

GUEST LECTURE

05.06.2012

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

– everybody welcome!!!!

Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler, Goethe University Frankfurt

“Transcultural Encounters: Coming to Terms with Aboriginal Modernity in
Australian Literature and Film”

At first sight, ‘aboriginal modernity’ may seem a contradiction in terms: while ‘indigenous’ is usually associated with local communities, original cultures or authentic ways of being, ‘modernity’ is often seen as an inherently ‘Western’ phenomenon exported to other parts of the world during colonialism that has been in conflict with ‘non-Western’ modes of culture and social life ever since. While these received notions of indigeneity and modernity continue to haunt both literary/cultural studies and pedagogics, they are, in fact, totally out of sync with the social and cultural realities we encounter in contemporary anglophone literatures and cultures and, the lecture will argue, should finally be laid to rest.

The lecture will focus on what is required instead: an understanding of the transcultural complexity of contemporary cultures and societies in a world of globalized modernity that needs to be broadened both in literary/cultural studies and in the EFL classroom. The lecture will explore representations of aboriginal modernity in contemporary Australian fiction and film, drawing on literary works such as Sally Morgan, *My Place* (1987), Larissa Behrendt, *Home* (2004) and Kim Scott, *Benang* (1999); among the films to be discussed will be Baz Luhrmann, *Australia* (2008), Rachel Perkins, *Bran Nue Dae* (2010), *The Bush Mechanics* (2001) and Glen Stasiuk, *The Forgotten* (2003).