

The Cultural Mediation Project at Åbo Akademi University invites to a one-day seminar on  
Intercultural mediation

## TRANSFORMING OTHERNESS

19.9 2008, 8.30-16.30

Arken, Åbo Akademi University, Fabriksgatan 2, 20500 Åbo

The Cultural Mediation Project turns the focus towards intercultural mediation and, in particular, the possible role of "a third party" in facilitating a communication process. The aims of the project are to (a) study the specific character of cultural mediation in its diverse forms (b) analyse the conditions necessary for successful mediation, and (c) consider general principles for intercultural mediation processes.

In order to meet these objectives, an interdisciplinary approach as well as a broad methodological perspective is necessary. To avoid a simplistic understanding of complex intercultural mediation processes, the project includes a profound reflection about sustained investigation of the types of issues, concepts and perspectives that are of relevance to mediation processes.

There are, of course, many different areas of intercultural mediation where the third party can be characterised in different ways; translation, teaching in cultural and linguistic proficiency, various forms of interreligious dialogue to name but a few.

Furthermore, literature and film, both fictive and documentary, often involve representations of otherness in a way that might facilitate transformation of different cultural positionalities.

### KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. [Bruce Johnson](#), formerly a Professor in English, is now Adjunct Professor, Contemporary Music Studies, Macquarie University Sydney; Honorary Professor, Music, University of Glasgow; Visiting Professor, Cultural History, University of Turku. His current research lies in acoustic cultural history and the role of sound and music in emerging modernity.

PhD, [Iben Jensen](#), lecturer at the Department of Communication, University of Roskilde; Member of Board of (NIC) Nordic Network for Intercultural Communication. She is author of several books on intercultural communication and her current research lies in developing practice theory in intercultural communication.

### CALL FOR PAPERS dead-line 30.6 2008

Graduate student and postdoctoral researchers are hereby invited to contribute with presentations – empirical or theoretical – pertaining to the theme of the research project and a critical evaluation of the types of issues, concepts and perspectives that are of relevance to intercultural mediation processes and in particular the fundamental question: What is transforming otherness all about? If you wish to present a paper, please send an abstract of 200 words to Dr. Peter Nynäs [pnynas@abo.fi](mailto:pnynas@abo.fi), dead-line: 30.6 2008.

You are also welcome to take part in the seminar without presenting a paper yourself. In that case, please register before 4.8 2008 at the same address. The number of participants will be limited to 30 persons.