

**ESSE-9 CONFERENCE  
ÅRHUS  
22–26 AUGUST 2008**

The 9th Conference of the European Society for the Study of English will be hosted by the Department of English of the University of Aarhus, in the city of Århus (same place, different spelling!).

A perfect city in many respects, Århus is prosperous, relaxed, historic, architecturally distinguished, big enough to have major cultural institutions and a large selection of interesting shops and restaurants, small enough to be explored easily by foot or bicycle, enriched by a major university without being dominated by it, connected with reality and the world as a major port, well supplied with sophisticated cafés, internationally oriented, thoroughly Danish, surrounded by sandy beaches and beautiful woods, and, despite all of this, only sporadically visited by tourists.

The University of Aarhus, founded in 1928, often claims to have the most beautiful campus in Scandinavia, and is very close to the city centre. It has recently undergone a major expansion, and now has 35,000 students and 10,000 staff.

The academic programme for the conference will be supplemented by a range of excursions, so that participants can make the most of the many cultural attractions located in and around the city, and explore the surrounding landscape. Conference participants who wish to prolong their stay in town will be able to enjoy the major international Århus Festival (29 August–7 September 2008).

Delegates are invited to visit the Conference website at [www.esse2008.dk](http://www.esse2008.dk), which will be updated regularly over the coming months with full details of the academic programme (including, in due course, the titles of papers to be discussed at the seminars listed below), registration procedures, a wide range of accommodation options, further information about the city of Århus, and travel advice.

**Registration**

Please note that registration will open on 1 February 2008, by which time full details of how to register will be available on the Conference website. A flat fee will be charged for the entire Conference. There will be no daily rate.

ESSE members, registering by 1 May 2008	EUR 105
ESSE members, registering after 1 May 2008	EUR 125
Non-members, registering by 1 May 2008	EUR 125
Non-members, registering after 1 May 2008	EUR 150

Delegates from countries experiencing currency difficulties may apply for a reduced fee, or, in some cases, a fee-waiver, by submitting their case in writing at the time of registration. Such applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, with a provisional list established during the course of the registration period.

Please note that neither the University of Aarhus nor ESSE can accept liability for travel, accommodation, or other expenses incurred by convenors, co-convenors, or those invited to participate in round tables or seminars.

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

## PLENARY LECTURES

**David Cannadine**, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor of British History, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, TBA.

**Steven Connor**, Professor of Modern Literature and Theory, Birkbeck College, University of London; Director, The London Consortium, TBA.

**Nigel Fabb**, Professor of Literary Linguistics, University of Strathclyde, ‘What is a Line of Verse?’

**Toril Moi**, James B. Duke Professor of Literature and Romance Studies, Duke University, North Carolina, ‘Early Modernism? Reflections on British Literary History 1870-1940’.

**Mark Turner**, Institute Professor and Professor of Cognitive Science, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, ‘Conceptual Blending in Language and Literature’.

**Jenny Uglow**, Honorary Visiting Professor, University of Warwick; Editorial Director, Chatto & Windus, TBA.

**Linton Kwesi Johnson**, reggae poet and musician, will give a reading.

(See the Conference website for details of each plenary lecturer’s principal publications, and links to their homepages.)

## LECTURERS NOMINATED BY NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

**L.01. Prof. Roberta Maierhofer** (University of Graz), ‘A New Approach to Literary and Cultural Studies: An Introduction to Anocriticism, and thus to Gender, Age and Identity’

**L.02. Prof. Libuše Dušková** (Charles University), ‘The Contribution of Czech Structuralists to the Study of the English Language’ (provisional title)

**L.03. Prof. Liliane Louvel** (University of Poitiers), ‘Word/Image: Words to be Seen, Images to be Read’

**L.04. Prof. Christian Mair** (University of Freiburg), ‘“Is English we speaking”: Re-focussing Standard English in Jamaica’

**L.05. Dr. Tabish Khair** (University of Aarhus), ‘The Devil and Otherness in Colonial and Postcolonial Gothic Fiction’

**L.06. Prof. Olga Vorobyova** (Kiev National Linguistic University), ‘Sense and Sensibility in Virginia Woolf’s Short Fiction: Where Science and Literature Meet’

**L.07. Prof. Mihaela Irimia** (University of Bucharest), ‘“... purchase the commodity you want”, or Quixote goes English in the Public Sphere’

**L.08. Prof. Ianthi Maria Tsimpli** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), 'A Map of the Mind: Hills and Valleys in a Polyglot-Savant's Abilities'

**L.09. Prof. João Ferreira Duarte** (University of Lisbon), 'Trust in Translation'

**L.10. TBA**

## ROUND TABLES

The list of speakers for each round table has been proposed by its convenor. In round tables the convenor chairs the session and the participants discuss scholarly or professional topics of wide general interest. Round table topics are therefore geared to encourage audience participation.

### **RT.01. Making Use of Electronic Collections: Problems of Selection and Description**

Prof. Hans-Jürgen Diller (Ruhr-University Bochum) (chair), Turo Vartiainen, MA (University of Helsinki), Prof. Fritz-Wilhelm Neumann (University of Erfurt)

The multiplication of electronic corpora (like LOB, BNC, ARCHER, Helsinki, Old and Middle English corpora at U of Michigan) and text collections (such as Gutenberg, Online Books Page, ICAMET, Renaissance Editions, EEBO, ECCO) makes a comprehensive survey desirable. It should include the interests of linguistic, literary and cultural studies and take the form of a database consisting of standardized text descriptors as used in various historical corpora or by the Text Encoding Initiative. Speakers will report on their experience with existing texts and corpora, with a view to (a) exploring the need for such a database, criteria for text descriptors, and a representative set of public-domain texts to be described; (b) exploring the potential for future research that might qualify for funding.

### **RT.02. What's So Special about Literature? *Literariness*, Cognition and Ethics Revisited**

Prof. Ronald Shusterman (University of Montpellier) (chair), Prof. Derek Attridge (University of York), Prof. Herbert Grabes (University of Giessen), Prof. Jerrold Levinson (University of Maryland), Dr. Dominic Rainsford (University of Aarhus)

This panel will explore the definition of literature, and the extent to which this definition needs to be related to questions of cognition and/or ethics. Theorists have attempted to capture the essence of literature by developing the concept of *literariness*. Some of these definitions have been formulated from a linguistic/stylistic perspective, others draw on concepts from epistemology or ethical theory. If literature is indeed 'special' in some way, then this special feature should both help identify it and explain its value. Is the literary text to be distinguished from ordinary language by means of some special linguistic role? Does literature involve the acquisition of knowledge? Is literature 'special' because of its moral import? Could *literariness* have something to do with all three of these dimensions?

