



The US Judiciary
A Conference in honour
of Prof. Dr. Erik Hertog

Friday 14 September 2007

Lessius University College

The US Judiciary

In honour of Prof. Dr. Erik Hertog

- 9.30 – 10 a.m.: Welcome and Refreshments
- 10.00 – 11.15 a.m.: Prof. Dr. Kristiaan Versluys, of Ghent University
– *September 11 and the Other: Novelists Respond*
- 11.15 – 12.30 p.m.: Dr. Gene M. Moore, of the University of Amsterdam
– *Law and Disorder in American Literature*
- 12.30 – 2.00 p.m.: Lunch (room 4.07)
- 2.00 – 3.15 p.m.: Ms Kathleen O'Connor, Fulbright at Lessius 2007-2008
– *Judicial Overtones in American Schools: An IDEA for Special Education*
- 3.15 – 4.30 p.m.: Prof. Dr. John A. Dick, of K.U.Leuven
– *Religion and Politics: The Battle over the Judiciary*
- 4.30 p.m.: Laudation and Reception (room 4.07)

Erik Hertog, Ph.D.

Chronology

°1946	
1964-1968	Germanic Philology – K.U.Leuven
1968-1969	Teacher of English – St Vincentius Institute, Dendermonde
1970-1974	National Scientific Fund Researcher, English Literature – K.U.Leuven
1971-1972	Fellow of the Belgian-American Educational Foundation – Yale University
1972-1973	British Council scholarship – Cambridge University
1974-1977	Teaching Assistant English literature – K.U.Leuven
1977-1987	Part-time lecturer of English literature – K.U.Leuven
1989	Teacher of English – Pius X college, Antwerpen Ph.D. in English Literature, summa cum laude 'Chaucer's Fabliaux as Analogues'
1988-2007	Lessius Hogeschool (Katholieke Vlaamse Hogeschool until 2000)
1989-1999	Lecturer of English
1990-1993	Elected Chair of the Department of Translators and Interpreters
1999-2001	Associate Professor of English
2001-2007	Full Professor of English and Interpreting

Teaching at K.V.H./Lessius Hogeschool

English and US Cultural Studies, Translation, English Text Analysis (literary approach), Legal Translation, Interpreting, and Interpreting Studies.

In his 19-year career at Lessius, Erik supervised 107 MA-dissertations.

Some highlights

From 1989 onwards Erik started putting American Studies on the map in Flanders, in close collaboration with the American Cultural Centre and the American Embassy, organizing conferences and information sessions for secondary school teachers. For Lessius this resulted in a regular presence of Fulbright scholars and language assistants. His efforts culminated in the establishing of the American Studies Centre at Lessius in 2004.

From 1997 onwards Erik collaborated on and coordinated several projects on Court and Legal Interpreting for the Antwerp Courts, the Flemish Community Government, the Belgian Federal Government, The Ministry of Justice in the Netherlands and the European Commission (Grotius I and II, AGIS), resulting in several publications.

He is member of the editorial and academic board of 'The Critical Link' journal and conferences.

Selected Publications

Hertog, Erik. Ed. 2001. *Aequitas: Access to Justice across Language and Culture in the EU*. Lessius Hogeschool. Antwerpen.

Hertog, Erik. Ed. 2003. *Aequalitas: Equal Access to Justice across Language and Culture in the EU*. Lessius Hogeschool. Antwerpen.

Hertog, Erik, and Bart Van de Veer. Eds. (2006). *Taking Stock: Research and Methodology in Community Interpreting*. *Linguistica Antverpiensia* N.S. 5.

Hertog, Erik, et al. 2007. 'From Aequitas to Aequalitas: Establishing Standards in Legal Interpreting and Translation in the European Union'. In Cecilia Wadensjö et al., eds. *The Critical Link 4*. Amsterdam-Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 151-166.

“September 11 and the Other : Novelists Respond”

Prof. Dr. Kristiaan Versluys

ABSTRACT For some decades now the concept of the Other (most often capitalized) has become a mainstay of cultural and literary studies. The concept was pioneered by the French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, who claimed that everyone is essentially and before anything else interpellated by the face of the Other. The concept of alterity has also been taken up, with a related yet somewhat different meaning, in postcolonial studies. In this context, disrespect for the Other has come to be known (somewhat confusingly) as “othering” (small case), which means to treat somebody as an alien. I want to use these multiple resonances of the complex concept of alterity in my discussion of a number of fictional texts dealing with the events of September 11. The relevance of the concept follows from the fact that, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks, the particular habit of making nonnegotiable, polarizing distinctions has dominated official political discourse in the United States. In a textbook example of “othering” the enemy, the Bush administration has worked hard to introduce a stark binary split between “us and them,” instituting an “axis of evil,” which, by direction and indirection, has been held responsible for the events of September 11. In my talk, I will investigate to what extent and by what means fiction writers (Paul Auster, John Updike, Martin Amis and others) have resisted or given in to this bias.

