

CALL FOR PAPERS

High Culture and/versus Popular Culture

22-24 November 2007

organised by

Sabine Coelsch-Foisner, Dorothea Flothow, Sarah Herbe, Markus Oppolzer, Elisabeth Schober

In 2007 the **18th British Cultural Studies Conference** will be held in the historic centre of Salzburg. A city that accommodates one of the world's most famous festivals of theatre and classical music and is itself each summer turned into a magnificent stage seems an ideal venue to raise questions about the status of high culture in relation to popular culture and, in particular, about the ways in which these interact. When examining interactions between phenomena of high culture and popular culture, it is interesting to note that these often involve a change in media, for instance from high-brow novels to popular television or from opera to popular song. Such transformations may offer interesting insights into the criteria commonly used to distinguish between high and popular culture and may help to answer questions such as the following: Who categorizes cultural phenomena as 'high' or 'popular' and under what conditions? Is the distinction still valid or useful today? Does high culture 'borrow' from popular culture? Or *vice versa*? What kinds of transformation or adaptation between the cultural hierarchies are involved? Why, when and how do the relationships between high and popular culture change, either within a single genre or among different cultural phenomena?

Connected with one of the research centres at Salzburg University, this conference aims to explore the relationship between high culture and popular culture in terms of dynamic processes, concentrating both on theoretical aspects as well as on individual case studies. The focus will be on British cultures, but contributions dealing with different or wider cultural contexts are equally welcome.

We invite papers concerning:

- processes of interaction between high and popular culture at a social, aesthetic, formal, and institutional level
- intermedial transformations which also involve a shift from high to popular culture and *vice versa*
- questions of categorization into different cultural hierarchies
- historical changes in the relationship between high and popular culture

Papers will be 30 minutes each, immediately followed by 15 minutes of discussion. In each session of the conference two papers will be given and discussed. In order to enable all participants to appreciate all contributions, the number of papers is limited to a maximum of 26. The conference will also include a forum for PhD-students, who are especially invited to participate and submit their proposals.

If you are interested in this conference and wish to offer a paper or take part as a general participant, please contact **by 31 March 2007**:

Prof. Dr. Sabine Coelsch-Foisner
sabine.coelsch-foisner@sbg.ac.at

Address: University of Salzburg, Department of English, Akademiestraße 24, 5020 Salzburg, Austria.
Tel.: 0043-662-8044-4405; Fax: 0043-662-8044-167.

If you wish to deliver a paper, please enclose a short (publishable) outline of your ideas (max. 350 words, containing the title of your proposed topic, your name and institution).