



ESSE-8: LONDON 2006

29 August – 2 September 2006

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Please note that the Conference schedule has yet to be confirmed. These seminars are not listed in an intended chronological order.

** These seminars will be conducted over two sessions

NEW SEMINAR:

Shifting roles and relationships in real-life and fictional English dialogues

Convenor: Professor Cornelia Ilie (Örebro University & Södertörn University College, Sweden)

Email: cornelia.ilie@hum.oru.se

Co-convenor: Professor Manfred Draudt (Vienna University, Austria)

Email: manfred.draudt@univie.ac.at

This seminar is intended to highlight and explore common and distinctive features of two kinds of dialogic discourse: real-life dialogue and fictional dialogue, in an attempt to bring about a cross-fertilisation of linguistic and literary studies on English language use. A major focus will be one or several of the following aspects: the interlocutors' shifting roles and relationships with each other and with third parties, the interlocutors' cooperative and conflicting goals, the tensions between individual and collective actors, the ongoing meaning negotiation between interlocutors, as well as the interplay between the interlocutors' reasoning patterns and their emotional experiences.

Preliminary questions to be asked: To what extent is it possible to find correspondences and correlations in English language use between two or several interlocutors in real-life and fictional dialogues? How can a micro-level analysis be integrated into a macro-level analysis of shifting dialogue roles and relationships? The discussions will involve illustrations with examples from English corpora of real-life and fictional interaction.

Please send your abstracts directly to both Professor Ilie and Professor Draudt by 5 May.

The Human Body in Contemporary Literatures in English: Cultural and Political Implications

Convenor: Professor Dr Sabine Coelsch-Foisner (University of Salzburg)

Email: sabine.coelsch-foisner@sbg.ac.at

Co-convenor: Dr Marta Fernández Morales (University of the Balearic Islands)

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Issues related to the human body and its cultural implications are recurrent as themes and as strategies in contemporary literatures in English. Both socio-cultural developments and research activities in the life sciences have opened up new scenarios for (re-) conceptualising the human body along political, social, medical as well as fantastic lines. With contributions based on the analysis of texts coming from various cultural traditions, this seminar offers the possibility of discovering and discussing different approaches to phenomena such as anorexia nervosa, (self-)mutilation, body modification or transformation, disciplinary and monitoring practices, as they are presented in recent literary works in English.

Stories of Ageing - Cultural Histories of Age

Convenor: Professor Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz)

Email: roberta.maierhofer@uni-graz.at

Co-convenor: Dr Heike Hartung (University of Greifswald)

Email: heike.hartung@pop.uni-greifswald.de

Starting with the premise that age - similar to race, class, and gender - does not flow naturally from the individual's anatomical body, literary and cultural scholarship can analyse the way age identity is constructed in literature and in society, for both young and old. We invite contributions that investigate representations of ageing from all ranges and periods of literary and cultural production. The aim is to explore the ways in which this category of difference affects familiar ways of reading culture, and to initiate new intersections of theory and cultural politics.

The Cognitive Turn in Literary Studies and its Use in Practical Interpretation

Convenor: Dr Margarete Rubik (University of Vienna)

Email: margarete.rubik@univie.ac.at

Co-convenor: Professor Jean Jacques Weber (University of Luxembourg)

Email: jean-jacques.weber@uni.lu

In recent years we have witnessed an enormous expansion of attention to cognition in literary studies to the point where people now talk about a “cognitive turn”. In the seminar, we will explore what this cognitive “way of thinking” about literary texts means in practical terms. We will deal with such cognitive-poetic topics as profiling (the figure-ground opposition), prototypes, metaphors and conceptual blending, cognitive or cultural models, contextual frames and schemas, cognitive deixis and grammar, the management of text worlds, the affective dimension of literary texts, etc. Participants will concentrate on the practical application of these cognitive concepts in the interpretation of texts.

Culture and Identity in English Specialised Discourse

Convenor: Professor Guiseppina Cortese (University of Turin)

Email: g.cortese3@virgilio.it

Co-convenor: Professor Michel Petit (SAES, Victor Segalen University, Bordeaux)

Email: michel.petit@lv.u-bordeaux2.fr

The seminar will focus on the textual, semantic and pragmatic features of English specialised discourse as recorded in settings where local or disciplinary cultural identities

are altered, integrated or redefined by international – and hence intercultural – communication. Within such specific domains of international communication, the seminar seeks to assess to what extent the cultural allegiance of discourse communities expressing themselves in English to their (linguistic, professional, social, national) reference group(s) is affected by the use of English as a lingua franca. Special attention will be devoted to conflicts arising from divergent values, the resolution of which provides an opportunity to construct and negotiate new identities.

****The Ethical Component in Experimental British Fiction since the 1960s**

Convenor: Professor Susana Onega (University of Zaragoza)

Email: sonega@unizar.es

Co-convenor: Professor Jean-Michel Ganteau (University Paul Valery, Montpellier)

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Humanist critics contend that only realist texts have an ethical function, that there is no ethical message behind the parodic and self-conscious games played by experimental fiction and that, since emotion neutralises the ethical faculties, there is no ethical dimension in such excessive postmodernist genres as kitsch, melodrama or romance. However, one may argue that the defamiliarization imposed by parody, self-consciousness and emotional excessiveness on the realistic text involves some sort of criticism of received truths. This seminar will examine analytical evidence for the ethical component in key experimental British novels from the 1960s until the present.

