



The Flying University of Transnational Humanities

– Summer School for Graduate Students and Young Scholars –

Introduction

The Flying University of Transnational Humanities (FUTH) is an annual summer school for graduate students and young scholars interested in the transnational paradigm of humanistic inquiry.

FUTH takes its name and immediate inspiration from Poland's Flying University, an underground institution that offered an alternative education outside the confines of state control and government censorship. The program is particularly concerned with developing critical understandings that resist the ideological and conceptual hegemony of the nation-state and the epistemological and hermeneutic conventions that support it. This does not mean that FUTH seeks to dispense with the “national” and construct a reified “transnational” with which to replace it, or to foster “transnationalism” as an ideological alternative to “nationalism.” Rather, FUTH aims to free our imaginations from essentialist approaches to the nation or the state and to offer new ways of thinking about the political, social and cultural order of the world, both past and present.

The Flying University of Transnational Humanities is accordingly:

Trans-cultural: FUTH not only critically examines the production and circulation of (trans-)national knowledge and culture, but it also problematizes imagined geographies of the “East” and the “West.” In so doing, we explore periods, places, and subjects as fluid and hybrid, rather than as confined and constrained by geopolitical or cultural boundaries.

Trans-disciplinary: FUTH seeks to comprehend the complex nature of various trans-cultural issues through trans-disciplinary approaches. To that end, FUTH is open to scholars, educators, researchers and students from all academic specializations.

Trans-institutional: FUTH is an intellectual network, founded and run by a global consortium of scholars, departments, and institutions. With the support of this network, we hope to facilitate trans-cultural and trans-disciplinary collaborations.

Program

Started in 2010, the Flying University of Transnational Humanities is organized annually—usually in the summer—by the Research Institute of Comparative History and Culture (RICH), Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea. FUTH consists of a series of advanced lectures, student presentations and feedback sessions where renowned scholars from RICH's partner and other institutions are invited to share their knowledge, insights and perspectives. Student participants are required to study the recommended readings in advance. They are also expected to present their own scholarly work related to the theme of each year. The official language of FUTH is English, although the possibility of trans-lingual practices is being considered. Graduate students and recent PhDs interested in the transnational turn in the humanities and social sciences are welcome to apply with a presentation proposal.

The overarching theme for the first three years (2010-2012) is “borders.” There have been numerous studies on how borders are constructed, negotiated, and policed and how they are simultaneously transgressed, challenged, and renegotiated. Borders are no longer seen simply as physical divisions but as discursive practices and cultural institutions. However, the multiplicity and hybridity of borders (e.g., national, cultural, geographical, gender, political,