CV Kristiaan Versluys is Full Professor of American literature and culture at Ghent University and the founding director of the Ghent Urban Studies Team (GUST), an interdisciplinary research group which studies the contemporary city both as a physical artifact and a cultural phenomenon. As Frank Boas Scholar and as fellow of the Belgian “National Research Foundation,” he studied in the United States between 1973 and 1978. He obtained a doctorate in Comparative Literature, majoring in American Literature, from Harvard University in 1979. He published a study on city poetry and some sixty scholarly (book) articles in international journals and collections. His specialties are urban literature (especially the literature of New York) and Jewish-American fiction. Versluys was president of the Belgian Luxembourg American Studies Association (1989-1992) and secretary of the European Association for American Studies (1992-1994). He was a Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in 2004-2005. He taught at Fordham University as a Fulbright Lecturer in the spring semester of 1989 and he is a regular guest professor at Columbia University. In 2001 he was elected as a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium.

“Law and Disorder in American Literature” Dr. Gene M. Moore

ABSTRACT For a land which prides itself on offering “liberty and justice to all,” American culture shows a strong preference for liberty over justice, and American literature is characterized by a noteworthy disrespect for the law. Frontier conditions meant that men became accustomed to settling their own scores without appeal to legal institutions. Richard Hofstadter has shown how populist religious movements prevailed over organized theology in New England, and the same argument can be extended to the American development of a sense of law. One could also speak of a “lawyer’s frontier” in terms of the “Turner thesis.” American fictions from Thoreau and Twain to Fitzgerald and Kerouac illustrate this deep distrust of collective legal institutions and dramatize its consequences. I propose to explore this issue with special attention to the works of William Faulkner, and to suggest that this traditional distrust of law also helps to explain American behavior in international relations.

CV Gene M. Moore teaches English and American literature at the University of Amsterdam. A graduate of Yale and the University of Texas, he studied Comparative Literature before returning to English. Along with some fifty articles, his major publications include Proust and Musil: The Novel as Research Instrument (1985), Conrad’s Cities (1992), Conrad on Film (1997), the Oxford Reader’s Companion to Conrad (2000), Faulkner’s Indians (2003), and a casebook on Heart of Darkness (2004). At present he is working with a team of editors to complete The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad, to be published in nine volumes by Cambridge University Press. He is a Contributing Editor to The Conradian and an Advisory Editor to The Faulkner Journal, and is currently advising the British Film Institute on a Conrad film retrospective to be held in London in November.

"Judicial Overtones in American Education: An IDEA for Special Education" Ms. Kathleen L. O'Connor

ABSTRACT In an era of education where obtaining university-level credentials has become the norm rather than the exception, it is shocking to think that there are still a significant number of schools and/or individuals who fall through the cracks of the American public education system, which is intended to serve all equally. In an effort to turn this trend around, the United States' federal government, in combination with the U.S. Supreme Court, has recently passed several landmark decisions regarding students' education – particularly influencing students with disabilities. Can the US judicial system breathe fresh air into the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), most recently amended in 2004, without suffocating the students it is intended to serve? As various and far reaching as the Supreme Court's efforts to refine the procedural points of IDEA are the diverse disabilities of the students affected by such rulings, ranging from physical impairments to learning disorders. Each case serves as a stepping stone for the federal government and the public, who funds it through tax payments, to impose themselves into the very framework of American educational standards. I will provide an insider's look – a behind the scenes view – into the impact of Supreme Court rulings, with regard to various components of IDEA, on the everyday workings of a special education classroom.

CV Kathleen L. O'Connor is a Fulbright Scholar working at Lessius University College, in Antwerp, Belgium, for the 2007-2008 academic year. She is eager to serve both as a teaching assistant to the English Department at Lessius and to study the linguistic and cultural heritage of Belgium. While at Boston College from 2000-2004, her studies included a wide array of interests, from Women's Studies to Psychology, and concentrated in English Literature. Excellence in her undergraduate studies and leadership awarded her membership into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Golden Key International Honor Society. After graduating, she served as an English Language Teaching Assistant at l'Académie de la Martinique for the 2004-2005 school year. For the past two years she has worked as a Special Education Instructional Aide at Middlebrook Middle School in Wilton, Connecticut.

"Religion and Politics: The U.S. Battle over the Judiciary." Prof. Dr. John A. Dick

ABSTRACT Matters of religion and politics are not the same as issues of church and state. Church and state are distinct institutions with spheres of action that are appropriate for each. Separation of church and state is essential for the proper functioning of civil government as it works to secure the common good. Citizens and politicians with personal moral convictions based on the values maintained by religious groups are also members of the civil society. This dual association generates complications, especially when religious convictions become the criteria for civil judicial decisions or legislative actions. The fact that moral convictions are rooted in religious faith does not disqualify them from the civil political realm. They do not however have civil validity just because they are religiously authorized. They must always be argued for in appropriate social and political terms that are in harmony with national civil values. Issues of abortion, "same-sex marriage," and what is taught in public schools about evolution are good examples of issues which become heated and problematic in the confusion between affirming religious value and promoting civic virtue.

CV John A. Dick was born and raised in the United States and remains an American citizen who has lived and worked in Belgium for more than twenty-five years. He did his post-graduate theological studies at the Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen (today's Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen) and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, where he completed doctorates in religious studies and theology. For the past fifteen years his area of research and instruction has been religion and values in American society. Retired from the European Center for Ethics at the K.U.Leuven, he still teaches his course "The American Way of Religion" in the inter-university Master's Program in American Studies, is visiting professor of historical theology at St. Michaels College in Vermont and is Executive Secretary of the Archbishop Jean Jadot Chair for the Study of Religion and Values in Society at both the K.U.Leuven and U.C.L. He is a regular columnist for the weekly opinion journal *TERTIO*, and makes his home in Heverlee.

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