Interpretation of Novel Words

Convenor: Professor Dr Pavol Stekauer (Presov University)

Email: stekpal@unipo.sk

Co-convenors: Professor Christina Gagné (University of Alberta), Dr Salvador Valera (University of Jaén)

Email: cgagne@ualberta.ca

Email: svalera@ujaen.es

New words come into existence hand-in-hand with the development of human knowledge. These words later come to be interpreted by language users. The seminar will provide a discussion of multiple factors that influence the interpretation of various types of novel words (compounds, affixed words, conversions, blends, etc.) including linguistic and extra-linguistic (cognitive, pragmatic) factors. Space will be given to various psycholinguistic and morphological approaches to and models of novel word interpretation under both context-dependent and context-free circumstances, as well as to papers discussing unequal predictability of various possible readings of a coinage encountered by a speaker for the first time.

Narrative at the Crossroads: New Developments in Narrative Study

Convenor: Professor Jan Alber (University of Freiburg)

Email: jan.alber@web.de

Co-convenor: Professor John Pier (University of Tours)

Email: j.pier@wanadoo.fr

Narrative Studies is currently experiencing a pronounced boom. In this climate of fast change and new interdisciplinary topics (narrative in drama, film and interactive computer games, narrative in music and painting, narrative in legal texts, in medicine and therapeutic discourse), exchange on a wide range of topics is necessary. This seminar seeks to bring together work from different areas of narrative study, particularly work discussing transdisciplinary perspectives on narrative.

Beyond the Dining-Room: Representations of Food in Anglophone Literature and Culture

Convenor: Professor Jopi Nyman (University of Joensuu)

Email: jopi.nyman@joensuu.fi

Co-convenor: Dr Pere Gallardo-Torrano (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)

Email: pere.gallardo@urv.net

Recent interest in the culture of food as is evident in the popularity of celebrity chefs and various forms of food writing has underlined the need for their critical study. The aim of this seminar is to address the increasingly important role and function of eating culture in Anglophone literary and cultural texts. To further discussion, we invite contributions dealing with the cultural representation of culinary practices. They may explore such possible issues as food and identity; food and writing; food, community and memory; and post/coloniality and food.

Writers' Letters

Convenor: Professor Marianne Camus (University of Dijon)

Email: marianne.camus@free.fr

Co-convenor: Professor Susan Fitzmaurice (University of Sheffield)

Email: susan.fitzmaurice@nau.edu

This seminar will consider the different aspects in which writers' letters constitute an informal writing laboratory, providing clues as to the creative process from its inception to the finished work. These could include reactions to other authors past or contemporary, the expression of a writer's consciousness of his or her social specificity and awareness of historical determination, the affirmation of an aesthetic position and ambition, the feelings as to one's own writing and its reception as well as the unavoidable fluctuations of thought and feeling and the varying degree of sincerity in their expression.

Contemporary British Drama and the Question of Genre

Convenor: Dr Stefani Brusberg-Kiermeier (University of Potsdam)

Email: brusberg@rz.uni-potsdam.de

Co-convenor: Dr Graham Saunders (University of Lancaster)

Email: graham@saun73.freeseve.co.uk

Aleks Sierz's book *In-Yer-Face Theatre: British Drama Today* (2000) provided both a term and a definition for a specific genre that he identified during the 1990s. However, one can argue that the term "in-ye-face," like Martin Esslin's *The Theatre of the Absurd* (1961), is a reductive one in that it fails to appreciate the diversity of voices in contemporary writing within British theatre. Obviously, dramatists still consider genre as crucial for their writing and directors likewise for choosing and staging plays. We will discuss the

importance of generic features as a way forward to understanding contemporary British drama.

Anthologies and Challenges in 20th-Century American Poetry And Poetics

Convenor: Professor H el ene Aji (University of Maine, France)

Email: helene.aji@free.fr / helene.aji@univ-lemans.fr

Co-convenor: Professor Manuel Brito (University of La Laguna)

Email: mbrito@ull.es

What is at issue in the construction and reception of avant-garde American poetry and poetics anthologies in the 20th century? How do they offer different perspectives notably on language and ideology, and how do they articulate poetry with other disciplines such as social theory, philosophy, linguistics, and art? From Imagism, or the Objectivists, to Ethnopoetics, Concrete Poetry, or L=a=n=g=u=a=g=e, anthologies have been a locus for the redefinition of poetic art. This seminar will address questions of how anthologies mediate poetic intention, outline processes of acceptance or marginalization, and pursue the dialogue between Europe and the United States.

Visuality in Modernist Aesthetics and Literature

Convenor: Dr Esther S anchez-Pardo (Complutense University of Madrid)

Email: esanchez_pardo@filol.ucm.es

Co-convenor: Dr Kris van Heuckelom (Catholic University of Leuven)

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Recent critics have challenged the traditionally held idea of the purity of the visual in modernism by revealing that within modernism there is an explicitly antivisual impulse. What Rosalind Krauss has called “the modernist fetishization of sight” has been questioned along the lines of a critique of ocularcentrism and the primacy of the eye in Western thought. The visual has always involved a critique of appearance. How does modernist aesthetics, literature and art engage with the visual and/or resist visualization? Issues papers might engage with include: scopophilia and scopophobia, visual pleasure, anxiety about vision, blindness, haunting images, and vision and desire among others.

