Unexpected Agents: Considering agency and subjectivity beyond the boundaries of the human (1800-the Present)

Friday 24 June 2011,
University of Birmingham

Provisional Programme

9.15 – 9.45 Registration

9.45 – 10.00 Introduction (Holly Prescott, Paul Horn, Sarah Parker)

10.00 – 11.30 (Three 20 minute papers [10.00 - 10.20 / 10.20 - 10.40/10.40 - 11.00] plus 30 minutes for discussion)

**Animals (chair: Holly Prescott)**

10.00 – 10.20: Reframing agency, subjectivity and ‘the social’ in a Catalanian chimpanzee sanctuary
    Lys Alcayna-Stevens, Cambridge University

    Andrea Haslanger, University of Chicago

10.40 – 11.00: The Animals are Breaking out! Animals, agencies and TV advertising
    Louise Squire, University of Exeter

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee/tea break

12.00 – 13.30 (Three 20 minute papers [12.00 - 12.20 / 12.20 –12.40 / 12.40-13.00] plus 30 minutes for discussion)

**Objects and Electricity (chair: Sarah Parker)**

12.00 – 12.20: (Title tbc)
    Jessica Allsopp, University of Exeter

12.20 – 12.40: The Character of Objects: Elizabeth Gaskell’s Sylvia’s Lovers
    Fariha Shaikh, Kings College London

12.40 – 13.00: The Broken Lights of Irish Myth: Agency and Electricity in Joyce’s Dubliners and A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
    Caitlin Mullen, New York University

13.30 – 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 15.30 **Plenary: Sarah Kember (chair: Holly Prescott)**
    (45 minutes plus 30 minutes for questions/discussion)

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee/tea break

15.45 – 17.15 (Three 20 minute papers [15.45-16.05 / 16.05 – 16.25 / 16.25 – 16.45] plus 30 minutes for discussion)

    The dead and other worlds (chair: Paul Horn)
15.45 – 16.05: ‘Death is Dumb, when Life is Deaf’: mediums and the agency of the dead in Sarah Waters’ *Affinity*
Kathryn Bird, University of Leeds

16.05 – 16.25: Use and Abuse of the Dead: Bodies as Commodities and Gothic Convention in Charles Dickens’s *Our Mutual Friend*
Helen Williams, Keele University

16.25 – 16.45: Nostalgia and the “Gamespace,” Uncanny Agents and the Play of Memory
Alexander Manthei, University of Amsterdam

17.15 – 17.30 Closing remarks

17.30 - Drinks/ Networking