

**International Conference of Three Societies on Literature and Science
BSLS, CoSciLit and SLSAeu**

Teaching and Learning Building, University of Birmingham, UK, 10-13 April, 2024

Outline Programme

Wednesday 10 April

- 09:00 Registration and coffee
- 10:00 Welcome and Plenary 1
- 11:30 Session 1
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Session 2
- 15:30 Tea
- 16:00 Session 3
- 18:00 Plenary 2
- 19:00 Reception

Thursday 11 April

- 09:00 Session 4
- 10:30 Coffee
- 11:00 Session 5
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:15 AGM for 3 societies together
- 14:45 Plenary 3
- 16:15 Tea
- 16:45 Session 6
- 20:00 Conference Dinner at Asha's Restaurant

Friday 12 April

- 09:30 Session 7
- 11:00 Coffee
- 11:30 Session 8
- 13:00 Lunch
- 13:45 Plenary 4 and Closing Remarks
- 15:00 Coffee
- 15:30 Session 9
- 17:00 Close

Saturday 13 April

- Optional trip to BIFoR FACE and Ruskin Land

Saturday 27 April – Online Event

- 14:00 Panel on Publishing Literature and Science Research
- 15:00 Panel on the State of the Field
- 16:00 Plenary 5

The plenary talks and AGM will be broadcast live over Zoom and we will record as many of the other presentations as we can to share with all conference delegates over the two weeks between the conference itself and the online follow-up event.

Full Programme

Wednesday 10 April

* Online speakers marked with an asterisk

09:00 *Registration and Coffee, Teaching and Learning Building, University of Birmingham*

10:00 *Welcome and Housekeeping (Lecture Theatre 1 (LG18))*

Prof. Helen Abbott, Acting Head, College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham

John Holmes, President, Commission on Science and Literature (CoSciLit)

Jenni Halpin, Chair, British Society for Literature and Science (BSLS)

Aura Heydenreich, President, European Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSAeu)

10:15 *Plenary 1 (Lecture Theatre 1 (LG18))*

Literature, Science and the Arts in Interdisciplinary Research

David Hannah, Director, Birmingham Institute for Sustainability and Climate Action

Rob Mackenzie, Director, Birmingham Institute of Forest Research

Fern Elsdon-Baker, Director, Institute for STEM in Culture and Society, University of Birmingham

Chair: John Holmes, Literature and Science Lab, University of Birmingham

11.15 *Break*

11:30 *Session 1*

A. Humans and Animals (Room M208)

*Barbara Gabriella Renzi, Sigmund Freud University, Austria

Humanity and Environment: Intersecting Futures in Arpaia's Qualcosa, là fuori and Meacci's Il Cinghiale che uccise Liberty Valance

Laura White, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, USA

Making Kin? De-extinction, Motherhood, and Monstrosity in Mashigo's 'Little Vultures'

*Loredana Filip, LMU Munich, Germany

Narrating Nature: The Intimate Relationship between Literature and Ordinary Science

Chair: Sara Cole, Lancaster University, UK

B. Science in Twentieth-Century Poetry (Room 202)

Michael H. Whitworth, Merton College, University of Oxford, UK

Science, philosophy, and the present moment in Louis MacNeice's Autumn Journal

*George N. Vlahakis, Hellenic Open University, Greece

The affinity between elements and poems: The case of Michael Stephanides

*Jolanda Lila, Center for Arberesh Studies and Publications, Tirane, Albania

The technical-scientific lexicon in the Albanian poetry of Socialist Realism

Chair: Laura Ludtke, University of Oxford, UK

C. Modes of Being Human: Liberalism and Living Otherwise in Science and Literature (Room 211)

*Svenja Engelmann-Kewitz, Dresden University of Technology, Germany

Cold Care: Modes of Motherhood between Ice Loss and Future Uncertainty

Nathaniel Otjen, High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University, USA

Pandemic Persons: Being Human in a Time of COVID

Leonie Bossert, Tübingen University, Germany

Other Animals in the Anthropocene: The Normativity of Human-Animal Relations in Socio-Ecological Crises

Davina Höll, Mainz University, Germany

Emerging Knowledge in Times of Crisis: Adam Dickinson's 'Anatomic' (2018)

*Christopher Griffin, University of Brighton, UK

Trans the Discipline, Trans the Human: Gender, Genre, and the Academy

Chairs: Nathaniel Otjen and Davina Höll

D. Sanitation and Tropical Medicine (Room 212)

Ana Carolina Torquato, Maria Sibylla Merian Centre, Brazil

Sanitary Measures and Urban Dynamics in Early 20th-Century Literature: human-animal conviviality in Lima Barreto and Virginia Woolf

Aureo Lustosa Guerios, University of Padua, Italy

The emergence of Tropical Medicine in Brazilian Literature: 'climatic pessimism' in Alberto Rangel and Guimarães Rosa

*Ananya Chatterjee and Aratrika Das, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, India

The Socio-Parasite in Room 000: Narratives of the Bombay Plague (2015)

Chair: Emilie Taylor-Pirie, University of Birmingham, UK

E. Atoms and Genes in Modern Fiction (Room M209)

Franziska Wolf, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Germany

Of Shells, Nuclei, and Raw Material: Atomistic Being in Edith Wharton and Henry James

*Aline Ferreira, University of Aveiro, Portugal

Motherhood and Genetic Modification in Eve Smith's Off-Target (2022) and Louisa Hall's Reproduction (2023)

