THE BRITISH COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
POSTGRADUATE AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER CONFERENCE

SPECTRES, SPECTRUMS AND SPECTRALITY: NEW AND INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO COMPARATIVE AND WORLD LITERATURE

Thursday 12th - Friday 13th October 2023

University of Warwick
Thursday 12th October 2023
University of Warwick: Wolfson Research Exchange, University of Warwick Library

8.30-9.00: Arrival, Registration, Welcome Speech (Room 1 and 2)

9.00-9.45: Keynote Speech (Chair: Daisy Towers) (Room 1 and 2)
Dr Caroline Summers
Narrative afterlife: exploring spectres of experience in the literary text

9.45-10.00: Divide into session rooms

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**Session 1**
10.00-11.30

**Room 1 and 2**

**Trauma, Resistance, Resilience (Chair: Laura Kennedy)**

**Meena Venkataramanan (Brown University)**
Asian American identity as Spectral Whiteness in Literature

**Alison Clare**
Our Ancestors Hold Us From Within Our Own Bodies: Black Women as Carriers of Memory in Rosalie l’infame

**Airelle Amédro (University of Warwick)**
‘I don’t keep corpses’: On resisting and sustaining deadly literature in Constance Debré’s and Édouard Louis’s works

**Shruti Shukla (University of Glasgow)**
Landscapes of Memory: Trauma and Resistance in Meena Kandasamy and Camonghne Felix’s Poetry

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**Room 3**

**Theorising Spectres and Specters (Chair: Rachel Milne)**

**Jack Rutherford**
“Ain’t all waitin’ on you”: Specters of the Frontier in No Country for Old Men

**Iqra Raza (University of Houston)**
Spectral Forms of Fiction: Recuperating Hauntology for the Human Rights Novel

**Emma Wood (McMaster University)**
Butches, Femmes, and Lesbian Spectres: The Haunting Role of Lesbian Bars in 20th Century Queer Writings

**Chunyan (Rebecca) Fu (University of Cambridge)**
Living among Spectres: Giorgio Agamben’s Writings as the Mnemosyne Atlas

Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and The Arts
University of Warwick

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11.30-11.45: Coffee break

Session 2  
11.45-13.15

Room 1 and 2

The Spectres and Spectrums of Gender and Sexuality (Chair: Rachel Milne)

Jiyan Li (University of Edinburgh)  
'Straightening' of the Lesbian? A Comparative Study on the Butch Lesbian Presences in The Aggressives and White Snake

Joseph Richmond (University of Liverpool)  
Consent as a spectre in Egyptian & Kuwaiti Queer literature

Andreea Moise (University of Bucharest)  
"The Twelvemonth and a Day Being Up": Genderless Spectralities of s/Sapphic Mourning in Ali Smith's Artful

Sharanya Chakraborty (University of Sussex)  
The Moving Spectre of Queerness: Using movement as a tool to analyse the queer body in Brown's Immodest Acts and Verhoeven's Benedetta

Room 3

Worlds in Crisis (Chair: Charlotte Spear)

Rin MacRitchie  
Stop Talking Like an Old Lady: The (Eco)Critical Implications of Representations of Aging in Un beau matin

Irene Praga Guerro (Birkbeck College)  
Chronic Spectres: (Re)Mapping the Journey of Migration in Doro Goumaneh and Brendan Woodhouse's Doro and Ibrahima Balde and Amets Arzallus' Miñan

Alex Hubbarb (Aberystwyth University)  
The Haunting of Climates Past – Spectral Climates in Late Twentieth Century Speculative Fiction

Evie Lewis (University of Leeds)  
Queering the City: 'Hidden Transcripts' in Zeyn Joukhadar's The Thirty Names of Night

13.15-14.30: Lunch
Session 3
14.30-16.00

Room 1 and 2

Literary Afterlives (Chair: Daisy Towers)

Clara Ng (University College London)
Future perfect, perfect future: narrative temporality in Chris Kraus’ *Torpor*

Bee Sachsse (University College London)
Fatness, Haunting, and Possession in Modern and Contemporary Prose Fiction

Laura Sadler (Northumbria University)
Xavier de Maistre and the Spectre of Sterne: A French authorial afterlife

Julie Irigaray
The Death of Myth-Making: the literary afterlives of Arthur Rimbaud and Sylvia Plath

Room 3

Writing the Nation (Chair: Laura Kennedy)

Gráinne Ní Nualláin (University College Dublin)
Blood on Our Hands: Stillbirth, Motherhood and Gendered Medical Neglect in Éilís Ní Dhuibhne’s ‘Midwife to the Fairies’ and Deirdre Sullivan’s ‘Pearleen’

Calum Esler (University of Glasgow)
Undead Nation: Grotesque National Identity in Alasdair Gray’s *Poor Things* (1992)

Martha O’Brien (Cardiff University / University of Bristol)
What’s Haunting Wales?

Lillian Fontaine (University of Oxford)
The Writer as Prophet, Saviour, or Scapeghost?
Storytelling and the Postsecular in Kamel Daoud’s *Zabor ou les psaumes* (2017)

16.00-16.15: Coffee break / regroup in Room 1 and 2

16.15-17.15: Flash Presentations (Chair: Charlotte Spear)

Rachel Milne (University of Cambridge)
Mik Tampold (McMaster University)
Hannah Fox (University of Leeds)
Ang Li (University of Stirling)

17.15-17.30: Closing Remarks

17.30: Wine reception
9.30-10.15: Launch of ‘Literary Dislocation(s)’ Research Network
Laura Kennedy and Christopher Mole

This workshop marks the official launch of ‘Literary Dislocation(s)’: a research network founded by BCLA members Laura Kennedy and Christopher Mole. During this workshop, the vision and aims of ‘Literary Dislocation(s)’ will be outlined, as well as the preliminary events organised by the network. The second half of the workshop will be an informal, interactive discussion surrounding the notion of ‘dislocation(s)’ more generally. This workshop will offer anyone interested the opportunity to get involved in this brand new initiative - all ideas and suggestions are most welcome.

10.15-10.30: Coffee break

10.30-11.30: Publishing Comparative Work as a PhD or an Early Career Researcher
Rosa Mucignat

In her capacity as editor of Comparative Critical Studies - the journal of the British Comparative Literature Association published by Edinburgh University Press - Rosa Mucignat will discuss the routes into publishing comparative work as a PhD or early career researcher. This workshop will offer insight into the journal's editorial and peer-review process, including tips on how to present your work and write a special issue proposal. This presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

11.30-12.00: Break

12.00-13.00: How to ‘do’ interdisciplinarity through creative-critical practice
Betsy Porritt

A leap of imagination, a methodical frame, a productive tension, a gap, a spectrum, delirium, desire, delight.
Through readings, discussion and a bit of writing play, this workshop will investigate some of the generative connections between interdisciplinary research and creative practice.

For anyone open to thinking across disciplinary and definitional boundaries. Readings provided, no preparation necessary, all welcome, especially those who ‘aren’t creative’.

End of Conference