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**Migration and Diaspora Cultural Studies Network (MDCSN)**  
**End of Year Report for 2007**

The highlights of our network have been our workshops, conference, monthly reading group and homepage. Our three workshops “*Hybridity, Mestizaje, Creolisation, Lusotropicalism, Transculturation - Old Terms for New Phenomena?*”, “*Borders and Bordering*” and “*Queer Diasporas*” were interdisciplinary in terms of their organisation, speakers and audience, attracting colleagues from Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Political Science, English and American Studies, History, Languages, Drama, Screen Studies, Gender Studies and Linguistics. We attracted international speakers to our workshops such as Gayatri Gopinath (NYU), who gave the keynote for our “Queer Diasporas” workshop, as well as participants from the University of Basel, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad de Málaga and American University, Washington. We also have collaborated with non-academic stakeholders such as the Contact Theatre, Queer Up North, the South-Asian art collective Sphere, the Ahmad Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Archive, the Moving Identities project, and the Manchester based artist migrant and refugee network ‘Virtual Migrants’.

Our conference “Creolising Europe” in September 07 drew on the debates initiated in the workshops. The conference invited papers for the four strands “moving concepts”, “moving borders, things and sounds”, “moving stories, languages, images” and “moving identities, moving nations”. The four keynotes by Professor Zygmunt Bauman, Professor Gayatri C. Spivak, Professor Tina Campt and Dr. Françoise Vergès addressed creolization and diaspora in Europe. 130 participants from the UK, Europe, USA, Canada and Australia from different disciplines and also from non-academic backgrounds participated in the different sessions and debates. The papers ranged from installations to empirical papers to theoretical debates to practitioner and activist panels.

Another highlight of MDCSN is the reading group. Largely coordinated by a group of PhD students, it meets monthly and records the content of discussion on the website. Finally, the MDCSN website is still being developed as an interactive information and archive site.

The publication of a journal special issue based on our first workshop on “Hybridity, Mestizaje, ... Old terms for New Phenomena!?” will be published in the Journal *Diaspora: Journal for Transnational Studies* (edited by Professor Khachig Tölölyan) in Autumn 2008. Queer diasporas- We plan to publish a volume drawing on our workshop in May 2007 and the Queer Diasporas strand of the conference in September 2007. This volume will discuss the applicability of the concept of ‘queer’ and ‘diaspora’ and their relationship considering a critical reading of transnationality. At present we plan to submit a proposal for this volume to *GLQ* (Gay and Lesbian Quarterly), *Intersections* or *Sexualities* by the end of 2008. The publication of a volume entitled ‘Creolising Europe’ will discuss *creolization* in relation to moments of cultural

mixture and culture as flux in Europe, focusing on minor literatures, transnational cinemas, music, performance, and many other kinds of cultural syncretism. The submission of the essays will be June 2008. We hope to submit the volume by June 2009.