F. Forest Research in Literature and the Arts: BIFoR Roundtable (Room 109)

Charlotte Palmer, PhD graduate in Medieval Literature, University of Birmingham

King Arthur and the English Hunting Forest

Toria Johnson, Associate Professor in Early Modern Literature, University of Birmingham

'I looked toward Birnam': The Heritage Life of Shakespeare's Birnam Wood

Gillian Wright, Professor of English and Irish Literature, University of Birmingham

Restoration Forests

Dion Dobrzynski, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Birmingham

Forest Ecology and the Fantastic Imagination

Julie Gilson, Reader in Asian Studies, University of Birmingham

Reimagining Forests in International Agreements

Annie Mahtani, Associate Professor in Music, University of Birmingham

Chair: Dion Dobrzynski, University of Birmingham, UK

G. Facing Mortality (Room 118)

Li Qi Peh, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Improvised Relations: Reading the Dementia Narrative

Martina Zimmermann, King's College London, UK

Cognitive augmentation in speculative writing: Anti-ageing discourse at the boundaries

between predictive popular science and creative science fiction

H. Science and Religion (Room 119)

Stefano Serafini, University of Padua, Italy

Science, Literature, and the Supernatural in Modern Italy

Hannah Armour, University of Oxford, UK

Science, religion and the female body in Mina Loy's poetry and prose

Fabian Hempel, University of Bremen, Germany

Theorizing on the Autonomy of Science vis-a-vis Religion with Amitav Ghosh's The Calcutta Chromosome

Chair: Fern Elsdon-Baker, University of Birmingham, UK

13:00 *Lunch*

14:00 *Session 2*

A. Colonial and Postcolonial Landscapes (Room M208)

Lara Choksey, University College London, UK

E.M. Forster and the Great Earthquake of Bengal and Assam

*Jaya Sharma, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

On the Other Side of the River: The Intersection of Science and the Himalayas in Harnot's Nadi Rang Jaisi Ladki

*Jerald Lim, University of Utah, USA

Land reclamation as 'slow violence' in Singapore

Chair: Laura Ludtke, University of Oxford, UK

B. Nineteenth-Century Science, Satire and Humour (Room 202)

Sara Cole, Lancaster University, UK

'Do You Really Think Him One of Us?': Science Performance in Thomas Love Peacock's Satire Melincourt

*Arya Mohan S, The English and Foreign Languages University, India

Humorous Science: Analyzing Victorian Era Confluences of Wit and Knowledge

*Meegan Kennedy, Florida State University, USA

'A Microscopic Lament': Comic songs of the Quekett Microscopical Club

Chair: Emilie Taylor-Pirie, University of Birmingham, UK

C. Of chatty coal, belligerent bugs, and Alice in Atomland: Children's Literature, Science, Education and Protest (Room 211)

*Elizabeth Massa Hoiem, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, USA

Social Reform and Ecological Critique in Nineteenth-Century Children's Object Autobiographies

Franziska E Kohlt, University of Leeds, UK

Insects, environmentalism, and Lewis Carroll's didactic vision for children

Devin Griffiths, University of Southern California, USA

Alice in Atomland

Chair: Franziska Kohlt, University of Leeds, UK

D. Fiction, Empathy and Mental Health (Room 212)

June Douglas, St. George's Medical University, Grenada

Empowering Medical Professionals: Literature and Biographies for Personal Growth and Professional Development

*Rose Turner, The Open University, UK

Material Engagement in the Dynamic Relationship between Fiction and Empathy

Naomi Rokotnitz, Worcester College, University of Oxford, UK

Fact or Fiction? Dissociative Identity Disorder, Narrative, and Agency

Chair: Li Qi Peh, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

E. Psychedelic Ecologies (Room M209)

*John Miller, University of Sheffield, UK

Psychedelic Ecology and Petroculture in Aldous Huxley's Island (1962)

Christie Oliver-Hobley, University of Sheffield, UK

'His ego had repaired itself': Psychedelic Ecology and the Coloniality of the Self

Peter Sands, Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity, University of York, UK

Psychedelic and Paranoid Posthumanism in Ken Russell's Altered States (1980)

Chair: Eleanor Dobson, University of Birmingham, UK

F. From the Soil to the Trees (Room 109)

Jim Scown, University of Exeter, UK

Dirty Realism: Soils, Science, and Fictions of Sustainability in Elizabeth Gaskell's Industrial Fiction

Georgina M. Montgomery, Michigan State University, USA

Scientific Environments as Sites for Art and Science: The Case of Wytham Woods

Thomas Kaye, University of Birmingham, UK

The Forest Under Story, The Overstory, and New Forestry

Chair: Dion Dobrzynski, University of Birmingham, UK

G. Literature and the Future of Human Reproduction: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable (Room 118)

Sara Fovargue, Professor of Law, University of Sheffield, UK

Sharon Ruston, Chair in Romanticism, Lancaster University, UK

Laura O'Donovan, Research Associate in Humanities, Lancaster University, UK

Nicola Williams, Wellcome Lecturer, Lancaster University, UK

Kirsty Dunn, Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, Lancaster University, UK

Stephen Wilkinson, Professor of Bioethics, Lancaster University, UK

Andy Darby, Research Associate in Speculative Design, Lancaster University, UK

Georgia Walton, Research Associate in English Literature, Lancaster University, UK

Alexandra Krendel, Lecturer in Applied Linguistics, University of Southampton, UK

