

Gæsteforelæsning / Guest lecture:

Christoph Bode:

## **Byron's Dis-orientations: A Reading of *The Giaour***

Københavns Universitet / University of Copenhagen  
Tuesday 16 September 2014, 14-16 in KUA2 – 15A.0.13

Aarhus Universitet / Aarhus University  
Friday 19 September 2014, 11-13 in Building1441 room 210



The talk starts from Nigel Leask's assessment that Byron, in his Oriental tales, reduces "the imperialist Self to a level with its oriental Other; but in so doing he in effect perpetuates the prejudice of the East/West binary opposition whilst attacking the ideology of empire which it empowers": "he failed to break free of the sort of binary opposition constitutive of orientalism." Taking *The Giaour* as a pertinent example, this talk shows that this is not necessarily so. A narratological analysis will show how the text perpetually undercuts any easy binary oppositions, thereby systematically dis-orienting the reader. Some elucidation of the historical background of *The Giaour* will shed new light on Byron's dis-orientation game.

Christoph Bode is Professor and Chair of Modern English Literature at LMU Munich. He has published extensively, mostly on Romanticism, Narratology, Critical Theory, Aesthetics, Travel Writing, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Literature. His latest monographs in English are *The Novel* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011) and *Future Narratives: Theory, Poetics, and Media-historical Moment* (together with Rainer Dietrich, de Gruyter, 2013).