



OÉ Gaillimh
NUI Galway

MOORE
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Texts
Contexts
Cultures

Building Empires on Air: Histories and Geopolitics of Radio and Empire

Moore Institute

National University of Ireland, Galway

9am-6pm, 1 April 2011

Part of the Texts, Contexts, Cultures research programme.

Supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This workshop will compare scholarly approaches to histories of radio and empire, in a broad transnational and geopolitical context. Key questions to be considered include:

- How have transnational broadcasters sought to influence society, politics, and culture in target areas, at different times and in different settings? What comparisons and contrasts can usefully be drawn?
- How might concepts of (soft) power, territory, sovereignty and transnationality contribute to critical interdisciplinary engagements with international broadcasting within historical and contemporary ‘empires’?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to the study of radio and empire? What is the place of institutional history? How do we tackle the cultural history of broadcasting and empire, and the issue of audience reception?
- How useful are older models of ‘media imperialism’, and new ideas about ‘cultural diplomacy’ and ‘globalisation’, as tools of scholarly analysis?
- How far have institutions with responsibilities for both domestic and external broadcasting been reshaped by their overseas obligations?
- What light do different disciplinary perspectives have to shed on these topics?

There is no charge for registration, but if you would like to attend please email Simon Potter (simon.potter@nuigalway.ie) in advance.

This event is part of the wider ‘Texts Contexts Cultures’ research project funded by the Government of Ireland PRTL scheme and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Speakers include:

- **David Clayton (University of York)** – ‘Communal Consumption: radio broadcasting in dependent colonies, 1945-60’
- **David Hendy (University of Westminster)** – ‘Early Radio and World Visions’
- **Gordon Johnston (Leeds Metropolitan University)** – “‘Broadcasting Freedom’: scholarship and ideology in histories of Cold War broadcasting’
- **Chandrika Kaul (University of St Andrews)** – ‘All India Radio’
- **Alasdair Pinkerton (Royal Holloway, London)** – ‘Rings around Eurasia: the weaponisation of Cold War radio’
- **Emma Robertson (Sheffield Hallam University)** – ‘Listening in Exile: imagining, identifying and classifying BBC Empire Service audiences’
- **Rebecca P. Scales (Rochester Institute of Technology, New York)** – ‘Métissage over the Airwaves: colonial modernity and the cultural history of imperial broadcasting in French Algeria, 1930-1936’
- **Andrea Stanton (University of Denver)** – ‘ESB, PBS, and NEBS: Governing an “Empire on Air” in the Middle East, 1934-49’
- **Niccoló Tognarini (European University Institute, Florence)** – “‘Avanguardia della Propaganda nazionale’: Italian broadcasting abroad in the 1930s’

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