

EUROPEAN BEAT STUDIES NETWORK 7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Vienna, 3-6 October 2018

Call for Papers

Beats and Politics – Past and Present

Submissions are invited for the Seventh Annual Conference of the European Beat Studies Network (EBSN) that will take place at the Schule für Dichtung (Vienna Poetry School) in Vienna, Austria, on October 3–6, 2018.

Beat culture can be regarded as a manifestation of political protest against the oppressive and anti-freedom of expression political atmosphere of the 1950s, which culminated in several obscenity trials (*Howl, Naked Lunch, Fuck You/ A Magazine of the Arts*). Examples of later Beat political activism include William Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg's participation in the protests at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Ginsberg's arrest at the anti-nuclear Rocky Flats blockade of railroad tracks in 1978, and his participation at numerous protests against the Vietnam war.

The 2018 conference will focus on the relevance of the Beat Generation against the backdrop of the current political turmoil in the US and beyond. In particular, we seek papers which assess the Beats within the context of political activism as well as cultural politics of identity, gender, ethnicity, LGBT rights and/or environmentalism. We are also interested in the impact of recent works by Beat poets who are still active (e.g., the 2017 "Exorcism of the White House" by Ed Sanders and the reunited *Fugs*), as well as by younger artists who are influenced by Beat aesthetics.

We invite submissions for panels, roundtables, dialogues, visual exhibitions, and performances, on any aspect of the Beat Generation and their legacy. But priority will be given to proposals related to the conference theme as outlined above, transnational links between Austrian culture and the Beats, and Ruth Weiss, who grew up in Vienna and had to escape with her parents in the wake of Nazi aggression against Jewish communities. She will celebrate her 90th birthday in 2018.

The Vienna Poetry School was founded in 1992 and modelled after the Jack Kerouac School in Colorado. The school has become a centre of Beat-related and counter-cultural activity since its inception, hosting an array of prominent Beat figures, including Allen Ginsberg, Anne Waldman, Ed Sanders, and Ruth Weiss.

Deadline for abstracts: February 15, 2018

Responses will be given by: March 15, 2018

Papers will be limited to 20 minutes. For all enquiries and abstracts of 250 words, please contact the conference administrator, Raven See (rsee@elmira.edu). Those who are not already members should also send a brief bio. You don't need an academic affiliation to attend or participate in the conference, only to be a member of the EBSN. Membership is free.

Information about the conference fee and accommodations will be sent out and published on the EBSN website by the end of the year.

Conference Organizing Committee:

Thomas Antonic (University of Vienna)

Polina Mackay (EBSN Vice-President, University of Nicosia)

Harriet Nachtmann (Vienna Poetry School)

Paul Pechmann (University of Vienna)