

'The Stranger': Postcolonial Identities and Representation

'There is hardly an anomaly more anomalous than the stranger'.
Zygmunt Bauman, 1990, 'Modernity and Ambivalence'.

'...may be there is no home, no fixed abode waiting for us....This is to experience Heidegger's *Unheimlichkeit*, literally, 'not-to-be-at-home'.....always at the crossroads, holding our stories and memories..' Iain Chambers, 1990, *Border Dialogues, Journeys in Postmodernity*

How do we 'map' place and space, and what / whose interests do maps serve?
How have artists engaged with or challenged Orientalism and ideas of the Other?
Who / what is the Other?
Are identities found or made?
How do memory, narrative and identity/ies interconnect?
If exile is usually associated with loss, how else might it be configured?
.....And who is the Stranger?

..... Or are we all Strangers? This course will focus on the work of contemporary artists who, in diverse ways, engage with and explore some of these questions, including (amongst others) Mona Hatoum, Do Ho Suh, Kara Walker, Renée Green, Keith Piper, Samuel Fosso, Shadi Ghadirian, Chohreh Feyzjou and Michel Khleifi and Eyal Sivan. We will also consider the role of gender within discourses of Orientalism through an examination of the complex and multiple meanings - and readings - of the veil in Gillo Pontecorvo's classic film *The Battle of Algiers* (1965).

We will look at re-presentations of culture and difference, challenging fixed notions of cultural identity and Eurocentrism. We also consider diasporic dialogues of 'home', displacement, exile and memory; ideas of hybridity, and the legacies of colonialism and slavery, and ideas of boundary and border, with readings that include the work of theorists such as Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, Stuart Hall and Eyal Weizman.

- Week 1 Cartographies of Power: maps, space, place, power.**
- Week 2 The West and the Rest: empire, colonialism and the 'other.'**
- Week 3 Veil: gendering the Orient.**
- Week 4 No Place like Home: exile, 'belonging', double vision.**
- Week 5 The 'Stranger': chaos, order, classification.**
- Week 6 Roots to Routes: travellers' tales, diaspora stories,**
- Week 7 Essay discussion.**