What Future for the Future Tense in English?

Convenor: Professor Christopher Williams (University of Bari)

Email: cjwilliams72@hotmail.com / c.williams@scienzepolitiche.uniba.it

Co-convenor: Professor Ilse Depraetere (Charles De Gaulle Lille III University)

Email: ilse.depraetere@pandora.be

English has many ways of conveying future situations. Without returning to the old question of whether English has a future tense, we wish to encourage debate on the state of contemporary studies on the future in English; the contribution of corpora in studies on the future in English; the limitations of corpora studies; the be going to/gonna construction and reasons for its general increase in use; be going to + progressive: the construction practically all grammars have ignored; the semantics of the will + progressive construction; the future in English in specialized discourse.

~~The European Responses to Whitman's Aesthetics~~
SEMINAR WITHDRAWN

New Directions in Literature and Film in the Twenty-first Century

Convenor: Professor Imelda Whelehan (De Montfort University)

Email: imw@dmu.ac.uk

Co-convenor: Professor Eckart Voigts-Virchow (University of Giessen)

Email: eckart.voigts-virchow@anglistik.uni-giessen.de

Literary adaptation in the twenty-first century, focussing on studies of adaptation today, concentrating on case studies, theoretical developments, or on wider issues such as the transformation of the heritage film over the past decade, audiences, pleasure, genre, marginality, nostalgia or intertextuality. It is hoped that the seminar will allow us to reflect on whether the boundaries between literary and film studies are being redrawn, and if the idea of “adaptation” to describe this textual exchange remains as central as it once was.

~~Parentheticals in English~~
SEMINAR WITHDRAWN

Rhetoric of Science across Times and Disciplines

Convenor: Dr Päivi Pahta (Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies)

Email: paivi.pahta@helsinki.fi

Co-convenor: Dr Elena Seoane-Posse (University of Santiago de Compostela)

Email: iaelena@usc.es

Rhetoric of science is a flourishing and increasingly cross-disciplinary field of enquiry. The core questions include the role of language in shaping knowledge, the persuasive means by which scientists negotiate over knowledge claims, aiming to convince their audiences of their authority. We welcome empirical research that sheds new light on the development of the rhetoric of science, its social and disciplinary embedding, and its change over time.

New English Literatures, Postcolonial Anglophone Arabic Writing and the Critic

Convenor: Professor Christiane Schlote (University of Berne)

Email: schlote@ens.unibe.ch

Co-convenor: Dr Stephen Morton (University of Southampton)

Email: s.c.morton@soton.ac.uk

There has been a growing body of postcolonial and diasporic Arabic literature in English. This seminar will explore the possibilities of situating Anglophone Arabic writing within New English Literatures and Postcolonial Studies and examine ways of critically engaging with these works. We invite contributions that may address, but are not limited to, the following topics: Representations / self-representations of Arab, Islamic, western stereotypes; Arab / Anglo-Arab / Arab American feminist writing; Transculturalism; Intertextuality; Pan-Arab / diasporic identity formations; Orientalism / Post-Orientalism; Islamophobia and literature.

Diasporic Literature and Theory – where now?

Convenor: Dr Mark Shackleton (University of Helsinki)

Email: mark.shackleton@helsinki.fi

Co-convenor: Dr James Procter (University of Stirling)

Email: j.r.procter@stir.ac.uk

The theoretical input of Gayatri Spivak, Homi Bhabha, Stuart Hall, Paul Gilroy, James Clifford and others has in recent years vitalized postcolonial studies, challenging ways in which we understand “culture” and developing new ways of thinking beyond the confines of the nation state. Has diaspora theory, however, reached an impasse? Are such notions as “hybridity”, “in-between identity” and “border crossing” now empty categories? Which aspects of diaspora theory should be retained and which abandoned? What new paradigms can be applied? This seminar will chart the direction in which the field of diaspora literature and theory is moving worldwide today, and invites contributions of a theoretical kind as well as literary case studies.

Women’s Transnational and Diasporic Writing in Contemporary Britain

Convenor: Dr John Stotesbury (University of Joensuu)

Email: john.stotesbury@joensuu.fi

Co-convenor: Dr Sofía Muñoz Valdivieso (University of Málaga)

Email: simunoz@uma.es

The focus will be on diasporic writing produced by women within Britain, re-defined as the new motherland of a variety of newly postcolonial populations. Given the volatility of change within the field, the particular reference of the Seminar will be to the present millennium whilst recognising the longer history of the phenomenon. Contributions will be welcome on topics related to the negotiation and creation of transnational personal and communal women’s identities, and new forms of a gendered Britishness, primarily through the medium of literary texts by women, but also in the filmic, photographic and other media.

