

GUEST LECTURE

03.7.2012

18-20 Uhr, ES 131 (alt H 19)

– everybody welcome!!!!

PD Dr. Susanne Reichl (Wien)

Learning how to look with postcolonial picturebooks

This lecture will be mainly concerned with the work of Australian picturebook artist Shaun Tan and his particular way of promoting unusual and innovative ways of looking and seeing. In the visual texture of his work as well as in the stories told and the characters and places drawn, he challenges notions of self and other on an abstract level, while at the same time providing clues for the observant reader that make it possible to locate the stories in a concrete postcolonial or transcultural setting. His work, as I will hope to show, provides perfect material for a consideration of visual literacy: rather than assuming images are instantly and wholly understood, Tan's work demonstrates that there are various levels at which we can look at images and texts, various ways of looking, and various ways of learning about the postcolonial world (and others) if we manage to look "the other" way.