Chair: Sharon Ruston, Lancaster University, UK

H. Goethe and His Contemporaries (Room 119)

Jocelyn Holland, California Institute of Technology, USA

Goethe's Distractions

Hyang Jo, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea

Goethe's Literature from the Perspective of Global Life

Carolin Loyens, KU Leuven, Belgium

'Who is authorized to write history?' Rahel Levin Varnhagen's poetics of history

I. Tour of Winterbourne House and Gardens

Maximum 30 delegates

15:30 Tea

16:00 Session 3

A. Literature and Science Pedagogies (Room M208)

*Kevin Piper and Kevin Mirus, Madison College, USA

On Their Wavelength: Making Literature and Science Resonate with STEM Students at a Two-Year College

*Jenny Edvardsson, Kristianstad University, Sweden

Using literary texts in science education

Lotta Leden & Helena Andersson, Kristianstad University, Sweden

Literary texts in science teacher education to promote science education for all students

B. Technology and Experimental Fiction (Room 202)

Peter Middleton, University of Southampton, UK

Stone or Superduper Computer? How Christine Brooke-Rose's novel Xorandor investigates AI and its challenge to linguistics and narrative

*Alexia Sarasúa Gutiérrez, University of Oviedo, Spain

Technology and Catastrophism: A Discussion of Necessity and Contingency in William Gibson and Bruce Sterling's The Difference Engine

*Shaoni C. White, University of California, Davis, USA

Web Weaves: VanderMeer's Annihilation's Readers in a More-Than-Human Media Ecology

Chair: Zoë Lehmann Imfeld, University of Bern, Switzerland

C. Analogy, Metaphor, Synecdoche (Room 211)

Anne Nelmes, University of Sheffield, UK

Analogy in Early Modern Science

Klaus Mecke and Aura Heydenreich, ELINAS, University of Erlangen, Germany

James Clerk Maxwell: Metaphor - Model - Interformation - A Case Study on Epistemic Transformation

*Emma de Beus, Queen's University Belfast, UK

Shakespeare as Synecdoche: A Microscopic Macbeth in Hamilton

Chair: Alice Jenkins, University of Glasgow, UK

D. Fictions of Prehistory (Room 212)

Nathan Lewis Bramald, University of Liverpool, UK

Palaeofiction and the perception of dinosaurs

Billie Gavurin, University of Bristol, UK

'The Pithecoïd Madonna': Walter Pater, Gabriel Von Max, and the Mythicization of Human Evolution

*Jerika Sanderson, University of Waterloo, Canada

'If you can make a Neanderthal, you can make anything': De-Extinction, Human Health, and Transhumanism in The Neanderthal's Aunt

E. Science in Modern and Contemporary Poetry (Room M209)

Eric McElroy, University of Oxford, UK

'Against the nihil': Scientific Discourse in the Poetry of Kathleen Raine

*Beatriz Marques Gonçalves, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Universal grammars and Black bodies: the subversion and implosion of scientific discourses in M. NourbeSe Philip's poetry

Jasmine Tan Hui Jun, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Portraits of the Body: Dissecting Multiple Layers of Sight in the Poetry of Linda Bierds

Chair: Lara Choksey, University College London, UK

F. Politics and the Life Sciences (Room 109)

Millie Schurch, Stockholm University, Sweden

Popular Botany as Instructive Culture: James Lee's Introduction to Botany (1760)

Kimberly Glassman, Queen Mary University of London and Kew Gardens, UK

Dislocated, Displaced, and Disregarded at Kew Gardens: The Female and Indigenous

Transatlantic Plant Specimens Behind W. J. Hooker's Flora Boreali-Americana (1829-1840)

Teun Joshua Brandt, University of Groningen, Netherlands

Forms of Life: A Formalist View on Biological Individuality

Chair: James Metcalf, University of Manchester, UK

G. Anthropologies and Ethnographies: Cultures of Literature and Science (Room 118)

Barbara Bienias, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Imprinted fates: Stars as divine script in early modern English astrological discourse

Spencer Adams, LMU-Munich, Germany

The Literary Cultures of British Antarctic Science

Mirian Alves Souza, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

Ethnodrama 'Ngana Nzambi': The Entanglement of Literature and Science in the

Production of Narratives about the Pursuit and Practice of Freedom

H. Nineteenth-Century Children's Literature and Science (Room 119)

Emily Alder, Edinburgh Napier University, UK

Whaling for Boys: hunting and natural history in R. M. Ballantyne's Fighting the Whales (1863) and The World of Ice (1866)

Laurence Talairach, University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès, France

'I hope you're not treading on the Batrachosperma?' Transplanting, Propagating and Collecting Rare Plants in Juliana Horatia Ewing's Children's Stories

Anna McCullough, University of St Andrews, UK

Growing in Spirals: Teleology and Evolution in the Writings of George MacDonald

Chair: Rebecca Mitchell, University of Birmingham, UK

18:00 *Plenary 2 and Birmingham Transformative Humanities Lecture (Lecture Theatre 1 (LG18))*

Empathy and the Transformative Power of Fiction

Isabel Jaén Portillo, Professor of Spanish, Portland State University, USA

Chair: Dagmar Divjak, Professorial Research Fellow in Cognitive Linguistics and Language Cognition, University of Birmingham

19:00 *Wine reception sponsored by Bloomsbury and the Transformative Humanities Centre
Launch of Explorations in Science and Literature, Bloomsbury*