English as the Medium of Instruction in European Schools: Analyzing Classroom Discourse

Convenor: Dr Tarja Nikula (University of Jyväskylä)

Email: tnikula@cc.jyu.fi

Co-convenor: Dr Christiane Dalton-Puffer (University of Vienna)

Email: christiane.dalton-puffer@univie.ac.at

This seminar focuses on content classrooms in which English is the medium of instruction (often referred to as CLIL: content and language integrated learning). While this form of education has become increasingly popular throughout Europe, there is still little research on CLIL, especially as regards the local practices of language use and how these may vary across contexts (e.g. countries, subjects taught). The seminar will examine aspects of language use in CLIL settings. Participants’ points of interest will range from phonological and lexicogrammatical features to discourse-pragmatic aspects of talk and the use of bi- or multilingual resources in classrooms.

British Literary Culture: 1980 to the Present

Convenor: Mr Jon Cook (University of East Anglia)

Email: j.cook@uea.ac.uk

Co-convenor: Dr Regina Rudaityte (University of Vilnius)

Email: reginarudaityte@hotmail.com

This seminar will explore the idea that there has been a significant change in the literary economy of Britain in the past two decades. We will consider the reorganization of the publishing industry, the development of literary festivals, the impact of creative writing courses and the emergence of the author as a media celebrity amongst a range of factors that have changed the cultural presence of literature in contemporary Britain.

****The New Imagology**

Convenor: Professor Anthony W. Johnson (University of Oulu)

Email: anthony.johnson@oulu.fi

Co-convenor: Professor Bent Soerensen (University of Aalborg)

Email: i12bent@hum.aau.dk

This multidisciplinary seminar invites reflections on the varieties of image currently available within English studies and their literary, cultural, or linguistic uses. Questions discussed may include: what are images and how do they work? Which terms and concepts are most useful for their study within literary contexts? How do new discoveries about their variety, transmission and function impact on our understanding of literature? What mechanisms control cultural memory and the production of national stereotypes? What would a “new” imagology have to offer for image studies? Contributions will focus either on individual texts and images or on more general theoretical issues.

Subjectivity/Intersubjectivity and Stance in Discourses

Convenor: Dr Juana Marín Arrese (Complutense University of Madrid)

Email: juana@filol.ucm.es

Co-convenor: Dr Laurent Rouveyrol (University of Nice Sophia Antipolis)

Email: laurouveyrol@aol.com

This seminar aims to bring together various contributions on the topic of subjectivity/intersubjectivity in different genres and discourses. Subjectivity relates to the ways in which the viewpoint of the speaker/writer (SP/W) is explicitly encoded, in an attitudinal or an epistemic sense, or the extent to which the information is implicitly grounded in the perspective of the SP/W. Intersubjectivity involves the expression of SP/W’s attention to addressee/reader’s “presence” and/or point of view. Papers will relate to descriptive or theoretical insights, empirical or methodological aspects such as corpus-based analyses, and contrastive studies of English and other European languages.

Discourse Analysis as an Analytical Resource for Cultural Studies in English

Convenor: Dr Eduardo de Gregorio-Godeo (University of Castilla-La Mancha)

Email: eduardo.gregorio@uclm.es

Co-convenor: Dr Damian S. Pyrkosz (University of Rzeszów)

Email: daspy@univ.rzeszow.pl

Considering discourse and language as two fundamental categories for contemporary cultural theory, this seminar will explore how discourse analysis may disentangle the role of language in the constitution of cultural practices. Contributions may focus on questions like identity construction, representation, cultural consumption and regulation, the articulation of power relations, and the interaction of such variables with globalization, gender, ethnicity, class, etc. Both practical case studies and theoretical contributions will be welcomed from a wide range of fields including, but not being limited to, critical discourse analysis, language and gender, discourse psychology, ethnography of communication, pragmatics, media and communication studies, etc.

Learned Wit: Scriblerus to Sterne

Convenor: Professor Flavio Gregori (University Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Email: flagre@unive.it

Co-convenor: Dr Thomas Woodman (University of Reading)

Email: t.m.woodman@reading.ac.uk

An important aspect of Sterne's "Tristram Shandy" is its "learned wit", a form mixing up false learning, a knack for pseudo-science, and the idiosyncratic style of a scribbling persona. Its models are the works of Rabelais, Butler, and especially Swift and the Scriblerus club, and its typical targets are mad scientists, pedantic antiquarians, projectors and hack writers who often are the narrators of their own mad stories. Participants will discuss the relationship between Sterne and the Scriblerians, Sterne's ability to use and also transcend the satire of duncedom, and Sterne's ambivalent status as ancient and/or modern author.

Internet Fiction(s):

Convenor: Professor Ingrid Hotz-Davies (University of Tübingen)

Email: ingrid.hotz-davies@uni-tuebingen.de

Co-convenor: Professor Sirpa Leppänen (University of Jyväskylä)

Email: sirpa.leppanen@jyu.fi

The Internet is a massive, amorphous, rhizomic collection of information, fantasy, madness, debate, business, stupidity, brilliance, a limitless multiplication of voices, all clamouring to be heard. As such, it is also a medium which produces stories and narratives in ways both new and familiar. It is as a generator of fictions that the Internet is waiting to be explored by the disciplines of literary, cultural and linguistic studies: fan-fiction, scam-baiting, fan-sites, "rogue" interpretive universes, gossip. We aim to explore this uncharted territory in creative, theory-savvy ways using the fictions the Internet generates both within its domain and as a field of projections from without.

