



12th ESSE CONFERENCE

Dates: 29. 08. 2014 - 02. 09. 2014



LITERARY JOURNALISM: EXPLAINING SECOND CITIES TO THEMSELVES

Roundtable Convenors/Leaders:

John S. Bak, Université de Lorraine, France, john.bak@univ-nancy2.fr

David Abrahamson, Northwestern University, U.S.A, d-abrahamson@northwestern.edu

Participants:

Norman Sims, University of Massachusetts, U.S.A., sims@honors.umass.edu

Lisa A. Phillips, State University of New York, U.S.A., phillipl@newpaltz.edu

Mateus Yuri Passos, Universidade de Estadual de Campinas, Brazil, mateus.passos@gmail.com

Pablo Calvi, Ithaca College, U.S.A., pcalvi@ithaca.edu

Mateusz Zimnoch, Jagiellonian University, Poland, mateusz.zimnoch@gmail.com

The idea of the nation-state remains compelling, and with it the role of the capital city as the center of a nation's political, economic, intellectual, sociocultural and religious life. Yet the concept of the second city – Chicago to New York, Manchester to London, even Košice to Bratislava – has been both a robust theme and a critical setting in much literary journalism, a genre of nonfiction prose that lies at conceptual intersection of literature and journalism. The proposed session will focus on the ways in which literary journalism has encountered and employed “second city-dom,” with particular emphasis on how various representations have explicated notions of identity, ideology and values, as well as the resulting tension between belonging-ness and other-ness.