

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Dr. Ian Duncan, University of California, Berkeley
English Literature

Prof. Dr. Eve-Marie Engels, University of Tübingen
Ethics in the Life Sciences

Public Evening Lecture

19th November 2009, 5.30 p.m.

Prof. Virginia Richter (University of Bern)
Re-Placing Humans: Literary, Cultural, and Critical Perspectives on Darwinism.

Since the publication of *The Origin of Species* in 1859, Darwin's theory of evolution has revolutionised our understanding of the natural and social world, generating unprecedented and far-reaching consequences for the development of cultural, theological, sociological, biological and political discourses. For the last 150 years, Darwin's (r)evolutionary theory has been appropriated effectively by numerous fields of scientific research. They have claimed *The Origin of Species* as one of the core texts in their respective academic canons, hence turning evolution theory into a universal meta-theory. The Darwinian parameters of selection, variation and adaptation are generally acknowledged as fundamental evolutionary principles for explaining non-biological processes in fields as diverse as sociology, behavioural studies, cognitive science, and cultural studies. This widespread dissemination of Darwin's theory, as well as the general fascination with Darwin as a scientist and a historical figure, are reflected in the extensive and spectacular coverage that Darwin and his work have received in the media in 2009. The Department of English Studies at the University of Göttingen and the Courant Research Centre »Evolution of Social Behaviour« celebrate the long-lasting impact of Darwin's evolutionary model in academic fields as well as popular culture with an international three-day academic conference *Darwin Among the Disciplines* on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of *The Origin of Species*. By bringing together contributions from the humanities and arts, natural sciences, social sciences and theology, we shall explore the way in which Darwin's ideas have reshaped our understanding of human nature and engendered ongoing debates and controversies.

Organisers / Contact / Registration

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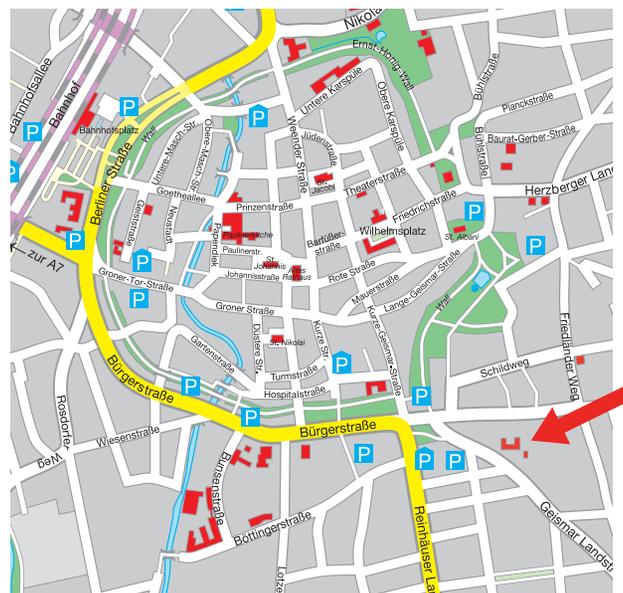
Dr. Anca-Raluca Radu
Department of English Literature and Culture
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Website

<http://www.english-literature.uni-goettingen.de>

Venue

Lichtenberg-Kolleg: Historic Observatory
Geismar Landstraße 11, 37083 Göttingen
Map: http://www.uni-goettingen.de/tour/show_tour.php?id=8420&typ=geb



The organizers would like to thank the National Library of Scotland for the right to use photographic materials from its archival resources.



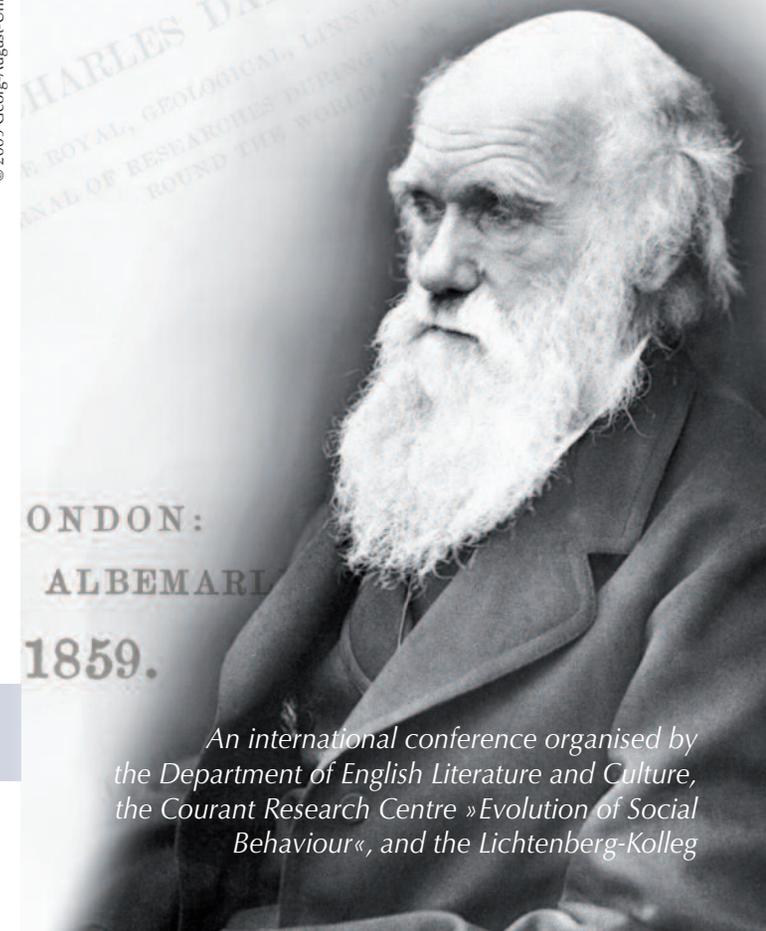
GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

LICHTENBERG-KOLLEG

Darwin Among the Disciplines

19th – 21st November 2009

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LONDON:
ALBEMARLY STREET,
1859.