Literature and Law: an Interdisciplinary Approach

Convenor: Professor Daniela Carpi (University of Verona)

Email: danielacarpi@tin.it

Co-convenor: Professor Ian Ward (University of Newcastle)

Email: ian.ward@newcastle.ac.uk

Literary scholars are becoming more and more aware of how the literary texts are interspersed with legal elements. The aim of this seminar is to highlight some of the legal innuendos ingrained within some literary texts (either law concerning property, or the concept of equity contraposed to that of justice, or the representation of law and legal process, or what effects colonial and post-colonial conditions have on this relationship, or how does literature engage with law conceived as politics and power, etc.). The seminar thus aims at creating a space where these two disciplines can interfere with each other and form the occasion for new thought, within or beyond the laws of academic discipline.

Milton, Rights and Liberties

Convenor: Professor Neil Forsyth (University of Lausanne)

Email: neil.forsyth@unil.ch

Co-convenor: Dr Christophe Tourneu (Université Pierre Mendès, France)

Email: christophe.tourneu@wanadoo.fr

What status does Milton lend to rights and liberty in his works, whether prose or verse? What are his conceptions of related ideas such as law and justice? What heritage has he left us?

British & European: The Poetry of Geoffrey Hill

Convenor: Professor Jennifer Kilgore (University of Caen)

Email: jennifer.kilgore@unicaen.fr / jkilgore@wanadoo.fr

Co-convenor: Professor Jeffrey Wainwright (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Email: j.wainwright@mmu.ac.uk

With two new books of poetry in 2005, Geoffrey Hill's muse seems to have swung back to themes of politics and the British nation. Yet what makes his poetry so European? ESSE 2006 in London provides an opportunity to explore Hill's recent stylistic shifts. Speakers will discuss the British aspects of the work as they are focused and put in context by the poet's wider concern with the matter of Europe. We shall focus on publications since *Canaan* and use the earlier poems and essays to interpret the recent works.

****Pragmatic and Discourse-analytic Approaches to Present-day English**

Convenor: Professor Anita Fetzer (University of Lüneburg)

Email: fetzer@uni-lueneburg.de

Co-convenor: Professor Karin Aijmer (University of Gothenburg)

Email: karin.aijmer@eng.gu.se

The purpose of this seminar is to invite linguists, pragmaticians and discourse analysts to discuss recent pragmatic and discourse-analytic approaches to present-day English usage. Among the issues to be discussed are the following: *appraisal* (evaluative devices and expressions of modality), *coherence* (construction of coherence and cohesive sign posts), *conversation* (monologue, dialogue and genre), *metapragmatic devices* (pragmatic particles, discourse markers and hedges) and *speech acts* (institutional and non-institutional).

W.H. Auden: His Work and His Legacy

Convenor: Dr Craig Hamilton (University of California at Irvine)

Email: cahamilt@uci.edu

Co-convenor: Dr Peter Howarth (University of Nottingham)

Email: peter.howarth@nottingham.ac.uk

Because 2007 is the centenary of Auden's birth, it seems fitting to reassess his work. Drama, documentary film, poetry, libretti, and nonfiction prose were all artistic forms Auden engaged with during his career. Given this range, we welcome presentations on any aspect of Auden's work. This includes his artistic legacy, which is to say the influence Auden has had on younger or more contemporary writers, writers who have found it necessary in their work to respond to Auden in some way.

****Literature and Medicine**

Convenor: Dr Ulrika Maude (University of Durham)

Email: ulrika.maude@durham.ac.uk

Co-convenor: Dr Nieves Pascual (University of Jaén)

Email: npascual@ujaen.es

This seminar will bring together scholars with interests spanning from the classical to the modern periods, in order to consider the intersection of medicine and literature. This area has increasingly become a focus of critical attention, particularly with the development of the discipline of medical humanities. Topics considered might include the history of medicine as reflected in or reflecting on literature; the representation of pathologies; the treatment of ideas of illness, including its relation to creativity; the impact of modern medical technologies on literature and theories, and the relevance of literature and literary theory for medical studies.

Bilingualism, Code-switching and Language Mixing in the History of English

Convenor: Professor Dr Herbert Schendl (University of Vienna)

Email: herbert.schendl@univie.ac.at

Co-convenor: Dr Laura Wright (Cambridge University)

Email: lc.wright@ukonline.co.uk

The study of mixed language texts from earlier periods of English has become an increasingly attractive field of linguistic research. These texts not only document the close contact of English with other languages, but also show historical bilingualism and code-switching in action. But they also raise numerous questions on the function of mixing and on the relation between contact phenomena like code-switching, borrowing and mixed languages. This seminar will address these issues from all periods of English up to Late Modern English.

Revenants and Hauntings in Neo-Victorian Fiction

Convenor: Dr Patricia Pulham (University of Portsmouth)

Email: patricia.pulham@port.ac.uk

Co-convenor: Dr Rosario Arias (University of Málaga)

Email: rarias@cica.es

The last two decades have witnessed the rise of historical fiction set in the Victorian period. The pervasive presence of the Victorian past in the “neo-Victorian” novel is fast becoming the subject of many critical studies. However, little attention has been paid to this genre in terms of “haunting”, the spectral continuity of the past in the present, which parallels a renewed interest in the impact of the occult and the supernatural on Victorian individuals.