### **RT.03. EL Domains: Losses or Gains?**

Dr. Ann Torday Gulden (Oslo University College) (chair), Sandra Brunsberg, Lecturer (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Stewart Clark, Senior Advisor (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Nancy Lea Eik-Nes, Lecturer (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Dr. Paul Roberts (University of Hertfordshire)

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) is a developing academic field worldwide. Internationalisation strategies require programmes taught in English, the language being also almost mandatory for publication. Improving EAP skills in academe is therefore a priority and fora have been established to advance thinking and practice. The Norwegian forum, for example, founded in 2007, links EAP academics nationally and internationally. Optimising EAP skills involves several issues which this panel will address: (i) academic staff with English as a major degree subject who are called on to provide EAP support for students and staff (how much developmental work is required?); (ii) the risk of 'loss of domain' for 'small' languages; (iii) the dominance of English in academe, which may lead to aspects of conformism apart from loss of linguistic diversity.

#### **RT.04. Britain After Blair**

Assoc. Prof. Jørgen Sevaldsen (University of Copenhagen) (chair), Assoc. Prof. Michael Böss (University of Aarhus), Dr. Jürgen Kramer (University of Dortmund), Prof. Michael Parsons (University of Pau), Dr. Keith Battarbee (University of Turku)

The purpose of this Round Table is to facilitate a discussion of the achievements and the failures of 'New Labour' in Britain at a point when Gordon Brown can be expected to have passed his first anniversary as Prime Minister and when the next general election will in any event have to be contested before long. How is constitutional reform moving along? Has Britain become a more egalitarian society? Has the idea of Britain as a multi-cultural society been affirmed or largely abandoned? Is there any real prospect of the UK finding a place in the heart of Europe?

#### **RT.05. History, Sociology and Politics within the Field of British Studies – a Status Report**

Assoc. Prof. Jens Rahbek Rasmussen (University of Copenhagen) (chair), John Calton, MA (University of Helsinki), Prof. François Poirier (University of Paris 13), Prof. Jürgen Schlaeger (Humboldt University Berlin)

The position of the social and historical sciences within university curricula and research programmes in the fields of 'English' or 'British Studies' has changed with time and varies greatly from university to university and country to country. In recent decades, linguistic or literary turns within the discipline of history and postmodernist fashions within literary studies have tended to blur borders formerly regarded as reasonably clear. Where are we heading now? This Round Table will provide an opportunity to take stock of the present situation.

#### **RT.06. Ideology and Metaphor**

Prof. Monika Fludernik (University of Freiburg) (chair), Prof. Paul A. Chilton (Lancaster University), Dr. Greta Olson (University of Freiburg), Assoc. Prof. Craig Hamilton (Université de Haute Alsace Mulhouse)

This roundtable will debate new research on the relationship between ideology and metaphor. Cognitive research has shown metaphor to be central to political discourse (Paul A. Chilton, George Lakoff), science (Thomas Kuhn, Theodore L. Brown), culture and ideology (Sebastian Faber, Zoltán Kövecses). Ideology is understood here in a post-Marxian sense to mean dominant cultural beliefs and their representations. Work on metaphor demonstrates how imagery transports ideological messages and helps to build powerful arguments and subconscious attitudes. This work, as the panel will argue, has fundamental implications for cultural studies and its models of signification and transfer.

#### **RT.07. The Punitive Turn**

Dr. Greta Olson (University of Freiburg) (chair), Prof. Philip Rawlings (University College London), Lord David Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE, former Inspector of Prisons, Prof. Monika Fludernik (University of Freiburg), Frances Cook (Howard League)

This round table deals with the increasing punitivity in legislation, treatment of suspects and conditions of incarceration in the U.K. A trend towards putting more people into prison, lengthening prison terms and implementing ever harsher treatment of suspects and inmates has been a feature of the British legal and penal system for nearly two decades, intensifying after 9/11 in the context of anti-terrorist legislation. The speakers in this round table will discuss this aspect of contemporary British life from the varying perspective of cultural law-and-literature studies, legal studies and practical involvement (prison service and human rights activism).

#### **RT.08. Focusing on a Linguistics of Difference: Intercultural and Contrastive Approaches**

Prof. Giuseppina Cortese (University of Turin) (chair), Prof. John Douthwaite (University of Genoa), Prof. Juliane House (University of Hamburg)

Inspired by Bourdieu's idea of 'a linguistic sense of place' and Hymes's discussion of 'ways of meaning and what they mean to' members of a community, this round table aims to explore discourse

studies, rhetoric and stylistics in their attempt to relate micro- and macro-level discourse features and configurations to the engagement of language with the social order and the negotiation of dominant, marginal, or oppositional voices in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, institutional role, status, etc. Exploring how the link between text and community becomes grammaticalized, these approaches to the social uses of language are at the same time approaches to situated ways of meaning across cultures, across specific times and places. Texts are also ‘action around texts’, and any social actor is a participant in the ‘doing’ of difference – of asymmetry, dominance, power.

### **RT.09. Intention and Reading in Early Modern England**

Prof. Andrew Hadfield (University of Sussex) (chair), Dr. Dermot Cavanagh (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Tom Healy (Birkbeck, University of London), Prof. Jennifer Richards (University of Newcastle)

This panel will explore the range and variety of early modern reading practices and debate the question how we recover the ways in which texts circulated between writers and readers, many of whom were the same people. How do we deal with the perennial problem of attributing ‘intention’ to writers of texts? When can we know when something was intended and when a statement was part of a wider discourse over which the speaker had no control? We will discuss a wide variety of early modern writers and texts including Donne, Sidney, and Spenser, as well as various historical and philosophical works.

