

INTERZONES

Cultural Studies in Literary Interzones

Duration: 3 years

Programme description:

The purpose of INTERZONES is to prepare gifted doctoral students to become the "global academics" which top universities seek out in the fields of European comparative literatures and cultural studies, or high-flying consultants in private business sectors interested in global cultural phenomena.

By investigating culture with innovative and transcultural methods, global professors are no longer 'outside' the socio-economic world, but participants in a social texture that includes complexity. At Kalin's, for instance, a tavern where a yellow line is painted on the floor to delineate the frontier between Slovenia and Croatia, how does Europe exist? Kalin is also part of a bigger venue, full of life, both a cultural space and an interzone.

Whether imperialist, colonialist or, on the contrary, shrivelling as a result of its morbid fascination with the Void, Europe is often defined only in terms of its limits and contours. The conceptual tools (such as identity, otherness, difference, colonization, entropy, etc.) with which artistic and literary productions are analyzed have tended to reproduce, or even to produce, a pre-existing idea of what it might mean to have (or not have) a nation, an ethnicity, a personality, a "Europe". The failure to nourish and galvanize what could have been a renewal of the Republic of Letters may stem from a simple fact: such tools have simply become obsolete. Cultural studies can be a vital and elegant means not only of conceptualizing communication beyond the automatism of common conceptualizations, but also as a means to ask HOW communication within and beyond various entities such as personality, ethnicity, and nation... can be renewed and reinvented.

The languages of tuition are French and English. A minimum of 3 European languages is required from the candidates to make them truly competitive in the field of comparative literature and visual culture. Language facilities will be made available to students in each university, at no extra cost.

Student mobility during the 6 consecutive semesters will include 3 or 4 universities, whereby European students will study in AT LEAST one non-European institution.

- 1) All students go to Bergamo for the first semester to discover the latest theoretical approaches in "Cultural Migrations".
- 2) Students opt for two main degree-awarding institutions out of the five partners: Tübingen, Bergamo, Perpignan and either Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil or Jawaharal Neru University, India, in which they will spend two consecutive semesters in each: 2 & 3 and then 5 & 6.
- 3) Depending on the research profile, semester 4 will be spent in one of the other partner institutions, be it a third or fourth partner or one of our associate members: Aix, Barcelona, Brown, Buenos Aires, Cracaw, Mexico, Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle 3, Paris 10, Sydney, St Petersburg or Zürich.
(Names of universities are indicative, as in each case it is specialized research centres, described elsewhere, that welcome students to carry out their research). Out of 180 ECTS credits, 120 are devoted to the PhD thesis itself, and 60 are gained through a choice of multi-task activities aimed at enhancing the employability of future global academics.

Successful PhD students will then be awarded a fully-recognized double degree from their two main institutions, in addition to diploma supplements certifying their achievements in their 3rd / 4th doctoral school(s).

Website: <http://www.mundusphd-interzones.eu>

Partners:

UNIVERSITY OF BERGAMO, Italy (Co-ordinating institution)
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, India
UNIVERSITY OF PERPIGNAN, France
FLUMINENSE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY, Brazil
EBERHARD KARL UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN, Germany
UNIVERSITY OF PROVENCE AIX-MARSEILLE 1, France
HERMENEIA GROUP – UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA, Spain
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BROWN UNIVERSITY, U.S.A.
ENTRE RIOS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, Argentina

THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY in CRACAW, Poland
THE IBEROAMERICAN UNIVERSITY, Mexico
THE NEW SORBONNE UNIVERSITY – PARIS 3, France
THE WESTERN UNIVERSITY – PARIS 10, France
THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF PETERSBURG, Russia
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, Australia
THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH, Switzerland

Contact:

Didier Girard
Università degli Studi
International Office Via dei Caniana,2
24127 BERGAMO - Italy
interzones.phd@unibg.it