Thursday 11 April

09:00 *Session 4*

A. Science slippages, literature leaks and imaginal education in South Africa: A Roundtable
(Room M208)

Meghan Judge, Origins Centre Association, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

*Mehita Iqani, Chair in Science Communication, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

*Charne Lavery, Co-director, Oceanic Humanities for the Global South, University of Pretoria, South Africa

*Wamuwi Mbao, Lecturer in English Literary Studies, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

*Nechama Brodie, Wits Centre for Journalism, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Chair: Giulia Champion, University of Southampton, UK

B. Violence and Environmental Justice (Room 202)

*Amal AlRowisan, University of Birmingham, UK

War Toxicity and the Disfigurement of Bodies in Denise Levertov's Poetry of Vietnam War

*Parushi Ruhil, Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu, India

Island of Refuge: Nature, Migration, and Conflict

Barri J. Gold, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Narrative Unbound: Climate and the Marvel Cinematic Universe

C. Romantic Biologies (Room 211)

Gi Taek Ryoo, Chungbuk National University, Republic of Korea

Biohumanity: Romantic Nature and Biological Human

*Annalisa Volpone, University of Perugia, Italy

'From out the Portals of my Brain': William Blake's partus mentis and imaginative (re)generation

*Tara Lee, University of Hong Kong, China

'Embryos of existence, free': William Blake and Preformationist Biology

Chair: Jasmine Tan Hui Jun, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

D. The role of literature in the institutionalisation of emergent scholarly disciplines
(Room 212)

Charlotte Beyer, Senior Lecturer in English Studies, University of Gloucestershire, UK

Daniel Davison-Vecchione, PhD in Sociology, University of Cambridge, UK

Sandro Eich, PhD researcher, University of St Andrews, UK

Chair: Sandro Eich, University of St Andrews, UK

E. Women and Science in the Eighteenth Century (Room M209)

Greg Lynall, University of Liverpool, UK

'the World of Science all his own': eighteenth-century women poets' tributes to natural philosophers

Caroline Summerfield, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Rediscovering the True Discoverer of Photography through the Biographical Novel

*Rosalind Powell, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Metamorphosing Insects and the Paradox of Metaphor in Anna Letitia Barbauld's Writing

Chair: Alessio Mattana, University of Turin, Italy

F. The Sound of Nature: Soundscapes and Environmental Awareness, 1750-1950 (Room 109)

Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

Anne Hehl, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

Martin Willis, Cardiff University, UK

James Castell, Cardiff University, UK

Francesca Mackenney, Cardiff University, UK

Chair: Martin Willis, Cardiff University, UK

G. Heredity and Genetics (Room 118)

Rhiannon Cogbill, Birmingham City University, UK

'It's in t'blood': Heredity in May Sinclair's The Three Sisters

Paul Hamann-Rose, University of Passau, Germany

Some Thoughts on an Uncommon Toad: The Politics of Early Genetics in Arthur Koestler's

The Case of the Midwife Toad

Chair: Richard Fallon, University of Nottingham and the Natural History Museum, UK

H. Values in Science, Literature and Humanities (Room 119)

Emil C. Toescu, Institute of Transdisciplinary Discoveries, University of Pecs, Hungary

Adam T. Tuboly, Institute of Transdisciplinary Discoveries, University of Pecs, Hungary

Robert Evans, Professor of Sociology, Cardiff University, UK

Will Mason-Wilkes, Institute for STEMM in Culture and Society, University of Birmingham, UK

Chair: Emilie Taylor-Pirie, University of Birmingham, UK

I. Tour of the Lapworth Museum of Geology [1]

Jon Clatworthy, Director, Lapworth Museum of Geology

Maximum 15 delegates

10:30 *Coffee*

11:00 *Session 5*

A. Writing Weather (Room M208)

Urs Büttner, Queen's College, University of Oxford, UK

Time, Weather, and Narration in Thomas Mann's The Magic Mountain

Paul Knowles, University of Manchester, UK

Threat vs Freedom: Antithetical Approaches to Atmosphere in Daniel Mason's A Registry of

My Passage Upon the Earth

Vladimir Jankovic, University of Manchester, UK

Satirizing the World's Worst Weather

Chair: Eleanor Dobson, University of Birmingham, UK

B. Literary Explorations of Posthuman Paradoxes: Navigating Techno-human Assemblages in Contemporary Fiction (Room 202)

Sonia Baelo-Allué, University of Zaragoza, Spain

Literature of the Posthuman or Posthuman Literature: The Ethical Dilemmas of Techno-human Assemblages

*María Abizanda-Cardona, University of Zaragoza, Spain

“When we have shuffled off this mortal coil”: Hamlet and (Trans)human (im)mortality in Em X. Liu’s *The Death I Gave Him* (2023)

Miriam Fernández-Santiago, University of Granada, Spain

Diffraction Narrative and Posthuman Vulnerability: The Digital Motif in Jenifer Egan’s The Candy House (2022)

Chair: Sonia Baelo-Allué, University of Zaragoza, Spain

C. Poetry and Geology (Room 211)

Antonino Raschi, Italian National Research Council, Italy

Dante’s Inferno and geothermal areas: more than coincidences

James Metcalf, University of Manchester, UK

Keeping Quiet: Conventionality, Weak Theory, and the Silent Spectacle of Felicia Hemans’s Stone Poems

*Yibin (Jerry) Yang, University of Edinburgh, UK

Modernist Poetry and Geology: Exploring Deep Time in T. S. Eliot’s Four Quartets and Hugh MacDiarmid’s ‘On a Raised Beach’

