

**ORAL POETICS AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE**  
**Interdisciplinary conference at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS)**

**Deadline for submission of proposals: November 1, 2012**

**Notification of acceptance/rejection: November 10, 2012**

**Conference dates: January 24-26, 2013**

This conference is organized by [Mihailo Antović](#) (University of Niš) and [Cristóbal Pagán Cánovas](#) (University of Murcia), as part of their project [Towards a Cognitive Oral Poetics: Traditional Epic and Cognitive Linguistics](#), funded by a [Tandem Fellowship in Linguistics and Literary Studies](#) of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies.

The Parry-Lord theory of oral composition in performance was arguably the major breakthrough in classics and oral tradition studies in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The so called “cognitive revolution” has probably been the most important movement cutting across all the sciences of the mind for the past one hundred years, maybe more. Both paradigm shifts have an important point of coincidence: the idea that language learning and verbal creativity result from usage and performance, and build on general cognitive capacities and cultural context. The basic units of language and oral poetry are not a set of transformational or formal rules, but functional form-meaning pairs acquired through an instance-based process.

**Oral poetics and Cognitive Science** seeks to lay the foundations of a new discipline, *Cognitive Oral Poetics*, through an interdisciplinary conversation between researchers in oral poetics, empirical literary scholars, linguists and cognitive scientists. Presentations by our guest speakers will be addressed to a multi-disciplinary audience, and there will be ample time for discussion in the form of Q&A, roundtables, common lunches, etc. Our guest speakers so far are:

[Egbert Bakker](#), Yale University, Department of Classics

[Hans C. Boas](#), University of Texas at Austin, Departments of German and Linguistics

[Anna Bonifazi](#), University of Heidelberg, Department of Classical Philology

[Winfried Menninghaus](#), Free University Berlin, Peter Szondi Institute of Comparative Literature

[Mark Turner](#), Case Western Reserve University, Department of Cognitive Science

We request contributions from any researchers working on linguistic or cognitive approaches to the study of oral traditions, in any language, on topics related (but not restricted) to: formulae, themes, story patterns, or composition in performance. We also welcome linguists or cognitive scientists who work on aspects of construction grammar, frame semantics, conceptual mappings, phraseology, memory, story-grammar, etc., in connection with materials from oral traditions.

Presentations will be 10-15 minutes long, and will be followed by a poster session or roundtable, in which all participants will interact with the speakers directly. Graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and experienced scholars are all invited to submit their proposals. **Abstracts should be 300 words maximum** (not counting references). **There is no conference fee. Financial aid will be available to defray all or part of the expenses of selected speakers.**

Please email your proposals **in a PDF attachment** to **both** Mihailo Antović ([mantovic@gmail.com](mailto:mantovic@gmail.com)) and Cristóbal Pagán Cánovas ([cpcanovas@um.es](mailto:cpcanovas@um.es)). In your email, please indicate whether you will need funding for travel, accommodation, both or neither. **Financial information will not affect the evaluation of your proposal.** If you would like to attend the conference without giving a presentation (no financial aid possible in that case), please send a short expression of interest in the body of your email (100 words maximum).

**Selected speakers will be invited to submit a chapter for a collective volume**, to be peer reviewed for the FRIAS *Linguae & Litterae* series, published by De Gruyter.