



Sandro Botticelli, *The Birth of Venus*, ca.1485

International Conference
Revisitar o Mito / Recycling Myths

2-4 May, 2012
Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon

Although positivism dismissed myths as childish fancy bound to be superseded by reason, there has been a persistent reappraisal of the power of myths since the 19th century. Once viewed as a primitive and precarious account and an inadequate and distorted form of knowledge, myths would come to be perceived as exemplary narratives, consisting of rich and complex symbolic constructs that carry meaning and an affective connection to reality. Myths came then to be regarded as a privileged expression of the human soul and of its possibly submerged and unconscious abysses and dramas. Rather than inherently obscure and elusive to a rational grasp, mythical narratives would be therefore driven by a logical reasoning, giving shape to a particular worldview on life and humankind. The enduring power of mythical narrative is testified by its very plasticity, subject to multiple re-creations informed by changing concerns and insights. Mythical narratives have thus attracted the interest of various disciplines, from ethnology and history to philosophy, literature, sociology, politics, history of religions, and art history. This interdisciplinary conference aims to study how myths are inscribed and recycled within our individual and collective heritage, and to examine the personal and political implications of our multifaceted engagement with myths, as one of the forms whereby we try to make sense of our perplexities.

- **Suggested topics:**

- rewriting myths
- myths of origin / the origin of myths
- myths and fairy tales / folktales / popular culture
- myths and philosophy
- myths and ethics
- myths and politics / ideology
- the reception of myths
- myths and gender
- myths and science
- myths and religion
- myths and the arts
- myths and psychoanalysis
- myths and postmodernism

- The conference will include plenary lectures by guest speakers and thematic parallel sessions for registered delegates.

- **Confirmed Guest Speakers:**

- Arthur W. Frank (University of Calgary)
- Emilio Suarez (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
- Marina Warner (University of Essex)
- Alessandro Zironi (Università di Bologna)

- Working languages: English and Portuguese

- Papers: 20 minutes

- We welcome:

- individual proposals for a 20-minute paper (ca. 200 words);
- joint proposals for thematic panels consisting of 3 papers (ca. 200 words per paper)

Please include the following information with your proposal:

- a) the full title of your paper / of your panel and respective papers;
- b) abstract (ca. 200 words per paper);
- c) your name;
- d) your institutional affiliation;
- e) your e-mail and postal address;
- f) a short biographical note (ca. 100 words).

Selected papers delivered at the Conference will be eligible for publication.

- Deadline for proposals: **20 November 2011**

- Notification of acceptance: **12 December 2011**

- Please submit your abstract:

– by e-mail: recycling.myths@gmail.com, Subject header: Abstract proposal

– or by post:

Colóquio Revisitar o Mito / Recycling Myths/ Revisitar o Mito
A/C Centro de Estudos Anglísticos OR Centro de Estudos Clássicos
Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa – Alameda da Universidade
1600-214 Lisboa
Portugal

- Registration

– Early bird registration: **90 Euros** (until 31 January 2012)

– Late bird registration: **120 Euros** (1 February – 5 March 2012)

– Student fee: **15 Euros**

– Other delegates (entitled to conference materials and certificate of attendance): **25 Euros**

Notes

– Only after proof of payment will the registration be accepted.

– All speakers are responsible for their own travel arrangements and accommodation; relevant information about hotels will be provided later.

- **Scientific Committee** (in alphabetical order):

Vanda Anastácio; Teresa Casal; Ana Raquel Fernandes; Abel Nascimento Pena; Maria de Jesus C. Relvas; José Pedro Serra