New Orleans in Medial Imaginations

The focus of the international and interdisciplinary conference is the question of media imagery of New Orleans. For this purpose, researchers from different disciplines and contexts (e.g., film studies, cultural studies, media studies, geography, architecture etc.), who deal in different ways with research on New Orleans, will come together to discuss this topic.

Historical and contemporary imaginations of New Orleans will be explored from different medial perspectives and medial imaginations (for example literary, cinematic, and discursive). We would like to concentrate on interdependent interrelationships and differences between these medial imaginations as well as the interactions of the life of the city with different media forms (film, tv shows, literature, music) and the impact of media on the city (film productions and on-location shootings).

Presentations will also include a media-related perspective on different topics associated to the city of New Orleans - such as its colonial, cross-cultural, and multilingual heritage, jazz music, creolization, architecture, Hurricane Katrina, Hollywood South.

Programm February 2018

1st Thursday - Semnassaal, Johannes Gutenberg University
6pm: Key Note
Heike Morgen-Parmett (UVU, Bullington, Vermont): Down in Treme: Race, Place, and New Orleans on Television
8pm: Reception & Dinner at "Helliggeist" Venue: Rententorstr 2, Mainz (at own expense)

2nd Friday - Medienhaus, Wallstraße 11
10:00 - 10:30 Introduction
10:30 - 12:30 Session 1: Mapping New Orleans
12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 16:30 Session 2: Medial Imaginations - Film
16:30 - 17:00 Coffee Break
17:00 - 19:00 Movie Screening: Schultze Gets the Blues (D 2003, 112 min., Michael Schorr), Original Version with English Subtitles

Session 1: Mapping New Orleans
Tara McPherson (USC, Los Angeles): Monuments and Memory
Chris Lukinbeal (UA, Tucson, Arizona): Situating New Orleans with the North American Film Production Market
Laura Sharp (UA, Tucson, Arizona): Location Filming in New Orleans

Session 2: Medial Imaginations - Film
James Dutsch (CWCH, Washington): "Bad Lieutenant" in the Ruins of New Orleans
Anton Escher & Elisabeth Sommerlad (GIU, Mainz): A Streetcar Named Desire – Visions of New Orleans
Roman Maurer (GIU, Mainz): The Atmosphere of the Swamp: Cinematic Narrations in Cloudy Waters
Joern Langhorst (CU, Denver, Colorado): Place, Experience and Identities: Imag(ing)ing Radical Place Change through Film

3rd Saturday - Medienhaus, Wallstraße 11
09:00 - 11:00 Session 3: Katrina
11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00 Session 4: Myths and Chronotopoi
13:00 - 13:30 Coffee Break
13:30 - 15:00 Dialogue with film director Michael Schorr (Berlin)
15:00 - 15:30 Discussion & Closing

Session 3: Katrina
Veronika Cummings (GIU, Mainz): Katrina and the Media Representation of Social Injustice
Kasper König (ZHUK, Zurich / GIU, Mainz): The sound after Katrina: A scavenger approach to catastrophe
Florian Freitag (GIU, Mainz / Germersheim): Hurricane Katrina on the Opera Stage

Session 4: Myths and Chronotopoi
Oksana Bugakowa (GIU, Mainz): All Roads lead to New Orleans: Road Movies and Scavenger Hunts
Severin Müller (GIU, Mainz): You’re not from the South! (Out Of Time, Place and Race in The Skeleton Key (2005)

Close-Up: Film Director Michael Schorr (Berlin)
From Savannah to Louisiana: Dialogue with Michael Schorr about Schultze Gets the Blues