Academic Discourse: Language Variation across Written and Spoken Genres

Convenor: Professor Marina Bondi (University of Modena e Reggio Emilia)

Email: mbondi@unimo.it

Co-convenor: Professor John M. Swales (University of Michigan)

Email: jmswales@umich.edu

The seminar explores the ways in which the investigation of specialized corpora enables us to study language variation across written and spoken genres. Specific attention will be paid to corpora of spoken academic discourse (e.g. MICASE, BASE etc.), as well as to comparative studies, in an attempt to answer questions such as: Is it true that academic speech is “contingent” while academic writing is “empirical”? How far are they both interactive? What is the role of formulaic expressions in these two modes? What is the role of reflexivity? How do evaluative language features vary? Is humor an important distinguishing variable?

~~Language Attitudes and Ideologies~~ **SEMINAR WITHDRAWN**

English in International Corporate Communication

Convenor: Dr Giuliana Garzone (University of Milan)

Email: giuliana.garzone@unimi.it

Co-convenor: Dr Catherine Nickerson (Radboud University, Nijmegen)

Email: c.nickerson@let.ru.nl

This seminar will focus on the use of English in international corporate communication, and in particular in financial reporting. It will include reference to discursive practices in annual general reports and other common business genres. Papers will be based on a wide range of theoretical approaches (discourse analysis, rhetoric, pragmatics, cognitive linguistics), presenting the findings of research on different related topics: e.g. linguistic features associated with the promotional nature of the presentation of financial information; evaluative elements in documents dealing with “sensitive” issues such as corporate governance and social responsibility; textual and discursive implications of multimodality and hypertextuality.

The Politics of Waste

Convenor: Dr Effie Yiannopoulou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Email: yiannopo@enl.auth.gr

Co-convenor: Dr Maria Margaroni (University of Cyprus)

Email: flmarga@ucy.ac.cy

This seminar will examine the politics of “waste” in Western, multicultural and capitalist communities and hopes to look into the following: waste, environmentalism, consumerism; waste, social class (the “unproductive” in global capitalism), gender (e.g. women in white-flesh slave trade), race (e.g. “white trash”); refugees and immigrants as the waste of the West; bare life as the waste-product of contemporary Western societies (Agamben, Baudrillard); terrorism and suicide bombing as wasting the only available resources; corporeality and waste (food, excrement, vomit etc); contemporary body art performances as ritualized abjections of the flesh; “dirt” as material and ideological waste; “noise” as sonic waste.

The Role of Female Voices in Constructing Fictional Maps of Multicultural Britain

Convenor: Dr Giovanna Buonanno (University of Modena e Reggio Emilia)

Email: gbuonanno@unimore.it

Co-convenor: Dr Sebnem Toplu (Ege University, Izmir)

Email: sebnemtoplu@hotmail.com

The success of writing by black and Asian women in Britain (Monica Ali, Bernardine Evaristo, Andrea Levy, Meera Syal, Preethi Nair, to name but a few) testifies to the increasingly central role of women writers in imagining multicultural Britain. The seminar wishes to both acknowledge the presence and explore the influence of black and Asian women writers in contemporary British literature, engaging with a wide range of themes such as culture clash, home vs. Motherland, geographies of un/belonging, discrimination, hybridity, alienation and identity crisis.

~~Medieval Mystical Texts: Exchange and Influence between England and the Continent~~

SEMINAR WITHDRAWN

International Relations and Foreign Policies

Convenor: Professor Michael Parsons (University of Pau)

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Co-convenor: Dr Miklos Lojko (Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest)

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The sense of permanence which characterised Victorian foreign policy has been challenged by the enormous changes in Britain’s place in the world. With the progressive waning of the Empire, Britain’s foreign policy-makers reluctantly but increasingly reflected the need to rely on a new set of values. This seminar will address some of the issues and problems of British foreign policy since Palmerston’s day, as Britain has evolved from being the “biggest Empire the world had ever seen” to its present status as a regional power involved in a variety of sometimes conflicting networks of relationships overseas.

****The Writer, the Collection and the Museum**

Convenor: Professor Barrie Bullen (University of Reading)

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Co-convenor: Professor Caroline Patey (University of Milan)

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In a time span stretching from Renaissance Wunderkammer to post-modern museums, we wish to explore the various modes in which the culture of collecting – art or artefacts – and exhibiting have been and still are inscribed in the text as either theme, metaphor, formal model, location, or mirror of its author. Topics addressed will therefore include: Lieux de mémoire/oblivion; visual/verbal archives; the writer in the museum; the museum in the text; exhibiting and narrating; the politics and rhetoric of taxonomy, inclusion/omission; women as collectors, collectibles and viewers; writing/exhibiting “otherness”; authentication, identity and validation; textual collections and authorial construction.