Chair: Lara Choksey, University College, London

D. Forms of Mathematics (Room 212)

*Maria Termidou, Hellenic Open University, Greece

Elements of Euclidean geometry in Greek poetry

Emma Jane Baxter, University of Oxford

Revolutionary Thinking: Mathematics in the Works of Yevgeny Zamyatin and Veniamin Kaverin

Irida Altman, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Fractal Hermeneutics: A Literary Approach to Contemporary Mathematics

Chair: Alice Jenkins, University of Glasgow, UK

E. Scientific Practice in Contemporary Fiction (Room M209)

Anton Kirchhofer and Anna Auguscik, Fiction Meets Science, University of Oldenburg, Germany

Varieties of the Literary Expedition Narrative

*Julia Boll, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Entangled Ethics: Exploring Witnessing and Scientific Responsibility in Contemporary Literary Fiction

Shannon Lambert, Ghent University, Belgium

Webs of Affect: Citizen Science, Narrative, and the Joy of Discovery in the Short Stories of Andrea Barrett

Chair: Emilie Taylor-Pirie, University of Birmingham, UK

F. The Vegetable Imagination (Room 109)

Hilary Bedder, Anglia Ruskin University, UK

Re-thinking human modes of being through an examination of the vegetal in Sylvia Townsend Warner’s Lolly Willowses

Timothy Ryan Day, Saint Louis University, Madrid, Spain

Trees as Metaphors, Trees as Family: Microbiomes, AI, and Diffraction in Ali Smith's Autumn and Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus

Samuel Bradley, King's College London, UK

Derek Jarman and Jocelyn Brooke: Cruising Plants, Botanical 'Contact' and English Queer Ecologies

Chair: Dion Dobrzynski, University of Birmingham, UK

G. Animating Victorian Science (Room 118)

Sydney Padua, Buckinghamshire New University, UK

Victorian Science in Two and a Half Dimensions: Using 3D software to explore 19C Images

Eric Dyer, University of Maryland, USA

Artful Evolutions of Victorian-Era Optical Devices

Ross Ashton and Karen Monid, The Projection Studio, UK

From Victorian Technologies to Life in the Forest: Creating Large Scale Public Art Projections

Chair: Sally Shuttleworth, University of Oxford, UK

H. Sciences of the Skies in Medieval Literature (Room 119)

Louis J. Moffa, Jr., Columbia University, New York, USA

Observe, Hypothesize, and Imagine Dante's Astronomy: A Model for Epistemic Development and World-Building from the Convivio to the Commedia

Thomas Banbury, University of Cambridge, UK

The Meteorology of the Mind: Dreams, comets, and vapours in medieval literature

Jyoti Saimbi, University of Leicester, UK

Chaucer's popularization of science

Chair: Barbara Bienias, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

I. Tour of the Lapworth Museum of Geology [2]

Jon Clatworthy, Director, Lapworth Museum of Geology

Maximum 15 delegates

12:30 *Lunch*

13:15 *AGM for BSLS, CoSciLit and SLSAeu (Lecture Theatre 1 (LG18))*

14:45 *Plenary 3 (Lecture Theatre 1 (LG18))*

Fi-Sci: How Fictionality Powers SciComm

Rhona Trauvitch, Director, Science & Fiction Lab, Florida International University (FIU), USA

Tigran Abrahamyan, Assistant Teaching Professor in Astronomy, FIU, USA

Prem Chapagain, Associate Director of the Biomolecular Sciences Institute, FIU, USA

Anamika Prasad, Associate Professor in Biomedical Engineering, FIU, USA

*Sabyasachi Moulik, Associate Professor in Cellular Biology and Pharmacology, FIU, USA

*James Phelan, Director of Medical Humanities and of Project Narrative, Ohio State University, USA

*Medardo Rosario, Assistant Professor of Spanish, FIU, USA

*Jeanette Smith, Assistant Teaching Professor in Religious Studies, FIU, USA

*Uma Swamy, Teaching Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, FIU, USA

Respondent: Rita Carter, Science Writer

16:15 *Tea*

16:45 *Session 6*

A. New Perspectives in Theatre, Performance, and Science: An Open Mic Session
(Lecture Theatre 1 (LG18))

Hosts: Daniel Ibrahim Abdalla, University of Liverpool, UK

Liliane Campos, Sorbonne Nouvelle, France

Kirsten Shepherd-Barr, St Catherine's College, University of Oxford, UK

Speakers to include: Mirian Alvez Souza, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

Claire Carroll, University of Cambridge, UK

Sara Cole, Lancaster University, UK

Gemma Curto, University of Sheffield, UK

Timothy Ryan Day, Saint Louis University, Madrid, Spain

*Emma de Beus, Queen's University Belfast, UK

Julie Hudson, independent scholar

*Maria Kuzina, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain

Sally Shuttleworth, University of Oxford, UK

Caroline Summerfield, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Respondents: Martin Willis, Cardiff University, UK

Jenni Halpin, Savannah State University, USA

Speakers will briefly outline current research questions or issues in this field. All conference attendees interested in contributing to this session are invited to do so.