### **RT.10. English Studies in Doctoral Programmes: a European Perspective**

Prof. Marina Bondi (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) (chair), Prof. Martin Procházka (Charles University), Dr. Francisco González-García (University of Almería), Prof. Roberta Meierhofer (University of Graz), Dr. Paul Thompson (University of Reading)

One of the most interesting challenges of the Bologna process – and of the creation of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) – appears to be at the level of Doctoral programmes. Following the definition of the three cycles of higher education, there has been an increase in structured programmes, but emphasis remains on the need to facilitate access and mobility at the level of the third cycle. The round table discusses examples of current practice in terms of: issues of global structure and interdisciplinarity, learning outcomes, quality assessment and forms of international collaboration. Debate will be open for participants to share experiences and discuss projects.

## **SEMINARS**

Procedure for submitting proposals for papers:

Those wishing to participate in the Conference are invited to submit 200-word abstracts of their proposed papers directly to *both* convenors of the seminar in question before 1 March 2008. The convenors will let the proponents know whether their proposals have been accepted no later than 21 March 2008.

Please note that authors of seminar papers will be expected to give an oral presentation of not more than 15 minutes’ duration, rather than simply reading their papers aloud. Convenors should ensure that reduced versions of the papers are circulated among all speakers in advance of the seminar in question. There will be a maximum of 5 papers in each two-hour seminar session, and convenors should plan so that there is time for discussion between speakers and with the audience.

It is possible that we may be able to extend some seminars over two sessions, but this is very much dependent on the proposals received and on the way the programme as a whole develops, and cannot be determined until after all convenors have reported to the Academic Programme Committee in March.

### **S.01. Cross-linguistic and Cross-cultural Approaches to Phraseology**

Prof. Tatiana Fedulenkova (Pomorski State University)

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Prof. Anita Načisčione (Latvian Academy of Culture)

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As there is a growing interest in phraseological research, the seminar will focus on new theoretical perspectives and the latest developments in phraseology, including stylistic investigations in the field of phraseology, the issues of tradition vs creativity in the use of phraseological units in discourse, and cross-linguistic and cross-cultural research. The pedagogical implications of teaching the stylistic use of phraseological units also present great interest, both to native students and L2 learners. Participants are encouraged to present their theoretical conclusions and observations on the basis of systematic studies of empirical material.

## **S.02. Censorship across Borders: The Reception of English Literature in Twentieth-century Europe**

Dr. Alberto Lázaro (University of Alcalá)

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Dr. Catherine O'Leary (National University of Ireland)

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Many famous writers, such as Wells, Woolf, Joyce, Lawrence, Lessing and Rushdie, have suffered censorship throughout the twentieth century, with lasting effects on the publication and reception of their work in many countries. This seminar will explore the official reception and censorship of English literature in twentieth-century Europe, taking into account the social, political and historical context, and analysing the extent to which censorship was determined by national and international concerns. Papers may concentrate on a single author/text or address the question of censorship and reception more generally, looking at issues such as textual form, the mechanics of publishing and bookselling, library policy, obscenity, religion, politics, law, ideology, and government. Comparative analyses (authors, genres, systems) will also be welcomed.

## **S.03. The House of Fiction as the House of Life: Representation of the House in Literature and Culture, 1700-1900**

Prof. Francesca Saggini Boyle (University of Tuscia / University of Glasgow)

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Dr. Anna Enrichetta Soccio (University of Chieti)

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From Paradise Hall to Howard's End, the house offers a deeply complex model of the world – both physical and metaphysical, literal and metaphorical – and may be taken as the shifting expression of a *zeitgeist*. The Convenors encourage the submission of proposals relating to the topic of the literary, visual and cultural representations of the house and the construction of the domestic space from divergent disciplinary and theoretical perspectives. Topics of discussion may include, but are not limited to, furniture and household objects, the poetics of rooms, professional domesticity, the house as the landscape of existence, utopian and dystopian house spaces, the negotiations of gendered spaces, and such house-based genres as sensation, mystery and detective fiction. Interdisciplinary approaches and epistemological readings are particularly welcome.

## **S.04. Narrative Developments from Chaucer to Defoe**

Dr. Ebbe Klitgård (Roskilde University)

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Dr. Gerd Bayer (Erlangen University)

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This seminar aims to provide a platform for dialogue between different areas of English Studies. The goal of the seminar is to analyse how narrative technique developed from Chaucer throughout the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. Panellists will investigate how narrative texts developed during that time. Papers will address issues like voice, narrative time, character development, genre, etc., keeping a diachronic approach at the centre of their readings. Ideally, the panel will stimulate comparative work across the centuries, reading early modern prose through the lens of Chaucer and medieval narratives.

### **S.05. Translation and Scottish Literature**

Prof. John Corbett (University of Glasgow)

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Dr. Attila Dósa (University of Miskolc)

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Research and teaching on the impact of translation on the multilingual Scottish literary tradition has been growing in recent years, and this scholarly activity has been matched by increasing research into the reception of Scottish literature overseas, facilitated by the online Bibliography of Scottish Literature in Translation (<http://boslit.nls.uk>). Even so, the implications of intra- and inter-cultural literary translation for a national literature is still an under-researched and under-theorised topic. Papers are therefore invited on the topic of translation into and out of any of the languages of Scotland. We welcome both case studies and theoretical contributions.

### **S.06. History and Its Discontents: Reassessing *The Political Unconscious* and Its Legacy**

Dr. Barbara Straumann (University of Zurich)

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Dr. Esther Sánchez-Pardo (Complutense University)

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‘Always historicize!’ The Jamesonian imperative of all dialectical thought reaches us today with pressing concerns. Material traces of the past are marked by omissions, repressions, and exclusions that incite, even as they thwart, total recall. This seminar aims to revisit Fredric Jameson’s analysis of the political unconscious and to examine his current theorization of ‘collective subjectivities.’ We welcome papers which respond to, contextualize, or are otherwise relevant to any aspect of Jameson’s ideas: from the after-effects of history to those of utopia in his paradigms of realism, modernism, postmodernism and globalization. How do literary and other cultural texts address History as that which ‘hurts’?

### **S.07. Corpora in Discourse Analysis and in Language Teaching**

Dr. Markéta Malá (Charles University)

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Dr. Paul Thompson (University of Reading)

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The seminar explores the nexus of three areas related to linguistics: corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, and ELT/ESP. It approaches the corpus as a resource rather than as a goal, focusing on the various ways corpus-based methods are employed in discourse analysis and in teaching / learning. This involves asking what types of structures and levels of language can be explored using corpora; what corpora can tell us about interaction; what the roles and mutual relationships of general and specialized corpora are; what corpus tools and interfaces are needed; as well as what dangers we face when working with corpora.