The City as a Stage for Social, Political and Cultural Movements

Convenor: Professor François Poirier (University of Paris 13)

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Co-convenor: Professor Logie Barrow (University of Bremen)

Cities are the key fabric of modern and postmodern societies. In Britain for longer than anywhere else they have structured the lives of the majority. They are the stage on which the drama of social, political and cultural life unfolds. This seminar, continuing Strasbourg 2002, will look at the way the peculiarities of urbanisation and of the lay-out of cities in the British Isles and in other English-speaking countries can help us describe, explain and interpret events: religious processions, street demonstrations, social and ethnic divisions of space, epoch-making festivals, carnivals or riots, simple neighbourhood and active networking, etc.

Projections of Paradise in Migrant Literature

Convenor: Dr Helga Ramsey-Kurz (University of Innsbruck)

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Co-convenor: Dr Geetha Ganapathy-Doré (University of Paris 13)

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As Cees Nooteboom’s recent resumption of the Miltonian idea of a forbidden Garden of Eden shows, the quest for other worlds as places of felicity and fulfilment and as retreats from worldly hells continues to fascinate writers irrespective of their cultural backgrounds. Contemporary and earlier literature of displacement provides one such area of investigation as it routinely idealizes another place and dramatizes either the process of uprooting and relocation or that of returning as a ritual passage to paradise. This seminar aims at examining the reasons for this enduring fascination, the anthropological beliefs underlying it, the representation of paradisiacal dream lands in writing, and the influence of other arts in the construction of such visions.

Teaching British (Area) Studies through Analysis of Media Discourses

Convenor: Dr Slavka Tomascikova (University of Presov)

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Co-convenor: Dr Jim Bee (Queen Margaret University College)

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Mass media materials are used for various purposes. This seminar focuses on the role of the British media in the shaping and expression of culture, both high and low, in the British Isles, looking at national as well as local aspects, and the areas concerned include periodicals, broadcasts, and Internet. The seminar is intended for both theoreticians and practitioners in the field of British (media) studies in higher education. It hopes to provide a forum for open discussion in order to achieve a panorama of the changes and expansion of the public space since 1945.

Emotion, Language and Literature

Convenor: Dr Nely Keinänen (University of Helsinki)

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Co-convenor: Dr Cristina Soriano (University of Murcia)

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This seminar will focus on emotions, especially on ways of applying the insights of affective neuroscience and cognitive linguistics to the study of literature. We will focus on such questions as: What is the relationship between emotions and cognition in literary creation and response? What is the relationship between the language we use to conceptualize emotions and the stories we tell, hear and read to evoke, regulate and modify emotions? Can we create a theory of feelings in literary response able to take into account phonological, syntactic/semantic, and narrative aspects along with evolutionary, social, cultural, historical and gender issues?

When the World Turned Upside-Down: Post-1989 Eastern Europe in English Literatures and Film

Convenor: Dr Kathleen Starck (University of Bremen)

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Co-convenor: Dr Alyce von Rothkirch (Community University of the Valleys)

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The end of the Cold War and the collapse of “socialism” not only changed the countries of the East, but they also provided new opportunities for the West to gain more direct and unmediated access to and experience of Eastern Europe. This seminar will examine depictions of post-1989 Eastern Europe in English-language literature and film, on the West’s fascination with the “Wild East” and on how “outsiders” view life after the “iron curtain” was lifted. Topics will include: change of political regimes; civil war; growing up/identity; shifting values and ideologies; new opportunities; differences between the generations; re-interpretations of history.

Shakespeare’s Language: Stylistic and Linguistic Approaches

Convenor: Dr Mireille Ravassat (University of Valenciennes)

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Co-convenor: Dr Jonathan Hope (Strathclyde University)

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Despite age-old discussions, Shakespeare's ever-renewed interest in the issue of language *per se* still requires investigation and new vistas of reflection. The seminar will take a particular, but not exclusive, interest in tropes as a way of considering Shakespeare at the intersection of stylistics and linguistics. One of the important issues at stake will be the isolated status of metonymy as an orphan figure too often upstaged by its eminent tropical counterpart, metaphor. All contributions drawing on the models and terminology provided by multifarious aspects of linguistics are relevant, e.g. discourse analysis, pragmatics, literary semantics, stylometry, corpus/computer text analysis etc.

****Speech Act History of English**

Convenor: Professor Dr Andreas Jucker (University of Zürich)

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Co-convenor: Professor Irma Taavitsainen (University of Helsinki)

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The aim of this seminar is to sketch a speech act history of the English language. It will provide accounts of specific speech acts and groups of speech acts at particular stages in the development of English. It will trace the diachronic development of specific speech acts and it will discuss the theoretical problems of such projects, e.g. the availability of suitable data, the identification of specific speech acts in a corpus-based investigation, the relationship of speech act verbs to the speech acts they name, and the functional equivalence of speech acts across time.

The Language of Late Mediaeval Scribes and Early Modern Printers

Convenor: Dr Jacob Thaisen (De Montfort University)

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Co-convenor: Dr Hanna Rutkowska (Adam Mickiewicz University)

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Much mediaeval and early modern literature survives only through the agency of scribes and printers and so their copies have evidential value to students of those periods' language and literature alike. Spatial constraints influenced not only what layout for them to adopt but also what orthographic representation of lexical items and morphosyntactic units—with implications for our assessment of their copies and, in turn, of the scribes and printers themselves as linguistic informants for their time. This seminar stresses the interface between language and literature in seeking papers which discuss those constraining factors, of which space is but one.