B. Technological Aesthetics and Digital Media (Room 202)

*Dennis Summers, CCO, Strategic Technologies for Art, Globe and Environment, USA

Digital Collage: From 88 Constellations for Wittgenstein to AI

*Grace Grothaus, York University, Toronto, Canada

Digital media technologies and environmental consciousness

Ziru Chen, Kellogg College, University of Oxford, UK

Technological Aesthetics in Modern Chinese Lyricism

Chair: Ziru Chen, University of Oxford, UK

C. Extractive Economies (Room 211)

*Philipp Sperner, University of Konstanz, Germany

Poetics of Knowledge Production and the Rhetorics of Extraction in German Romanticism

Daniel Bowman, University of Stavanger, Norway

Nation of Mechanics: Automobility and Indigeneity in John Joseph Mathews's Sundown (1934)

Diletta De Cristofaro, Northumbria University, UK

Climate Breakdown, Sleep, and Extractive Capitalism in Contemporary Literature and Culture

Chair: Millie Schurch, Stockholm University, Sweden

D. Early Modern Epics and Science (Room 212)

Alessio Mattana, University of Turin, Italy

Epicurean Atomism in Lucy Hutchinson's De Rerum Natura Manuscript Translation

Benedetta Burgio, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy

A Synthesis of Early Modern Magnetic Theories in Sir Richard Blackmore's Creation (1712)

*Vladimir Brljak, Durham University, UK

Milton's Paradise Lost and the Victorian Cosmological Imagination: The Case of James Gall (1808–1895)

Chair: Alessio Mattana, University of Turin, Italy

E. Music, Technology and Therapy (Room M209)

Constantin Canavas, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Itineraries of carillons in the Italian literature since 1900

*Tiffany Funk, University of Illinois Chicago, USA

"A Vast and Subtle Symphony": Daphne Oram's Interdisciplinary Exploration of Sound Synthesis, Cybernetics, and Speculative Music Psychology

Isadora Cavalcanti, University of Porto, Portugal

Vulnus: Mud Volcano Therapy

Chair: Wolfgang Funk, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany

F. The Ick! Factor: Modernism, Discomfort, and Sexology (Room 109)

Lloyd Meadhbh Houston, University of Cambridge, UK

Queer Pastoral and Its Discontents: Forrest Reid, Pederasty, and Sexual Science

Laura Ludtke, University of Oxford, UK

Sexological and Feminist Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching Tricky Moments in Wyndham Lewis's Tarr (1918)

Julyan Oldham, Magdalen College, University of Oxford, UK

'The biggest blush of all': Sexual Science and Wyndham Lewis's Apes of God (1930)

Chair: James Metcalf, University of Manchester, UK

G. Other Lives: Fungi, Algae, Sea Anemones (Room 118)

Nathan Smith, Senior Curator of Mycology and Bryology, National Museum of Wales, UK

Cosy Catastrophes: Fungi as Disruptors of Middle-Class Life in John Wyndham's 'The Puff-Ball Menace'

Helena Hunter, Nottingham Trent University, UK

Field-Lab-Archive: Practice research across poetry and science

Ana Carolina Meireles and João Paulo Guimarães, University of Porto, Portugal

'Why not Populate Poetry with Bees and Anemones?': Aquatic Animals and the Metaphor of the Anemone in the Poetry of António Ramos Rosa

Chair: Giulia Champion, University of Southampton, UK

H. Crime, Narrative and Mental Health (Room 119)

Louise Benson James, Ghent University, Belgium

Medicine, Crime and Realism in Ouida's 'Toxin' (1895)

Michael Wainwright, Royal Holloway University of London, UK

From Intelligent Artifice to Artificial Intelligence: A Sherlock Holmes Cryptography

Melissa Ho, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Narrative Manipulation: Mental Health, Hypnosis, and Criminality in Singaporean TV Dramas

Chair: Mirian Alves Souza, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

20:45 *Conference Dinner at Asha's Restaurant*

Friday 12 April

09:30 *Session 7*

- A. Evolution, Myth and Literature (Room M208)
 Richard Fallon, University of Nottingham and the Natural History Museum, UK
Literature in the Natural History Museum, London, 1905–1924
 *Abhishek Sarkar, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
Reading Darwin into Mythology: Hindu Revivalism of Nineteenth-Century Bengal
 *Manolis Simos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
Decadent Machines in Villiers de l'Isle-Adam
 Chair: Clare Stainthorp, Queen Mary University of London, UK
- B. Relativity and Quantum Physics in Twentieth-Century Literature (Room 202)
 *Neil Addison, Japan Women's University, Tokyo, Japan
'Waiting Both': Einstein and Hardy's Four-Dimensional Time
 *Xueying Zhou, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China
Quantum Reality and Mystical Musings on Precarity in Woolf's To the Lighthouse
 Sarah Daw, Cardiff University, UK
Quantum Physics and ideas of entanglement in the poetry of Allen Fisher
 Chair: Mirian Alves Souza, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil
- C. Observation and Cosmology in the Romantic Period (Room 211)
 Sophie Laniel-Musitelli, University of Lille, France
Before our eyes: Scientific Observation in Erasmus Darwin's Temple of Nature
 *Priyanka S Raj, Mahindra University, Hyderabad, India
Poetry and Science: An Interdisciplinary Study to the Scientific Enlightenment and Cosmic Imagination in British Romantic Literature
 Chair: Jasmine Tan Hui Jun, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- D. Form and Representation in Fiction (Room 212)
 Ciarán Kavanagh, Ghent University, Belgium
Two Roads Diverged: Seriousness and Literariness in Science Fiction
 *Hemant Kumar Golapalli, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal, India
'It all coheres even if you approach it bass ackwards': The Illuminatus Trilogy as Dissipative Structure
 Aris Anagnostopoulos
Language as a space craft: fictioning science, technology and space travel
 Chair: Zoë Lehmann Imfeld, University of Bern, Switzerland
- E. Science Communication and Climate Change (Room M209)
 Hannah Little, University of Liverpool, UK
Anthropomorphising ecology: investigating social information bias with non-human characters
 Gemma Curto, University of Sheffield, UK
Environmental chaos in contemporary narratives