### **S.08. From Hell to Paradise: The Lure of the Occult and Its Cultural Representations in Britain**

Prof. Pia Brînzeu (West University of Timișoara)

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Prof. György Endre Szönyi (University of Szeged)

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Prof. Milena Romero Allué (University of Udine)

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The seminar proposes to explore the rich British tradition of occult literary representations, linked to white or black magic. Scholars are invited to deepen the study of supernatural events, archetypes, and myths pointing the way to a transcendent heroic self and to the exaltation of paranormal powers

and knowledge. The field allows the exploration of such challenging topics as alchemy, voodoo, and necromancy, witches, the life of famous occultists seen as literary characters, the use of astrology, visions of angels or demons, instruments of sorcery and everything else that goes beyond ordinary understanding and which have found their ways in literature from medieval romances to postmodern historical metafiction.

### **S.09. Transnational Identity Politics in British Literature**

Dr. Silvia Schultermandl (Karl-Franzens University)

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Dr. Sebnem Toplu (Ege University)

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Multi-ethnic cultural studies have undergone a recent shift from multiculturalism to transnationalism as a result of heightened interconnectivity. This raises questions about how belonging shapes a person's identity, and about definitions of selfhood, definitions that address both internal and external notions of belonging. What is of particular interest here are the incongruences between internal and external notions of self. Our panel invites papers on contemporary British authors such as Monica Ali, Zadie Smith, Mohsin Hamid, Hanan Al-Shayky, Caryl Philips and Hari Kunzru, to name a few, with specific attention to the writer's treatment of internal and external notions of belonging, definitions of self and of identity politics in a transnational context.

### **S.10. Research and the Literary Periodical: Theory and Methodology**

Prof. Antony Rowland (University of Salford)

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Prof. Odin Dekkers (Radboud University Nijmegen)

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Dr. Usha Wilbers (Radboud University Nijmegen)

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This seminar will explore the theory and methodology of periodical research. Scholars (in the Netherlands and UK, at least) take various and sometimes competing approaches to the study of periodicals and magazines. These will be explored: we may raise the question of whether it is desirable, after discussions about the theory of methodology, to come up with a shared methodology amongst international scholars. We are interested primarily in research methodologies surrounding periodicals (their publishing history, editorial policies etc.) and the increasing digitization of magazines and periodicals. The overall concern with methodological issues means that we are interested in contributors from different literary-historical periods.

### **S.11. Politeness and Interaction**

Dr. Milan Ferencik (University of Presov)

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Dr. Jitka Vlckova (Masaryk University)

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The seminar is intended to provide a forum for the discussion of linguistic and non-linguistic manifestations of politeness phenomena. It invites researchers of various multidisciplinary orientations to share the ways they perceive politeness phenomena as constituting a major factor which participates in structuring sociocultural interaction. It is open to practitioners working within any model of politeness and applying different methodologies on a variety of data. The focus will be placed on some of the central politeness-theoretical notions, such as scientific and lay conceptualization of politeness, different politeness models and their critique, universality of politeness, politeness and social theory, politeness and impoliteness, linguistic and non-linguistic politeness, data and methodology in politeness research, trends in politeness theorizing.

### **S.12. Ageing Studies: Age, Illness and the Question of Beauty in Contemporary Anglophone Cultures**



Prof. Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz)

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Dr. Heike Hartung (Free University of Berlin)

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Modern medicine's success in prolonging life has led to demographic changes in many Western societies. This development has consequences for a culture's awareness of the last stage of life. One of the strategies of coming to terms with an extended old age is to enlarge the category of youth. The scientific control of the ageing process, however, is challenged by illnesses of the body and the mind. By problematizing age with reference to illness, Western concepts of identity and beauty are called into question. The seminar invites papers on representations of old age and illness in literature and film. Comparative approaches that focus intercultural and gendered perspectives are welcome.

### **S.13. Metaphors and Economic Thinking: The Various Roles of Metaphors in Economic Discourse**

Prof. Catherine Resche (University of Paris 2)

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Prof. Michael White (Complutense University)

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The focus of this seminar will be on the metaphorical dimension of the language of economics. Metaphors are not only used by the economic press to make economic notions more accessible to the general public; textbook authors, as well as researchers also resort to metaphors in their specialized discourse; so do, for example, official figures such as the Chairmen of Central Banks. Theory-constitutive metaphors have an impact on economic discourse and the metaphors used by economists and specialists can shape future research and influence the general public in its approach and reaction to economic problems. We invite papers on the various roles of metaphors in economic discourse.

### **S.14. Mediated Discourse in Native and Non-Native Lingua Franca English**

Prof. Margherita Ulrych (Catholic University of Milan)

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Prof. Juliane House (University of Hamburg)

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Mediated discourse encompasses a broad range of intralingual, interlingual and intersemiotic forms of communication and recontextualization processes. While translation necessarily entails mediation, only recently have other modes of rewriting been investigated, including the editing and revision by native speakers of texts produced in English by non-native speakers to make them more accessible to the target audience. Despite the intervention of native-speaking editors and/or translators, features of lingua franca English find their way unobserved into the final drafts. The aim of the Seminar is to investigate features of English as a Lingua Franca in translations and other forms of mediated discourse produced in English by native and non-native speakers especially within international academic, institutional and professional settings where native English speakers are a minority.

### **S.15. Methodological Perspectives on Communicative Functions: Definition, Identification and Classification**

Assoc. Prof. Sara Gesuato (University of Padua)

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Assist. Prof. Francesca Bianchi (University of Salento)

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The notion of communicative function is invoked in discourse studies to define speech acts, genres, text types, and to account for macro/micro properties of linguistic constructs like their rhetorical structure, lexical encoding, and addresser-addressee's role-relationships. Yet, it is an elusive notion,

which may refer to: language's role in interaction, a text's purpose, the addresser's illocutionary intent, an utterance/move's semantic contribution to a communicative exchange. We aim to trace a standard characterization of the notion of function by exploring the relationships between functions and the encoding-decoding of meaning, and by discussing criteria for the definition, identification and classification of functions.

