

CALL FOR PAPER:

International symposium organised by the CRIMIC

Dates: Paris, from 31st May to 2nd June 2012

Titre du colloque : « **ON THE SUBJECT OF EXTREMENESS:
PRESENT-DAY PRACTICES IN THE IBERIAN AND IBERO-AMERICAN WORLDS** »

The next symposium of the **CRIMIC** (Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires sur les Mondes Ibériques Contemporains) will take place **from 31st May to 2nd June 2012** at the “Maison de la Recherche” (room D035) of the University of **Paris-Sorbonne**.

Call for paper: Submitted papers should be sent till the 30th July 2011

Website : <http://www.crimic.paris-sorbonne.fr/Appels-a-communication.html>

**On the subject of extremeness:
present-day practices in the Iberian and Ibero-American worlds**

The XXth century, regarded by some as the “Age of Extremes” (E. Hobsbawm), has witnessed an increase in the number of extremisms of all sorts. To what extent are these actually present in the Iberian and Ibero-American worlds? It is around this issue that the CRIMIC (EA 2561) pursues its interdisciplinary reflection on the modern-day Iberian and Ibero-American worlds, after a symposium held in 2007 on “Great narratives”¹.

Numerous thinkers often refer to a civilisational rupture caused by the Shoah (T. Todorov, S. Sontag), supposedly allowing a radical questioning of modern rationality, the representation of the Subject, the writing of History, the genre of discourse, as well as the notions of limit, boundary, norm and value. The distinctive feature of post-modernity is the mobility of categories, the fading of boundaries and the blurring of identities. Marked not only by the end of great narratives of legitimation (J-F. Lyotard), but also by the progressive deconstruction of aesthetic norms and by the calling into question of ethical principles, the present-day world tends to stretch the limits, whether they be geographical, social, political, aesthetic, plastic, literary, scientific or bioethical.

The acceleration of transports, the standardisation of communications, the construction of the planetary village or even the spatial conquest have pushed the concept of extremeness further and further. How are such pioneers in the expansion of Occident as Iberian territories conceived in this ever-recomposing world? Moreover, in the context of globalisation, the relationship between centre and periphery evolves in a remarkable way, offering new possibilities every day: while the centre becomes nomadic, margins are structured in counter-subjectivities and cultures mix together, producing surprising encounters, fed by an “idea of tremor” which “moves us away from deeply-rooted certitudes” (E. Glissant). But cultural productions also allow the exposure of several forms of violence, of indefiniteness, of disproportion, of transgression or “deregulation” (financial, economic, social, etc.).

¹ *Les Grands récits : Miroirs brisés ? Les grands récits à l'épreuve des mondes ibériques et ibéro-américains*, edited by Maria Graciete Besse and Michel Ralle, INDIGO & Côté-femmes, Paris, “Indigo”, 2010

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Extremeness is indeed a symptom of our time (P. Ardenne); or, to say the least, it seems to manifest itself in several original ways, beyond *hubris*, in the present-day Iberian and Ibero-American world.

Thus, the approach to extremeness can assume several facets, from the disastrous consequences of war to the most extravagant artistic postures, including ordinary fanaticism or limitless experiences. In a world where visual representation is omnipresent, the spectacle of the extreme can also establish itself as a pathology (R. Guber), a radical artistic experience (body art) or a wonderful critical instrument (photojournalism). We have entered a culture of emotion, which strikes the mind and spurs the body, a culture in the realm of the scream, where action is favoured at the expense of contemplation (H. Arendt).

Submitted papers will take into account several dimensions likely to bring both different and complementary perspectives on the question of extremeness, in the present-day Iberian and Ibero-American world and in the fields of research represented at the CRIMIC (History, Literature and Visual Arts). Without laying claim to comprehensiveness, this symposium will endeavour to develop a reflexion around the following areas of thought:

- 1- Immoderation
- 2- Intensity, excess
- 3- Transgression

Submitted papers (max. 300 words) are to be sent by 30th July 2011, together with a brief CV, to the following address: crimic@paris-sorbonne.fr

The academic committee for the symposium will announce the results on 30th September 2011.

For practical reasons, the CRIMIC will unfortunately be unable to take care of the travel and accommodation expenses of the participants.