*Maria Kuzina, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain

Communication and empathy in a cli-fi play escaped alone: how to assess a hyperobject

F. Museum Mnemosyne: Natural History Museums and Memory Narratives (Room 109)

Jordan Kistler, University of Strathclyde, UK

Memories of the Distant Past

Verity Burke, University College Dublin, Ireland

Extinction in the Museum: Re-Membering Absent Animals

Janine Rogers, Mount Allison University, Canada

The Dark Ages: Memory, a Museum, and My Favourite Mistake

Chair: Emilie Taylor-Pirie, University of Birmingham, UK

G. Prose Form, Prose Style (Room 118)

Thomas W. Howard, Bilkent University, Türkiye

Aphoristic Science: Poetry, Empiricism, and Short Forms in Nineteenth-Century Ecology

Kexin Song, University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Fossils and Literacies: Reading Extinction with Victorian Natural History

Mo O'Neill, University of Sheffield, UK

'A certain kind of tact': Vital aesthetics in Edward Carpenter's science-critical nonfiction prose

Chair: Brian Hurwitz, King's College London, UK

H. Theories of Literature and Science (Room 119)

Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer, Utah Valley University, USA

Consilience in Steven Jay Gould

Flavio Auer, University of Freiburg and LMU Munich, Germany

A neo-Kantian model for the relation of science and literature

Nicole Brandstetter, University of Applied Sciences Munich, Germany

Digitalisation and mythology – a literary perspective

11:00 *Coffee*

11:30 *Session 8*

A. Implications: Michel Serres and the Environmental Humanities (Room M208)

*Lilian Kroth, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Ice Criticality: Michel Serres and the Ice Humanities

*Orsola Rignani, University of Parma, Italy

Michel Serres and Posthuman Subjectivities: Silencing, Trans-Lation, Co-Implications

Moritz Ingwersen, TU Dresden, Germany

Michel Serres and Elemental Cultures of Energy

Chair: Laura Ludtke, University of Oxford, UK

B. Interactive Fiction (Room 202)

*Naomi Mandel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Synthesizing Realms: Literary and Technological Reciprocity in the Evolution of Computer Games

*Yewon Hong and Jiwon Oh, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA

Beyond the Script: Rethinking (Ir)Reality and Immersion in Simulation Games

Claire Carroll, University of Cambridge, UK

Can You Choose Your Own Adventure If It's Not Accessible? Walkthroughs and Parallel Processing in Digital Interactive Fiction

C. Science and Gender in Popular fin-de-siècle Gothic Fiction:

Victorian Popular Fiction Association Panel (Room 211)

*Alicia Beavis, City, University of London, UK

F. E. M. Notley and the dangers of science

*Katerina García-Walsh, University of St Andrews, UK

Arthur Machen's Neurological Occultism

*Helena Ifill, University of Aberdeen, UK

Gothic Consultations: Medical Science and the Doctor-Patient Relationship in Fin-de-siècle Popular Short Fiction

D. The Healing Arts? (Room 212)

Jessica Howell, Texas A&M University, USA

'I care for myself': Self-care and the practice of writing in Jane Eyre and Harriet Martineau's memoirs

Orsolya Albert, KU Leuven, Belgium

Beauty is Health, Health Beauty: The Healing Aesthetic Experience in the Essays of Vernon Lee

*Azila Rozaini, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Mental Health Narratives in Singapore: Considering Perspectives from Patients, Practitioners, and Caregivers

Chair: Brian Hurwitz, King's College London, UK

E. The Text and the Book (Room M209)

Jerome de Groot, University of Manchester, UK

The once and future archive: molecular manuscripts

*Enida Godime & Alma Dema, Aleksander Moisiu University, Durres, Albania

The connection of science to the narration of postmodernism literature

Chair: Liliane Campos, Sorbonne Nouvelle, France

F. Trauma, Disease and the Vulnerable Body (Room 109)

Sina Schuhmaier, University of Mannheim, Germany

'Colonial Disease' and the 'Material Turn': Pathogens in Late Victorian Short Fiction

Alice Farion, University of Oxford, UK

Auto-immunity in Brave New World

G. Science in the Periodical Press (Room 118)

Gary Kelly, University of Alberta, USA

Mechanics' Modernity and the Genres of Popular Science

Clare Stainthorp, Queen Mary University of London, UK

The Value of Science in British Freethought Periodicals

Adele Guyton, University of Leuven, Belgium

Magazine Metafictions and Popular Science: Narrating Astronomy in Pearson's Magazine

Chair: Richard Fallon, University of Nottingham and the Natural History Museum, UK

H. Tour of the National Buried Infrastructure Facility

Ann Smith, NBIF Project Officer, University of Birmingham, UK
Maximum 20 delegates

13:00 *Lunch*

13:45 *Plenary 4 and (Pre-)Closing Remarks – Lecture Theatre 1 (LG18)*

The Social Practices of Medical Anecdotes

Brian Hurwitz, Emeritus Professor of Medicine and the Arts, King's College London, UK
Chair: Sharon Ruston, Lancaster University, UK