### **S.16. Wholeness, Healing, and Spirituality: African American Women's Revisions of the (Historical and Spiritual) Past**

Dr. Karla Simcikova (University of Ostrava)

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Dr. Silvia Castro (University of Málaga)

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Since the 1980s, there has been a strong commitment on the part of African American women writers to revise the history and culture of North America in order to recast the understanding of the past. As Sally Keenan suggests, this commitment needs to be understood within the context of the postcolonial condition of the contemporary United States where 'internal colonization' has become the dominant experience of many African Americans. Taking her lead, this seminar invites critical responses to African American women writers' contributions to the revisioning of US history, namely from the perspectives of wholeness, spirituality, and healing.

### **S.17. British Poetry and Pop**

Dr. John Sears (Manchester Metropolitan University)

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Dr. Raphaël Costambeys-Kempczynski (University of Paris 3)

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This session invites papers addressing the various relations between British poetry and popular music, from production and distribution to consumption and critical response. Topics might include but are not restricted to: pop/poetry crossover; pop poetry from the Mersey Sound to Jeremy Reed and beyond; pop as a poetic medium / poetry as a pop medium; pop and the democratisation of poetry; street poetry and intelligent pop; poetry and popular lyrical forms and traditions; the figures of poet and performer; poetry and popular genres (rap, punk, folk, soul); intertextual and other relations between poetry and pop traditions; institutional connections between the poetry and pop worlds.

### **S.18. Digital Aesthetics – Digital Games**

Dr. Eva Mueller-Zettelmann (University of Vienna)

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Dr. Sven Lutzka (University of Bochum)

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Computer games are a tremendous economic success, and with rapid advances in digital technology they are also increasingly becoming an innovative art form in their own right. Situated on the interface between ludic entertainment, popular culture, and intermedial art, digital games offer a hybrid aesthetic which is as fascinating as it is hard to grasp theoretically. Thrilling story-lines, attractive character design, elaborate graphics and hyper-realistic sound effects make gaming a highly immersive experience. This seminar discusses ludic aesthetics in its aspects of kinaesthesia, embodiment, intertextuality, interactive narrativity, inter-player- and gamer-designer communication. It especially encourages papers which attempt to apply and adapt the tools of literary criticism and cultural studies to the hybrid poetics of the digital game.

### **S.19. Literary and Cultural Representations of the Child**

Dr. Margarida Morgado (College for Higher Education, Castelo Branco)

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Katherina Dodou (Uppsala University)

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With its apotheosis in the Romantic period the child figure became firmly established as a major component in Western culture. The past decades have witnessed an increased interest in the child and childhood as historically contingent constructions and have opened up new ways of considering their roles of children and young people in the cultural imagination. Against the history of child representations and recent cultural research about the child this seminar will critically engage with the multiplicity of interdisciplinary perspectives on this central cultural and literary theme. We invite contributions addressing constructions of the child in literature and culture from the Romantic period to the present and across several disciplinary fields.

### **S.20. Shakespeare and Discourse Stylistics**

Dr. Mireille Ravassat (University of Valenciennes)

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Dr. Lene Petersen (University of the West of England)

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From *copia* to stylistic reticence, Shakespeare's playtexts map out the extreme limits and impasse of verbal communication. The present seminar aims at assessing and highlighting the discourse strategies and structures at stake in conversational exchange and interaction in the very process of capturing the world of human understanding and relationships. Such a process involves the difficulty, sometimes the impossibility, and the exhilaration of mediating that world through language. Shakespeare's playtexts should be envisaged as being rooted in a cultural and rhetorical context in which meaning (and the difficulties of conveying meaning) is a collaborative construction, involving author, text, culture, and reader. Papers are welcome on the range of Shakespeare's negotiations with the problematics of the production of meaning. Areas of exploration include semantics, pragmatics, and semiotics.

### **S.21. Meaning Construction: Functionalist, Cognitivist and Constructionist Approaches**

Dr. Annalisa Baicchi (University of Pavia)

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Dr. Francisco González-García (University of Almería)

E-mail: fgonza@ual.es

The seminar aims to promote the interaction and collaboration among researchers interested in recent functionalist, cognitivist and/or constructionist approaches with special focus on present-day English. Specifically, the seminar is intended to be a forum for the discussion of virtually any theoretical and/or descriptive/applied aspect concerning grammar, the lexicon and discourse, and in particular controversial areas such as: the relationship between syntax and all facets of meaning construction, the boundaries between grammar and the lexicon, argument structure configuration, the interaction between lexical and constructional templates, pragmatic inferencing, implicature and illocutionary meaning, and the potential of metonymic operations in speech act configuration.

### **S.22. Lingua Franca English in Use**

Dr. Tim Caudery (University of Aarhus)

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Prof. Anna Mauranen (University of Helsinki)

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Awareness of globalization issues has focused increasing attention on the use of English as a lingua franca in communicative contexts where the participants do not share the same mother tongue. This seminar is open for papers on studies of the use of lingua franca English in various settings (academic, commercial, diplomatic, etc.) and of the characteristics of lingua franca English itself as it has developed in such contexts.

### **S.23. Modern English Syntax: Historical and Comparative Approaches**

Dr. Jonathan White (University of Dalarna)

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Dr. Johanna L. Wood (University of Aarhus)

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Syntactic changes that have occurred in English over the past 1500 years have affected both clausal and nominal domains. Some of these changes have occurred in other languages and language families, some have not. Many Romance languages and non-standard varieties of English have multiple negation; standard English does not. Most Germanic languages have developed a dedicated definite article; most Slavic languages have not. This workshop invites comparative approaches (e.g. between English and other languages or between different stages within English) to these and other changes, for example: group genitives, the syntax of numerals, changes involving the verb-second constraint, OV-VO word order, and main verb movement.

### **S.24. Ethics and Trauma in British Fiction since the 1960s**

Prof. Susana Onega (University of Zaragoza)

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Prof. Jean-Michel Ganteau (University of Montpellier 3)

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Since the mid-1990s, trauma theory has given attention to war novels, multicultural novels relating trauma with Jewish history or Jewishness, and Holocaust novels written by authors of Jewish origin. Whether such themes appear in realistic or more experimental narratives, we would like to address the relations between ethics and trauma. Thus, the seminar proposes an ethical reading of British novels since the 1960s dealing with war trauma; sexual trauma; the mental disorders ailing a consumerist and hedonist society; environmental-related trauma; trauma of a more impersonal type linked with cultural haunting; or trauma of any other kind.