An international conference organised by the Department of English Literature and Culture, the Courant Research Centre »Evolution of Social Behaviour«, and the Lichtenberg-Kolleg

Thursday, 19th November

- 5:30 **Conference Opening**
Dagmar Coester-Waltjen
*Director of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg
Göttingen*
- Barbara Schaff
*Department of English Literature
and Culture · Göttingen*
- Keynote Lecture** Virginia Richter · *Bern*
*Re-Placing Humans. Literary, Cultural,
and Critical Perspectives on Darwinism*
- 7:00 Conference warming (Buffet and Drinks)

Friday, 20th November

- Introduction** Margarete Boos
- 9:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Lecture**
Eve-Marie Engels · *Tübingen*
**Darwin, ›The Most Important Scout of
Science‹ in the 19th Century**
- Coffee Break**
- Panel** Cognitive Darwinism
- Chair** Margarete Boos
- 11:00 Hannes Rakoczy · *Göttingen*
**Evolutionary Psychology
and Evolutionary Psychology in the
Study of Cognitive Development**
- 11:30 Momme von Sydow · *Göttingen*
**Adaptationism in Darwinian Metaphysics
– Tautology or Testable Theory?**
- 12:00 Mathias Gutmann · *Karlsruhe*
**Is There a Sociobiological Explanation
of Culture?**
- Lunch Break**
- Panel** Darwin and Modern Cultures
- Chair** Daniel Stein
- 2:00 Marcel Hartwig · *Chemnitz*
**How the Wolf Turned Golden:
The Role of Cultural Forces in the
Domestication of the Tomato**

- 2:30 Christoph Heyl · *Frankfurt / M*
**The Posthumous Evolution of the Dodo:
From Charles Darwin to Lewis Carroll
and Beyond**
- 3:00 Kamran Arjomand · *Halle/Saale*
**Religious Modernism and Natural Evo-
lution: Reflections on the Controversy
Surrounding the Dogma of Creation in
Modern Iran**
- Coffee Break**
- Panel** The Dance of the Sexes
- Chair** Peter Kappeler
- 4:00 Dean Cáceres · *Göttingen*
**Music Evolutionism and the Idea of
Development in Music History as Rela-
ted to Charles Darwin's Theory of the
›Sexual Evolution of Man‹**
- 4:30 Rudolf Emons · *Passau*
**What Women Want – Men Want
Something Else**
- 5:00 – 5:30 Julia Ostner · *Göttingen*
**Debating Sexual Selection
– Sex and Reproduction in Nature**
- Conference dinner (7:00)**

Saturday, 21st November

- Introduction** Anca-Raluca Radu
- 9:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Lecture**
Ian Duncan · *Berkeley*
**Darwin's Voyage: Circumnavigation,
World History, and the Sublime**
- Coffee Break**
- Panel** Victorian Darwinism
- Chair** Barbara Buchenau
- 11:00 Jochen Petzold · *Edinburgh*
**›Monkey Business‹ –
Darwin's ›Ape Theory‹ and Its Traces in
Victorian Children's Magazines**
- 11:30 Martin Hermann · *Freiburg*
**›The Struggle for Life‹: Evolution in
Apocalyptic Fiction from the 1890s to
the 1960s**

- 12:00 Alexis Harley · *Victoria / Australia*
**Autobiologies: Charles Darwin and the
Natural History of the Self**
- Lunch Break**
- Panel** Darwinian Philology
- Chair** Regine Eckardt
- 2:00 Camille Debras · *Lyon*
**Uncovering the Origin of Darwin's Legacy:
A Rhetorical Study of The Origin of Species**
- 2:30 Daniela Wawra · *Graz*
**›Connecting Definite Sounds with Def-
inite Ideas‹: Neo-Darwinian Reflections
on Language Evolution and Variation**
- Panel** Darwinian Representations
- Chair** Claudia Georgi
- 3:00 Felix Sprang · *Hamburg*
**›[W]e may hope to make sure, but
slow progress.‹ (Mis-)Representations
of Darwin's Origin: Evolutionary
Master Narratives in *The Sea* (2005) and
The Secret Scripture (2008)**
- 3:30 Eva-Sabine Zehelein · *Frankfurt / M.*
Dramatic Darwin
- Coffee Break**
- 5:00 – 6:30 **Panel discussion**
**Darwin Among the Disciplines:
Interdisciplinary Perspectives**
- Chair** Frank Kelleter · *Göttingen*
American Literature and Culture
- Participants:** Margarete Boos
Göttingen · Psychology
Ian Duncan · *Berkeley*
English Literature
Eve-Marie Engels
Tübingen · Ethics in the Life Sciences
Andreas Grünschloß
Göttingen · Religious Studies
Matthias Gutmann
Karlsruhe · Philosophy
Peter Kappeler · *Göttingen*
Sociobiology and Anthropology
Virginia Richter · *Universität Bern*
English Literature and Culture