15:00 *Coffee*

15:30 *Session 9*

A. Comics and Science: An Interdisciplinary Approach (Room M208)

*Emmy Waldman, Virginia Tech University, USA

COVID Comics in the Cube

*Noelia Ibarra and Álvaro M. Pons, University of Valencia, Spain

Comics for Explaining Climate Change to Children and Youth

*Francisco Sáez de Adana, University of Alcalá, Spain

Silver Surfer and the Möbius band: On the Use of Geometry in the Page Composition

B. Man-made Bodies (Room 202)

*Noah Gallego, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, USA

Spectres of Linnaeus: Racial Pseudoscience and Constructing Multiethnic Monstrosity in Frankenstein

Grace Anne Paizen, University of Glasgow, UK

'Spin Round', Siri: The Junction of Entertainment Automata, the Music Box, and E.T.A.

Hoffmann's 'The Sandman' in the Development of Companion Machines

Chair: Emilie Taylor-Pirie, University of Birmingham, UK

C. AI Writing, Writing AI (Room 211)

Laura Kinzig, University of Göttingen, Germany

Did AI kill the author? A Hermeneutic Investigation

*Dustin Hellberg, University of the Bahamas, Bahamas

Would AI Lie to You: Institutional Facts, Institutional Fictions

Curtis Runstedler, University of Stuttgart, Germany

Trustworthy and Compliant AI in Kazuo Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun

Chair: Nicole Brandstetter, University of Applied Sciences Munich, Germany

D. Children's Literature and Well-Being (Room 212)

Rachel Crossland, independent researcher, UK

The Science of Magic and the Magic of Science: Reading The Secret Garden through a Literature and Science Lens

*Rosy-Triantafyllia Angelaki, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Connecting Children's Literature to Education for Sustainability: Ecological posthumanism and solastalgia in children's picturebooks

Vrushali Thakkar, Emory University, USA

Young Adult Novels as a Bridge between Medicine and Literature: Metaphors of Chronic Pain

Chair: Laura Ludtke, University of Oxford, UK

- E. Approaching Disability (Room M209)
 Maryssa Grayer, University of Victoria, Canada
The “Science” of Marriageability: Disability and (Un)marriageability in Charlotte Yonge’s The Heir of Redclyffe and George Eliot’s The Mill on the Floss
 Marie Allitt, University of Edinburgh, UK
Mansfield’s wounded wing and Lawrence’s ‘miserable bronchi’: Tuberculosis as Disability
- F. The Human Seafloor (Room 109)
 Jimmy Packham, University of Birmingham, UK
Inarticulate sounds of awe: speaking (of) the seafloor in popular science media
 Laurence Publicover, University of Bristol, UK
Secrets of the Deep: Science, Poetry, and the Nuestra Señora de la Concepción
 Giulia Champion, University of Southampton, UK
(Non-)Humans at the Seabed: What the Infrastructure of Deep-Sea Mining Reveals and Erases
 Chair: Jimmy Packham, University of Birmingham, UK
- G. Fictions of Time (Room 118)
 Will Tattersdill, University of Glasgow, UK
Building Other Worlds, Building This One
 Lucy Grace, Nottingham Trent University, UK
Stone Stories: Temporality and Geological Time in Twenty-first Century Short Fiction
 Jenni Halpin, Savannah State University, USA
Positive Energy, Time Travel, and The Light Brigade (2019)
- H. Female Matters: The Sciences of Pregnancy and Motherhood from the Eighteenth to the Early Twentieth Century (Room 119)
 Jennifer Henke, University of Bonn, Germany
Erased Subjects: Practices of Reproduction during the Eighteenth Century and Beyond
 Sarah Wegener, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany
“The pearls of your mind”: Material Pregnancies in Mathilde Blind’s Epistemology of Cognition
 Wolfgang Funk, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany
‘The dirty bestial breeding of the past’: Charlotte Haldane’s Man’s World and the Promises and Pitfalls of Vocational Motherhood
 Chair: Wolfgang Funk, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany

17:00 [Close](#)

Saturday 13 April

Optional Full-Day Visit to BIFoR FACE and Ruskin Land

Saturday 27 April

Online Event for all delegates

14:00 Panel 1

Publishing Literature and Science Research

Sharon Ruston, Series Editor, *Palgrave Studies in Literature, Science and Medicine*

Ben Doyle, Publisher, *Explorations in Science and Literature*, Bloomsbury

Martin Willis, Editor, *Journal of Literature and Science*

Rajani Sudan, Editor, *Configurations*

Tara Mahfoud, Assistant Editor, *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*

Chair: Will Tattersdill, University of Glasgow, UK

15:00 Panel 2

Literature and Science: The State of the Field – Reflections on the Conference

Speakers to include:

Alice Jenkins, Professor of Victorian Literature and Culture, University of Glasgow, UK, and
Founding Chair of BSLS

Klaus Mecke, Professor of Theoretical Physics and Co-Director of ELINAS (Erlangen Center for
Literature and Natural Science), University of Erlangen, Germany

Mirian Alves Souza, Senior Lecturer in Anthropology, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

Chair: Lara Choksey, University College London, UK

16:00 Plenary 5

An evolving question: A Darwinian Lamarck, a Lamarckian Darwin

George Levine, Emeritus Professor of English at Rutgers University, USA

Chair: John Holmes, University of Birmingham, UK