### **S.25. The Fiction of J. R. R. Tolkien: Medieval and Modern**

Dr. Janka Kaščáková (Catholic University in Ružomberok)

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Dr. Kathleen Dubs (Pázmány Péter Catholic University)

E-mail: kedubs@axelero.hu

*The Lord of The Rings* has attracted increased attention recently, due in large part to the popularity of the films. But J. R. R. Tolkien produced other works of fiction which remain for the most part ignored as a focus for scholarly study. This seminar hopes to address that lacuna by incorporating scholarship on his other works as well. The organizers thus invite papers on any of Tolkien's fiction (including *LOTR*) from a modern or a medieval perspective. The seminar will therefore present papers that connect with one another through a shared interest in the specific question of Tolkien's orientation to the past, the present, and literary tradition, thus providing an opportunity for critical discussion of Tolkien's oeuvre by a wide range of students and scholars.

### **S.26. Bodies and Performativity in Multicultural British Fiction**

Dr. Petra Tournay-Theodotou (Cyprus College)

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Dr. Sofia Muñoz-Valdivieso (University of Malaga)

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Judith Butler has famously argued that there is no original core to (gender) identity, but only repetitions of identity and layers of performances. This conception of identity may be limiting as well as liberating. It may condemn the subject to merely reiterate pre-defined roles or, on the contrary, allow the subject to manipulate non-essential or constructed identities. According to this latter view the subject can hence take an active role in his/her identity formation. For this session we would like to invite contributions that examine how conflicting notions of identity have been explored in multicultural British fiction (e.g. Jackie Kay, Caryl Phillips, Hanif Kureishi, Andrea Levy, Leone Ross, Zadie Smith)

as it is the racialised (gendered) body that is most vulnerable when it comes to identity formation.

### **S.27. Representing 'New' Britain**

Dr. Hanne Tange (Aarhus School of Business)

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Dr. Peter Leese (Jagiellonian University)

E-mail: peterjleese@yahoo.co.uk

Within the past decade, a new kind of identity politics has emerged in response to events such as devolution, the Good Friday Agreement, the Iraq war, and the London bombings. This seminar focuses on the manifestation of such changes in contemporary British culture, asking how cultural planners and creative artists have engaged with questions of British, national, regional, or ethnic identity. We would like to invite papers on identity relating to all areas of cultural life, including literature, historiography, visual arts, music, film and TV, museums, fashion, tourism, journalism, and advertising.

### **S.28. Changing Narratives in British Media**

Dr. Slavka Tomaščíková (P. J. Šafárik University)

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Jim Bee, MA (Queen Margaret University)

E-mail: JBee@qmu.ac.uk

In postmodern society narrative strategies are applied in films, commercials, television news bulletins, adverts, comics, or newspapers. The poststructuralist approach stresses perspective, subjectivity of interpretation and, consequently, the individual who creates and/or interprets the narrative as a form of representation and inner structure. We are interested in receiving abstracts for papers exploring narrative strategies in British media within the frameworks of mass media theory, communication studies, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, and media literacy. Suggested topics for papers may include, but are not limited to narrative and genre, narrative and language, narrative and issues of class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and politics.

### **S.29. A Full-Bodied Society?**

Prof. François Poirier (University of Paris 13)

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Prof. Logie Barrow (University of Bremen)

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To judge from all too many histories of English-speaking countries, they were peopled by bodiless beings, free from disease as well as from the joys of the flesh, while other histories, by contrast, lay heavy emphasis on the physical nature of humankind, fraught with unquenchable lust and unavoidable ailments. This seminar invites papers that would examine the way the body can be or has been dealt with in social and cultural terms within English-speaking societies, past and present. Papers on health policies and public sanitation or medical practice as well as on food and drink consumption are as welcome as studies on sexuality, ageing or PE.

### **S.30. Film Studies: Fragmentary Forms and Totalizing Narratives**

Dr. Jukka Tiusanen (University of Vaasa)

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Dr. Camelia Elias (Roskilde University)

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This seminar examines forms of fragmentation and coherence in either deliberate or accidental forms in both older and contemporary films, including their complex production, distribution and reception. Films necessarily consist of fragments and disjointed stills, scenes, sequences, yet their very enjoyment presupposes that audiences fill in the gaps and produce internal narratives of sometimes conjectural coherence. We expect submitted papers to discuss actual films, and we invite contributions on these closely connected issues: film and meaning, authorship, characterization, performance, transmission,

spectatorship, cognition and emotion, concepts of seeing in film. We are also interested in films as traumatizing fragments and foreign bodies that viewers experience as hurtful.

### **S.31. Reading and Trust in Managed Learning Systems**

Dr. Roy Sellars (University of Southern Denmark)

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Dr. Sarah Wood (University of Kent)

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Never trust the company, trust the product, would be an update of D. H. Lawrence's axiom suitable for many European universities in 2008. What happens to reading in learning systems characterised by managerialism and the hypertrophy of the economic? Management now has a lot to say about reading: it is expensive and inefficient, and if we insist on it, we'd better be quick about it. What does reading have to say about management? And: can trust, as a mechanism for promoting consumer loyalty, at the same time offer a way of approaching the teaching and reading of literature that exceeds commodification? We invite presentations from colleagues working on issues of management, trust, and critical pedagogy.

### **S.32. Literary Journalism and the Canon**

Dr. John S. Bak (University of Nancy 2)

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Dr. David Abrahamson (Northwestern University)

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While literary journalism has generally been considered an American phenomenon, whose writers include Capote, Mailer, Wolfe, Agee, and Didion, today it is practiced and studied world-wide. And as journalists look more and more to literary devices to tell their stories, and fiction writers to immersion reporting to lend a phenomenal reality to their narratives, scholars of literary journalism have concerted their efforts to define the genre's emerging academic discipline. One immediate issue has surfaced: how will the classic examples of literary journalism over the last century or more be regarded within a given nation's growing literary canon? This seminar will examine to what extent literary journalists past and present – from the U.S. and the U.K., but also from Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa – have contributed to palliating the quarrel of fact versus fiction and have (re)shaped our notion of what constitutes a national 'literature'.

