

CALL FOR PAPERS

Colloquium

Cultures in dialogue: relations between the French-speaking and English-speaking worlds in the area of languages and cultures

13-14 May 2011 at the Institut Français, London

The colloquium is sponsored by the Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherches pour le Français Langue Internationale (GERFLINT), in association with the French cultural service. It is organised by the review *Synergies Royaume-Uni et Irlande*, edited by Prof. Michael Kelly (University of Southampton).

Proposals are invited for papers examining relations between the French-speaking and English-speaking worlds in the area of languages and cultures, including ways in which teaching in these areas can address the issues of cultural dialogue.

The colloquium seeks to respond to the growing importance of relations between cultures in the 21st century. On the one hand, the progress of physical and virtual communications has multiplied the points of contact across cultures for individuals as well as for governments, businesses and organisations. On the other hand, the processes of globalisation have reduced the differences between countries in economic, social, technical and scientific terms. Increasingly, it is left to the cultural domain to construct collective representations and to assert particular identities. Languages are at the heart of the cultural domain, and serve as indispensable vectors for communication as well as fundamental means for the expression of identities.

The tensions and complexities in relations between languages and cultures are highlighted by the relations between the French-speaking and English-speaking worlds. The two languages both serve to support international communication and to give a voice to many different cultures. Their relations have included misunderstandings and conflicts, but have also given rise to dialogue and cooperation.

The colloquium will consider all countries and all organisations in which the two cultures have met over the last half-century, without excluding longer term perspectives. It will also focus on the way in which teaching can address the issues of cultural dialogue.

We suggest some **themes** which might be addressed, but others are not excluded:

linguistic context (contrastive studies, language contact, plurilingual communication, multilingualism)

cultural context, broadly understood (institutions, globalisation, cultural issues)

economic context (impact of language and culture on business and vice versa)

teaching context (plurilingual pedagogy, codeswitching, intercultural approaches)

literary context (translations, representations, the Other)

scholarly context (differences and convergences between research in English and French, methodologies, comparative and interdisciplinary approaches, dissemination and recognition)

Proposals are invited for papers, which should not exceed 20 minutes in length. A brief abstract (200 words) should be sent to dialoguecultures@soton.ac.uk by 30 November 2010. Selected papers will be published in a special number of *Synergies Royaume-Uni et Irlande*, subject to peer review of the written text. The main working language will be French, but contributions in English will also be welcome.