

Italy/Italie

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UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Progress Report

Period of activity: 2007- 2008

UNESCO Chair in Cultural and Comparative Studies on the Imaginary

Report established by: Prof. Paolo Proietti, UNESCO Chairholder, Libera Università di
Lingue e Comunicazione, Milan

I. Activities

1. Academic activities

Education

During the 2007-2008 activity year, the UNESCO Chair offered two seminars:
Seminar “The Imaginary”

Target group: Doctoral students in Comparative Literature

Seminar “Literature, Culture and Europe”

Target group: Doctoral students in Comparative Literature

Research

Projects on “The Imaginary in Literature” and “The Imaginary: Methods and Perspectives”

2. Conferences/Meetings

“Imaginations of Perfection”

Date and Place: April 2008, Milan, Italy

“Paths of the Imaginary”

Date and Place: May 2008, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

3. Publications

Books

Title: *Specchi del letterario: l'imagologia*

Author: Paolo Proietti

Publisher: Sellerio

Year: 2008

Language: Italian

Title: *Il grado zero dell'immagine*

Authors: Giovanni Puglisi, Paolo Proietti
Publisher: Sellerio
Year: 2008
Language: Italian

CD-ROM

Title: *Les Frontières de l'altérité*
Distribution: Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione
Format: 5 DVD/90 minutes

Partnerships

Centre Gaston Bachelard, Université de Bourgogne (France)
Centre de Recherches sur l'Imaginaire, Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
Centre de Recherches sur l'Imaginaire, Babes-Bolyai University (Romania)
Mircea Eliade Center, University of Craiova (Romania)
African Center for Advanced Studies (Benin)
Centro de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (Canada)
Centre de Recherche sur l'Imaginaire, Haifa University (Israel)

II. Impact

The UNESCO Chair in Cultural and Comparative Studies on the Imaginary supports research on cultural studies and symbolic representations of political identities. The Chair organizes seminars and conferences for doctoral students working on the study of political imaginaries at Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione. Through its programs on the theory and methodology of imaginary representations, the Chair promotes the understanding of cultural difference and the construction of intercultural dialogue.

III. Forthcoming activities

The Chair will organize several international colloquia and expand its academic offerings on the theme of the imaginary. The Chair will advance the publication of a journal entitled *Lettre électronique des centres de recherche sur l'imaginaire* and coordinate academic exchange programs with other institutions of higher learning in Europe.