### **S.33. Models of Authorship at the Turn of the Millenium: An Interdisciplinary Approach**

Dr. Lourdes López-Roper (University of Alicante)

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Prof. Christian Moraru (University of North Carolina, Greensboro)

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The notion of authorship has undergone major historical shifts from classical antiquity to the postmodern critique of the author. But even as the concept has been questioned by such poststructuralists as Roland Barthes or Kathy Acker, intellectual property law continues to strengthen the Romantic model. This seminar invites papers exploring the politics of authorship and the issues it raises – creativity, originality, tradition, imitation and its ethics, rewriting, plagiarism, copyright infringement. Among other aspects related to authorship, we would like to ask the participants to discuss how such issues are represented in literary and cultural texts produced in late 20th and early 21st century under the impact of geopolitical redistributions, demographic rearrangements, accelerated cultural flows, and new communication technologies.

### **S.34. Continuation or Change? Literatures in English in the New Millennium**

Assoc. Prof. Jaroslav Kušnír (University of Prešov)

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Dr. Stanislav Kolář (Ostrava University)

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At the beginning of the millennium, in British, American and other literatures in English there seems to be a tendency to either return to a more traditional neo-realistic or modernist writing on the one hand (Graham Swift, Jonathan Franzen), or to further extend the possibilities of postmodern literature. This session seeks papers that will (1) give an analysis of the tension between the above tendencies as manifested in British, American and/or other literatures in English (the comparative approach is welcome); (2) analyse a manifestation of this tension in particular literary works; (3) analyse the possible change either in traditional (neo-realistic) or in experimental poetics as manifested in the works of particular authors.

### **S.35. Life Writing: Writing Lives**

Dr. Sean Matthews (University of Nottingham)

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Dr. Inger H. Dalsgaard (University of Aarhus)

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The purpose of this seminar is to define and exemplify the increasingly popular genre 'life writing' in academic terms. In order to move beyond the stereotype of mass-market biographies we need critical discussion of different forms and definitions of life writing. We welcome papers seeking to identify and explain the contours and interfaces between producers, subjects and consumers of life writing; between memory and writing; between emotion and narration; fact, fiction and documentary styles; between personal and cultural history and between new textual technologies, e.g. on the Web, and the life of a text.

### **S.36. American Little Magazines and Innovative Voices on Language and the Self**

Assoc. Prof. Manuel Brito (University of La Laguna)

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Prof. Hélène Aji, (University of Maine)

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American little magazines associated with poetic innovation embodied a new writing with intellectual discoveries about the individual in society and politics in the period 1970-2000. In this sense, poststructuralist concepts were joined by Marxism, and other values set forth by Ludwig Wittgenstein or Jacques Derrida. This proposed seminar will focus on the proliferation of these magazines, and how they were commonly grounded on intellectual dissent, and the centrifugal forces around a diverse cultural America. Suggestive questions, like is 'signification' still proliferating everywhere? Or, does this indefatigable privateness still prevail at the beginning of the 21st century? Survival and tensions in particular literary groups can be analyzed.

### **S.37. Utopian Futures/The Futures of Utopia**

Dr. Pere Gallardo-Torrano (Rovira i Virgili University)

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Dr. Jorge Bastos da Silva (University of Porto)

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The coexistence of traditional and new utopian *loci* (written texts, cinema, cyberspace, computer games, etc.) with the everchanging political reality of postmodern societies has produced a fascinating interface which we invite you to explore. This seminar is to be understood as a transdisciplinary meeting space for academics interested in both Utopia and Utopian Studies. Therefore, papers which explore any aspects of utopia – understood as an all-encompassing term for positive, negative, virtual or intentional communities – are welcome. We particularly welcome papers which analyse the multiplicity of futures described in utopian texts of all kinds, but also those which explore the potential connections between imaginary communities and deceased or ongoing utopian experiments.

### **S.38. Bakhtin and Shakespeare: Critical Perspectives**

Assoc. Prof. Michael Skovmand (University of Aarhus)

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Prof. Martin Procházka (Charles University)

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Considering how little Bakhtin wrote on drama in general or Shakespeare in particular, it is striking how popular Bakhtinian approaches to Shakespeare have become over the last thirty years. Focusing in particular on the notions of the ‘carnival’, ‘heteroglossia’, ‘polyphony’ and ‘chronotope’, the workshop will explore the ways in which Bakhtin-inspired criticism has illuminated or crippled contemporary understanding of Shakespeare’s plays in the context of Renaissance culture and vis-à-vis other recent approaches to performing, poetics, discourse and ideology.

### **S.39. Tourism between Tradition and Innovation**

Dr. Robert C. Thomsen (University of Aarhus)

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Dr. Jody W. Pennington (University of Aarhus)

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Dr. Claire E. A. Campbell (Dalhousie University)

E-mail: Claire.Campbell@dal.ca

The focus of this seminar will be cultural tourism in Anglophone societies, defined broadly to include, for example, heritage, coastal and eco-tourism. In recent years, many tourism industries in western societies have experienced decline in terms of visitors and revenue. This has forced destination marketers to reconsider the value of attractions on offer, and the form chosen to represent them. The challenge in this regard has been to achieve and agree on a balance between tradition and innovation, which can boost the industry while retaining a degree of authenticity (in itself a much disputed concept). The conveners welcome proposals which consider any aspect of these developments, as well as historical dimensions of tourism in the English-speaking world.

### **S.40. The Intersection of English Education Practices and Workplace Needs**

Suvi Isohella, M.A. (University of Vaasa)

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Dr. Constance Kampf (Aarhus School of Business)

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How effective are current English language education practices in international content-oriented curricula such as Marketing and Management as well as translation and technical communication for learners’ career needs in working life? How do the linguistic, rhetorical and communication foundations for English language education connect with current industry issues such as language policy, Project Management, etc.? This seminar invites scholars and instructors to look at current and future directions in education for content-oriented curricula in English, as well as translation and technical communication through a combination of perspectives rooted in Linguistics, Culture, Communication, Rhetoric and Knowledge Communication.

