# ***European Journal of English Studies***

**Note that the Call for Papers for Special Issues in Volume 23 has closed.**

**FACT AND FICTION IN CONTEMPORARY NARRATIVES**

*Guest editors: Jan Alber (Aachen) and Alice Bell (Sheffield Hallam University)*

This special issue seeks to explore the complex interrelationship between fact and fiction in narratives of the twenty-first century. In current theories within and outside English Studies, critics observe a cultural shift away from postmodernism to new forms of expression. These have been variously theorized as post-postmodernism (McLaughlin, Nealon), cosmodernism (Moraru), metamodernism (Vermeulen and van den Akker), and digimodernism (Kirby). Rather than a radical break from the postmodern, the theorists mentioned above suggest that postmodernist techniques are repurposed to express a new sincerity, a purposeful self-reflexivity, a contemporary sense of togetherness and an associated commitment to reality.

While such theoretical accounts suggest that we have entered a new age of artistic expression, few of them analyse the specific formal devices, strategies and techniques at work in these texts. This special issue seeks to fill this gap by discussing the ways in which contemporary texts across different media (e.g. novels, autobiographies, plays, films, digital fiction, net art, journalistic texts, and political performances) explore the fact vs. fiction divide. The essays will not only engage with theories of what comes after postmodernism, but they will also analyse the narratological, stylistic and/or semiotic devices on which such texts rely.

Relevant topics in this context might include, among others:

* post-postmodern engagements with reality
* the return of the real in fiction
* speculative realism
* new sincerity
* ethics and metafiction / purposeful self-reflexivity
* mockumentaries
* autofiction
* fact and fiction in journalism / fake news
* contemporary forms of “pranking”

Detailed proposals (up to 1,000 words) for essays, as well as all inquiries regarding this issue, should be sent to both editors: Jan Alber: [jan.alber@ifaar.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:jan.alber@ifaar.rwth-aachen.de) and Alice Bell: a.bell@shu.ac.uk