



SUID-AFRIKAANSE VERENIGING
VIR ALGEMENE LITERATUURWETENSKAP
SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR GENERAL
LITERARY STUDIES

SASGLS General Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Things fall apart”

17-19 August 2017, Unisa, Pretoria

The South African Society for General Literary Studies (SASGLS) invites scholars to submit proposals on the theme “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold” for its biennial conference, to be hosted at the University of South Africa (Unisa), Pretoria, from 17 to 19 August 2017.

The theme of the conference is taken from W.B. Yeats’s apocalyptic poem “The Second Coming”, famously used by Chinua Achebe as the title of his influential postcolonial novel. The line from the poem suggests *crisis*, both as a key term in traditional poetics and as a much broader theme, in the sense of flux – or even disintegration and collapse. It problematizes the idea of literary representations of chaos or the collapse of order. However, it also presents opportunities for renewal or the imagining of possible worlds, as the collapse of old structures makes way for a new order. The theme is not intended to focus only on political imagination or critique, whether pessimistic or optimistic, utopian or dystopian, but can also be applied to literature on an individual, psychological level or on an abstract, theoretical one. Thus, the theme invokes not just postcolonialism and decoloniality but also poststructuralism and deconstruction, and many other fields of research besides.

SASGLS/SAVAL invites papers with any of the following as points of departure:

SAVAL Algemene Kongres

OPROEP VIR REFERATE

“Things fall apart”

17-19 Augustus 2017, Unisa, Pretoria

U word hiermee uitgenooi om referaatvoorstelle in te dien oor die tema "Things fall apart: the centre cannot hold" vir die tweejaarlikse kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Algemene Literatuurwetenskap (SAVAL) wat vanaf 17 tot 19 Augustus 2017 deur die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika (Unisa), Pretoria, aangebied word.

W.B. Yeats se apokaliptiese gedig "The Second Coming", wat herleef het as titel van Chinua Achebe se invloedryke postkoloniale roman, dien as uitgangspunt vir die kongrestema. Bogenoemde versreël uit die gedig suggereer *krisis*, 'n sleutelterm in tradisionele poëtika maar ook deel van 'n veel breër tema, naamlik vloeï – of selfs disintegrasie en verval. Dit problematiseer literêre representasies van chaos en die afbreek van orde. Tog skep dit ook moontlikhede vir vernuwing of die verbeel van moontlike wêreldes, want deur die val van ou strukture word ruimte gemaak vir nuwe ordes. Die bedoeling is nie om hierdie tema slegs op politieke (ver)beelding en kritiek, hetsy pessimisties of optimisties, utopies of distopies, toe te pas nie; dit kan ook op 'n individuele, psigologiese sowel as 'n abstrakte, teoretiese vlak letterkundig geaktiveer word. Daarom roep die kongrestema nie net postkolonialisme en dekolonisering op nie maar ook poststrukuralisme en dekonstruksie, asook talle ander navorsingsterreine.

SAVAL/SASGLS verwelkom referate met enige van die volgende as vertrekpunt:

- ❖ Apocalypse and/or catastrophe
- ❖ Third Millennium
- ❖ The advent of the Anthropocene
- ❖ Environment and ecology (the sixth mass extinction event)
- ❖ Middle East: mass migration and asylum seeking in Europe
- ❖ National identity and/or globalisation
- ❖ World economy and/or politics
- ❖ Metropole, colony or postcolony
- ❖ Modernity and decoloniality
- ❖ Popular/grassroots movements for change in the academe, such as #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall
- ❖ Universities
- ❖ Leadership (or the failure thereof)
- ❖ Decentring language: poststructuralism and deconstruction
- ❖ Decentring the individual subject
- ❖ Madness and loss of self and/or identity
- ❖ Play, *jouissance* and the pleasure of the text
- ❖ Escalation of social/political /technological change
- ❖ Ethical challenges of bioethics and cyberethics
- ❖ Posthumanism
- ❖ Any other related idea

- ❖ Apokalips en/of katastrofe
- ❖ Derde Millennium
- ❖ Die koms van die Antroposeen
- ❖ Die omgewing en die ekologie (die sesde massa-uitwissing)
- ❖ Die Midde-Ooste: massa-migrasie en -asiel in Europa
- ❖ Nasionale identiteit en/of globalisering
- ❖ Wêreld ekonomie en/of -politiek
- ❖ Die metropool, kolonie of postkolonie
- ❖ Moderniteit en dekolonisering
- ❖ Populêre/grondvlak-bewegings vir verandering in die akademie, byvoorbeeld #RhodesMustFall en #FeesMustFall
- ❖ Universiteite
- ❖ Leierskap (of die mislukking daarvan)
- ❖ Desentralisering van taal: poststrukuralisme en dekonstruksie
- ❖ Desentralisering van die individuele subjek
- ❖ Waansin en verlies van die self en/of identiteit
- ❖ Spel, *jouissance* en die plesier van die teks
- ❖ Eskalاسie van sosiale/politieke/tegnologiese verandering
- ❖ Die uitdagings van bio- en kuberetiek
- ❖ Posthumanisme
- ❖ Enige ander verbandhoudende uitgangspunt

30 minutes will be set aside for each paper: 20 minutes for reading and 10 minutes for questions. Kindly send abstracts of no longer than 300 words to Dr Alan Northover or Mr Reinhardt Fourie.

Daar word 30 minute vir elke referaat opsygesit: 20 minute vir die voordrag en 10 minute vir vrae. Stuur asb. opsommings van nie meer as 300 woorde nie aan dr. Alan Northover of mnr. Reinhardt Fourie.

Conference fee and payment details to be announced later.

Verdere besonderhede i.v.m. die kongresfooi en en betaling sal later aangekondig word.

Deadline of the call for papers: 31 May 2017

Contact:

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