### **S.41. Wartime Shakespeares: A European Perspective**

Dr. Ton Hoenselaars (Utrecht University)

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Dr. Clara Calvo (University of Murcia)

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This seminar studies the fortunes of ‘Shakespeare’ in wartime during the 20th and 21st centuries, addressing the question how the complex condition of war – involving the choice of alliances, the maintenance of neutrality, or the expression of a pacifist, anti-war stance – has affected various national Shakespeare traditions in Europe as well as relations between Europe and the rest of the world. We invite papers devoted to topics including Shakespeare on stage and screen, in fiction and in translation. We are also interested in discussions of Shakespearean examples involving actors, directors, soldiers, poets, academics, politicians, journalists and publishers; the fate of theatre



structures and library collections in times of political turmoil; and the so-called afterlives of wartime Shakespeare in postwar poetry, drama, fiction, film, and academe.

#### **S.42. Intertextuality**

Prof. Neil Forsyth (University of Lausanne)

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Dr. Onno Kusters (Utrecht University)

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The term 'Intertextuality' has been used in so many ways since it was introduced by Kristeva in the late sixties that it may no longer retain much meaning, at least without further definition. How, then, are we to account for all the ways in which we move beyond what the authors of various texts (Milton, Blake, Joyce are some pertinent examples) may consciously intend in the way of allusion? What, indeed, has happened to the notion of the multiple discursive contexts of a 'text'? This seminar will review some of the ways in which the original idea has migrated. Early Modern scholars, for example, may be unaware of developments in more modern fields, or among medievalists, all of whom are welcome to participate.

#### **S.43. All Manners of Silence: Non-Verbal Communication in the Long 18th Century**

Dr. Vera Alexander (University of Aarhus)

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Dr. Lena Steveker (Saarland University)

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Silence as an ambivalent means of communication is still under- and mis-represented in literary scholarship. Proverbially, silence is said to speak 'louder than words', while being regarded as equivalent to saying nothing, or having nothing to say: 'silence is consent'. Some interpretations causally link silence with ignorance – 'the best substitute for brains is silence' – whereas others extol its wisdom, as in 'silence is golden'. This seminar will explore literary representations of silence as a direct and indirect means of power. Participants are invited to debate issues such as silence and social norms and forms; patterns of (dis)empowerment on different (extra)textual levels; hermeneutic functions of silence; structural and interactive functions of silence as plot element and in relation to irony and humour.

#### **S.44. Towards the Bicentenary: New Bearings in European Dickens Criticism**

Prof. Michael Hollington (University of Toulouse)

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Dr. Holly Furneaux (University of Leicester)

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This seminar will provide a forum for participants to discuss new foci in European Dickens criticism at a time of renewed energies connected with the approaching bicentenary in 2012. One obvious example of such renewal is an emerging focus on the history of Dickens criticism and reception in a range of European countries hitherto largely neglected by the Anglo-American Dickens industry. But there are many other lively new developments – in Dickens and the radical tradition, in gender studies, in film studies, in the interdisciplinary study of text and illustration, and not least in the neglected area of Dickens's representation of sexuality. Participants are invited to contribute, either by focussing on the topic of Dickens studies in their own country, or by exploring any emergent trend in Dickens criticism.

#### **S.45. Writing-Machines and Literature**

Dr. Peter Simonsen (University of Southern Denmark)

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Dr. Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen (University College London)

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When the principal of the Royal Institute for deaf-mutes in Copenhagen, Rasmus Malling-Hansen,

invented the Writing Ball in 1865, he became a pioneer of an ongoing technological revolution. Since then, mechanical, electric and digital typewriters have provided office workers and other writers with new means of producing, mediating, distributing and storing discourse. This seminar will explore the significance of writing-machines in modern literature and culture. Contributions may focus on the role of discourse technologies in the formation of modern literature and culture involving, but not restricted to, issues of secretarial culture, body culture, gender, media, technology and globalization.

#### **S.46. Teaching English as a Language of Translation**

Dr. Anca Greere (Babes-Bolyai University)

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Dr. Mihaela Cozma (West University of Timisoara)

E-mail: [mcozma@litere.uvt.ro](mailto:mcozma@litere.uvt.ro)

This seminar invites contributions on issues related to the teaching of English for or through translation with elicitation of problematic aspects in general English classes, ESP and translator-training programs. Debates on the following questions are welcomed: Is translation an exercise for language acquisition? How is English dealt with in translation classes (specific methodology)? Are English classes in translator-training different? What is being taught: standard English or international/global English? What is the impact of English translations on pedagogical practices in standard language classrooms vs. translator training? Additionally, we expect to touch upon other methodological and pedagogical aspects such as curriculum development, syllabus design and in-class training methodology specific for training programmes where English is taught as a language of translation and/or a language of global communication/mediation.

#### **S.47. Emergent Minds: Thinking with Feeling**

Dr. Corinne Saunders (University of Durham)

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Dr. María Nieves Pascual Soler (University of Jaén)

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This seminar will explore the emergence of ideas of consciousness and the mind-body relationship in literature from the medieval period onwards, with a special emphasis on the interrelation of science, medicine and the arts. The focus will be on the ways that literature has always engaged with discourses such as medicine and philosophy, but has also proposed alternative models of reasoning which incorporate affect and engage with moral thinking. Modern science has also moved away from Cartesian reductionism to bring together mind and body, and incorporate notions of affect and thinking in cognitive models. Contributors are invited to explore the topic of thinking with feeling in relation to any literary period or writer.

### **POSTER SESSIONS**

A new feature of the 9th ESSE conference will be poster sessions. A poster is a short, concise, highly accessible description of new, unpublished research mounted on a wall or poster stand for public viewing. Posters typically include not only text (approx. 2,000 words) but also graphs, photographs, and charts. Posters should be no bigger than 150 cm in length x 120 cm in height. Posters may address topics connected to the conference seminars, round tables, and lectures as well as other specialized topics in our field(s). The aim of a poster session is to provide conference participants, and poster presenters in particular, with additional opportunities for discussion and feedback about research in an informal setting. Therefore, presenters are strongly encouraged to be present during the poster session and to have handouts available for distribution. Poster proposals should include the name and affiliation of the presenter and a clearly titled abstract of no more than 200 words (not including title or references). The proposals should be sent directly to the Academic Programme Committee, at [proposals@esse2008.dk](mailto:proposals@esse2008.dk), by 1 March 2008.

Please check the Conference website for the latest information on the ESSE-9 programme.

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