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UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

Swiss Association of University Teachers of English (SAUTE)

## On the move: Mobilities in English language and literature

6-7 May 2011

Department of English Languages and Literatures

University of Bern

### CALL FOR PAPERS

“All the world seems to be on the move. Asylum seekers, international students, terrorists, members of diasporas, holidaymakers, business people, sports stars, refugees, backpackers, commuters, the early retired, young mobile professionals, prostitutes, armed forces - these and many others fill the world's airports, buses, ships, and trains. The scale of this travelling is immense. Internationally there are over 700 million legal passenger arrivals each year (compared with 25 million in 1950) ...there are 4 million air passengers each day; 31 million refugees are displaced from their homes; and there is one car for every 8.6 people. These diverse yet intersecting mobilities have many consequences for different peoples and places that are located in the fast and slow lanes across the globe”.

So began Sheller and Urry's (2006:207) declaration of a 'new mobilities paradigm', a critique of what they called the *sedentarism* of contemporary social theory. In linguistic, literary and cultural studies, mobility and movement have been receiving increasing critical attention for at least two decades. *On the move: mobilities in English language and literature* seeks to harness some of this critique to explore how mobilities, both mundane and dramatic, are represented, narrated, performed and negotiated in literature and discourse, as well as the repercussions and consequences of mobility on language and dialect.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Crispin Thurlow, Department of Communication, University of Washington  
<http://faculty.washington.edu/thurlow/>

Prof. Elleke Boehmer, Faculty of English, University of Oxford  
<http://www.english.ox.ac.uk/about-the-faculty/faculty-members/permanent-post-holders/101-boehmer-professor-elleke.html>

Members of SAUTE are invited to email abstracts (for talks of 20 minutes plus 10 minutes discussion) of no more than one page of A4 to Dr Kellie Goncalves (kellie.goncalves@ens.unibe.ch) by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. If you would like to become a member of SAUTE, please see [www.saute.ch](http://www.saute.ch).

Topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Literary negotiations of the movement of migrants, refugees and tourists;
- Language and dialect contact that results from mobility and migration;
- Discourse representations and constructions of people on the move;
- Green travel;
- Language in tourist, business, educational or diasporic encounters;
- Movements between genres;
- Second dialect/language acquisition of mobile individuals and groups;
- Translation and adaptation.

The conference will begin in the early afternoon of 6<sup>th</sup> May and will conclude in the late afternoon of 7<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a conference apéro and dinner on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> May and lunch on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

The organisers, in association with SAUTE, are planning the publication of selected papers from the conference in the form of an edited volume on language, literature and mobilities.

Bern, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Dr. Kellie Goncalves  
Dr. Nicole Nyffenegger-Staub  
Prof. Dr. Annette Kern-Stähler  
Prof. Dr. David Britain