

**University of Sfax, Tunisia**  
**Faculty of Arts and Humanities**  
**The English Department and the Laboratory on Approaches to Discourse (LAD) jointly**  
**organise on 14 April 2017 a study day on:**

**Verandas for Residual and Emergent Narratives**

*In Marxism and Literature*, Raymond Williams foregrounds cultural change and explores it by theorising “terms which recognise not only ‘stages’ and ‘variations’ but the internal dynamic relations of any actual process” (121). Through introducing “the dominant,” “the residual” and “the emergent,” Williams studies culture and history in terms of power and resistance, or, to use his own terms, “hegemony” and “counter hegemony.” In so doing, he proposes an alternative reading of history from the perspective of the marginalised, emphasising the subversive roles of the “residual” and the “emergent,” which are “significant both in themselves and in what they reveal of the characteristics of the ‘dominant’” (122). The dominant is closely associated with the hegemonic group which “has effectively seized [. . .] the ruling definition of the social” (125). The residual, Williams explains, “has been effectively formed in the past, but it is still active in the cultural process, not only and often not at all as an element of the past, but as an effective element of the present” (122). The emergent, however, is more subversive as it could change the dominant cultural formations and structures. The emergent, in Williams’ words, means the creation of “new meanings and values, new practices, new relationships and kinds of relationship” (123). In relation to the dominant, these are “substantially alternative or oppositional to it: emergent in the strict sense, rather than merely novel” (123). Emergent tendencies translate themselves in deviations and excesses as they posit a different understanding of the world and create new forms of knowledge.

The significance of Williams’ theorisation of the dominant, the residual, and the emergent lies in the reconsideration of our understanding of culture and the introduction of a tripartite ideological framework that introduces new interpretative possibilities. This framework could be used as a critical strategy to understand how the residual and the emergent find a space in the literary text and challenge the regulations and structures of the dominant. *Verandas* is a literature research platform that addresses how the residual and the emergent circumvent the dictates of the dominant/the hegemonic as it gives an airing to what is stifled and repressed and contributes to the construction of alternative discursive levels that revalue the role of the “other” in the formation of knowledge.

Contributors may explore, but are not restricted to, the following topics:

- The residual and the emergent in the history of British and American literature
- The residual and the emergent in literary movements
- The residual and the emergent in the literary text
- The residual and the emergent in literary theories
- Postcolonial and diasporic literature and the emergence of new cultural identities

Please send your abstract of no more than 300 words, along with a short bio, to [mounir\\_guirat@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mounir_guirat@yahoo.co.uk) by 15 March 2017.

Notification of acceptance/rejection: 22 March 2017.