (*CMDR*) at the University of the Western Cape, is to embark on a project of intellectual re-orientation, namely a significant rethinking of multilingualism and the development of a new discourse with which to approach interdisciplinary work in the humanities and the education sciences. The brief involves interrogating contemporary and historical African intellectual heritage through a critical review of the role of language and multilingualism in the colonial archive, and in the light of critical framings of multilingualism and diversity.

The Centre seeks to provide an intellectual space to further a critical rethinking of what kinds of questions we should be asking of language, literary and cultural study, strengthening existing interdisciplinary projects or leading to new ones, and enabling challenging questions to be asked of the disciplines themselves in the reconstitution of post-apartheid humanities.

UWC CREATES

UWC Creates is a unique multilingual creative writing initiative located in the *CMDR* that was begun at the University of the Western Cape in 2009. It was the first creative writing programme in Southern African to work multilingually (isiXhosa, English and Afrikaans) and to offers student writers and their lecturers the rare opportunity to write and dialogue across languages and literary traditions.

Why all this emphasis on diversity and hybridity? We at UWC CREATES believe very strongly that being a South African writer involves engaging with our society's cultural complexities. And South Africa is a many-tongued nation. We possess eleven official languages and embody an interconnecting matrix of different races, cultures, religions and histories. Understanding ourselves and others, means negotiating the many competing, conflicting or harmonising voices which make up this place we call home. At UWC CREATES we encourage our writing students to engage with this complexity, to build bridges of creative and social empathy, and ultimately to draw upon this greater understanding for their work. Since its inception hundreds of aspiring student writers and outreach mentees have benefited from the programme and its approach, with many going on to be published and garner critical acclaim.

Centre for Transcultural Writing and Research, Lancaster, UK

The Centre for Transcultural Writing and Research (*CTWR*) links writers, academics and Lancaster University's postgraduate student community to extensive research activity in creative writing and its impact on society. Our aim is to create a transnational and interdisciplinary environment. We are committed to promoting creative writing across cultures and to studying the work of writers from a wide range of social and cultural contexts. The Centre encompasses research-as-practice, action-research projects, study of historical and contemporary creative practice, the innovative application of information technology through e-science and the interrelationship between writing and social change. We promote critical,

pedagogical and theoretical accounts of praxis with special emphasis on cultural exchange between practitioners and with social and political institutions.

PROPOSALS

Proposals should include a 200 word abstract (for academic papers) or summary (for creative contributions) and a 100 word bio of the contributors. Panel

proposals should include the panel title, abstracts or summaries and bios for all presenters. Presenters will be invited to speak for 20 minutes. **Please mark your email clearly as WRITING FOR LIBERTY 2 PROPOSAL.**

Email your proposal to Avril Grovers at agrovers@uwc.ac.za by **Friday 11 November 2016.**



Language in the Media 2017
Mediat(is)ing (Trans)nationalism

[Home](#) [Abstracts](#) [Fees and Registration](#) [Keynote Speakers](#) [Scientific Committee](#)

DATES

18-20 October 2017

VENUEUniversity of the
Western Cape
Cape Town
South Africa**IMPORTANT DATES****Deadline for****Abstracts:**

31 December

Notification of**Acceptance:**

1 February

Early Bird**Registration:**

February-May

Standard Registration:

June-September

Late Registration:

October and on site

Theme

Historically, mass media (print, television and radio) has been the primary tool for advertising, news broadcasts and entertainment shows. These days, however, media outlets have morphed from mass (top-down) communication to socially oriented (horizontal) computer-mediated communication. Engaging with the various histories, powers and representation of the very many media forms is far from exhausted with this year's focus on transnationalism in its diverse mediated forms.

Initiated in 2005 and previously hosted in UK, USA and Ireland, and Germany, the Language in the Media (LIM) conference will be held for the first time in South Africa. The conference theme, namely "language and the mediatization of (trans)nationalism" is particularly relevant for South Africa as it resonates with an emerging Southern critique of reduced, misrepresented and/or essentialised Southern everyday representations in the media. Notably, the theme not only seeks to foreground investigations of how different forms of (trans)nationalism are produced and circulated linguistically/discursively in a variety of media sites; it also highlights analyses of the role played by the media in commodifying language(s) and other semiotic resources (such as the body) and disseminate them through global, transnational networks. Finally, we are also interested in papers that draw upon empirical data in order to question a geopolitics of knowledge that has historically privileged "Northern" theorising in media sociolinguistics.

Alongside this focus, the 2017 conference, as it has done from its inception, will continue to prioritise papers which address the range of sociolinguistic topics in relation to the media broadly defined: language standardisation and style; language policy and practice; language acquisition; multilingualism and cross-/inter-cultural communication; communication in professional contexts; representations of speech, thought, and writing; language and class, disability, race/ethnicity, gender/sexuality and age; political discourse, commerce and global capitalism; language and education.

Contact us

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