Representations of Fluid Identities

Convenor: Professor Dr Nuvid Alemdaroglu (Celal Bayar University)

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Co-convenor: Professor Donatella Abbate Badin (University of Turin)

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This seminar aims to explore how identity politics permeates into literature in the form of fluid character representations, for example transnational identities, characters suspended between the centre and the margins (such as Hanif Kureishi's Karim Amir of

The Buddha of Suburbia) or fragmented by gender politics such as Edward of Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*, a feminist and queer play at the same time, questioning and debunking the fundamentals of fixed sexual and racial identity. As more and more hybrid forces are at play in a variety of texts we feel that new paradigms of analysis are needed and we will therefore focus on the politics underlying identity.

Women Write Back: Irish Women, Identities and Nationhood

Convenor: Professor Ljiljana Ina Gjurgjan (University of Zagreb)

Email: ljgiurji@ffzg.hr

Co-convenor: Dr. Tina O'Toole (University of Limerick)

Email: tina.otoole@ul.ie

This seminar seeks to address the corpus of modern Irish literature by women as an act of "writing back" - subverting, reinscribing and appropriating a literary tradition in order to change stereotypes and reconceptualize metaphors of femininity. Participants will examine the modes of expansion and redefinition of autobiographical genre and those addressing issues of education, gender roles, sexual politics, national identity and religion in the traditional Irish society. We are also interested in modern Irish women's poetry and its subversive aspects, and the comparative aspects of the Irish and other national literatures.

Mind, Knowledge, Learning 1300–1700

Convenor: Professor Kathleen E. Dubs (Ružomberok Catholic University)

Email: kedubs@axelero.hu

Co-convenor: Professor Fabiny Tibor (Pázmány Péter Catholic University)

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Research on the history of English words and texts dealing with mind, knowledge and learning relates to such philosophical, psychological, and religious questions as what knowledge is, how it is obtained, and which human faculties are involved. With proposals from cognitive semanticists and historical linguists, as well as literary scholars, we hope to develop a sense of changes in the understanding of such concepts as mind and feeling, including distinctions which develop between "knowledge" and "wisdom", resulting in the late medieval debate over the relationship of reason and faith, and the 16th century debate between revelation and speculation in acquiring knowledge.

****Gothic Sublime / Subliminal Gothic**

Convenor: Dr Max Duperray (University of Provence)

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Co-convenor: Professor David Punter (University of Bristol)

Email: david.punter@bris.ac.uk

This seminar will investigate the kinship between the Gothic and the sublime within a complex network of incommensurability, despite the instabilities and cross-purposes in the Gothic, originally and across time. Historical continuity in the Gothic reflects an overall anti-humanism, keyed in to fantasies of power and to the notion of submission. The anti-mimetic stance takes its effect without regard to immediate reference, leading up to a modern anxiety about the signifier, wherein the sublime reads like the threat of

the indeterminate. A Freudian perspective might provide a key to what Harold Bloom called a “theory of creative catastrophe”, aimed not at satisfaction but at death.

The Reception of the Arts in Georgian Britain

Convenor: Professor Jacques Carré (University of Paris 4, Sorbonne)

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Co-convenor: Professor Peter Wagner (University of Landau)

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Recent work on the reception of art exhibitions, of Italian opera, of the landscape garden in Georgian Britain has shown how stimulating the study of the responses of an emerging public in the Georgian age can be. They may be found in a variety of texts, both public and private, ranging from the press, essays, guide-books, poems and satires, to private letters, memoirs and autobiographies in English and other languages. This seminar will explore the relationship between these texts and the aesthetic theories of the age, according to the perspectives of cultural history as well as reception theory.

Riots in Literature

Convenor: Dr Gerald Porter (University of Vaasa)

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Co-convenor: Dr David Bell (University of Lund)

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This seminar will address representations of crowd disorder as manifestations of popular politics, including colonial and postcolonial contexts. While crowd action is difficult to study, literary representation of it is plentiful, and deeply revelatory of political agendas, attitudes and anxieties. We are interested in the analysis of the interaction of official political culture and crowd politics as represented in literature and orature, and how such representations contribute to discourses of authority, resistance and subversion.

****The Relevance of the Real: Contemporary Reflections**

Convenor: Professor Philip Tew (University of Northampton)

Email: tewp@ukf.net

Co-Convenor: Professor Mihaela Irimia (University of Bucharest)

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Benjamin's 'The Work of Art in an Age of Mechanical Reproduction' (1936), and Freud's 'Civilization and its Discontents' (1930) pose questions around the meanings and interactions of identity, society, culture and art. Proponents are invited to explore contemporary responses to the critical questions articulated in these texts, and theoretical engagements with the possibilities of the “real” subsequent to these texts, offering polemical perspectives on our current conjuncture and praxis. We anticipate two types of contribution. First, philosophically or theoretically inflected abstracts, returning to fundamental questions of mimesis, articulation, referentiality, reality and truth; second, readings of recent works of fiction in critical response to the specific questions and perspectives articulated in the theoretical strand.