

CALL FOR PAPERS
Seventh International Symposium on Brazil
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Clarice Lispector: Memory and Belonging



International Conference
to be held on December 18-19, 2018
at
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Acknowledging the relevance Clarice Lispector's work for both Brazilian and World Literature, the Seventh International Symposium on Brazil at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem aims at gathering scholars to promote a dialogue on Lispector's literary and non-literary writings, from varied perspectives and theoretical approaches. The event will focus on the topic of memory and belonging in Lispector's work as a starting point for discussions, moving beyond that to critically engage in debates involving other relevant issues concerning her work, such as:

- Comparative readings of Lispector's works
- Crossing boundaries: genres and intertextuality in Lispector writings
- Lispector within/ beyond a Gender Studies perspective.
- "Writing with the body", new readings of Lispector's narrative
- Reading and re-writing: the reception of Lispector's works
- Lispector in translation.
- Teaching Lispector

Professor Nelson Vieira from Brown University, a renowned researcher who focuses contemporary Brazilian literature, as well as fiction of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including the work of Clarice Lispector, will provide a keynote address. We welcome proposals for 20-minute presentations in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Please include a title, a 200-300-word abstract, and brief biography, no more than 5 lines.

The deadline for proposals is May 1, 2018.

Send queries and completed proposals via email to: claricehuji@gmail.com

Organizers: Professor Ruth Fine (Iberian and Latin American Studies, HUJI), Susanne Zepp (Romance Philology, Freie Universität Berlin), James N. Green (History, Brown University).

Detailed Rationale:

The epistemic focus of the Seventh International Symposium on Brazil at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the nexus between historical and aesthetic experience in the work of the eminent Brazilian writer Clarice Lispector. With a focus on memory and belonging in Lispector's writings, we will explore the thesis that the aesthetic form of her writings has a cognitive character in implicitly suggesting a reflective hermeneutical praxis that slowly moves forward into the text by looking backwards on its own act. This reflective praxis is deeply ethical – and even political – in its consequences.

Therefore, the International Symposium will put (1) special emphasis on discussions of the specific temporality of Clarice Lispector's writings. We see a certain similarity in her poetics to Walter Benjamin's concept of *Eingedenken* or remembrance, which oscillates between the future and past and appears to project a past "that is not past and finished, but is open and holds a promise of future," as Peter Szondi has formulated. We also suggest to (2) rethink the question of genre in Clarice Lispector. In her oeuvre, narrative, dramatic and poetic composites are fused in very specific ways that also differ in each of her texts. We propose to discuss this amalgamation as one of the core features of her writing – and, at the same time, as a feature that is intimately linked to the representations of history inscribed in her texts. In acknowledging Clarice Lispector's global reception, the International Symposium will also address (3) the importance of historical thinking in the realm of literary and critical theory. Writing was for Lispector a mode of knowledge and, at the same time, a productive force. In her texts, reality and its understanding are constantly caught up in a process of mutual approximation, of convergence.

In the Seventh International Symposium on Brazil at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, methodological approaches in literary studies, cultural studies and historical studies will be combined and synthesized in order to shed new light on Lispector's life, work, legacy and impact. Her writings represent a unique cultural-historical phenomenon of the twentieth century, one that this Symposium will seek to illuminate in its full complexity in an attempt to work out an innovative approach to this focus. In this context, we will also invite papers to reflect the impact of Jewish historical experience in Lispector's oeuvre. Against this backdrop, the workshop will bring together historians, philosophers, and scholars of cultural sciences and literary studies to re-engage fruitfully with the life and work of this outstanding Brazilian writer.

The papers at the International Symposium will examine the aspects mentioned above from a range of different disciplinary perspectives. The program will be systematically structured, and include observations regarding the periods during which Clarice Lispector was writing and which stamped and shaped her life and work, while also leaving their caesurae and ruptures. The International Symposium, *Clarice Lispector: Memory and Belonging*, seeks to follow this thread in the way it is to be structured, where Lispector's aesthetics will be examined in its multiple nexus within a cultural-historical context.