

The European English Messenger

Volume 24.2 – Winter 2015

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The ESSE President's Column

Liliane Louvel

This issue of *The European English Messenger* is of particular importance, for it celebrates the 25th anniversary of the founding of ESSE. We are happy to see that our federation, which counts over 7000 members, has increased, expanding its capacity to further our academic causes and foster mutual understanding by establishing links across Europe.

This is the 50th issue and the last you will receive in printed format. After long discussions that have been ongoing since 2005, the Board of ESSE decided in Košice last year that, due to its cost, the publishing problems we have encountered, and the general spread of online publication, *The European English Messenger* should go online. The ESSE Executive and the Board wish to give their most heartfelt thanks to the former editors of *The European English Messenger*, and most especially to the current editor, Professor Hortensia Pârlog, who has taken care of this last printed issue. Everyone knows Aba and is mindful of her dedication to the cause of ESSE, whose Secretary she was under the presidencies of Adolphe Haberer and Fernando Galván.

The online version of *The European English Messenger* will appear under the aegis of a new editor, Adrian Radu, the current President of the Romanian Association. We thank him for agreeing to undertake this important task. *The European English Messenger* will undergo some major changes. It first started as a newsletter, but nowadays the most recent news is immediately put on our website (www.essenglish.org) by our webmaster, Jacques Ramel. So the links between our national associations and the individual academics are achieved through the website much more quickly than via our bi-annual *Messenger* issues. Therefore the ESSE Board decided that our former newsletter would be split into a journal and a blog and that it would open its pages to professional papers from young researchers in particular. After a first year of code-protected publication, it will become open-access. Of course, it will not clash in any way with our own thematically oriented academic journal *EJES*.

I am happy to tell you that ESSE has decided to start a new campaign, entitled "ESSE Research and Support Project", destined to help our young researchers and future colleagues. We will increase the amount of money available for the Bursaries (from €12000 to €15000), and grant the same prize money to the two different kinds of Book Awards (€1500), thus increasing our funding from €6000 to €9000. We will hold our PhD sessions every year instead of every two years (currently, the conference years) and a selection of papers by those PhD students will be published in *The European English Messenger*. We will also grant additional fee waivers for conference attendance at ESSE-13 (up to € 6000 has been reserved for this purpose); these waivers will be available to doctoral students or those who have finished their PhD theses after 1 January 2012 and have no funding, are unemployed or receive a low income. In this way, ESSE is making a European statement in favour of promising young researchers in the Humanities.

I am also happy to announce that we will open a "Special Interest Groups" corner on our website, meant to create European Networks. If you want to advertise your own "Special Interest Group" of ESSE members, please contact our webmaster. We think this will improve the visibility of English Studies across Europe, and it may be a very useful way to ensure that the powers-that-be do not mistake us for a Language School.

Before tackling the subject of our next conference, let me inform you that after Galway-13 in 2016, our conference will move to Central Europe again, and will be held in Brno, the Czech Republic, in 2018. Our 2017 and 2019 Board meetings will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, and Wrocław, Poland, respectively. We thank our colleagues for offering to host these important events in their countries.

The ESSE-13 Conference in Galway promises to be a major event. We all know the Irish tradition of hospitality and generosity, and I am sure the organizers will not disappoint us. ESSE-12 in Košice was a wonderful Conference, with over 700 academics attending. Galway is set to welcome a large number of participants too, from Europe as well as from the USA, Canada and other countries and continents. This issue of *The European English Messenger* brings you the list of seminars, lectures, panels, as well as deadlines for abstract submissions, registration and fee waivers. Everything is also available on the website, in the Galway special corner. Please, make sure to take good note of the deadlines and to register in time, to avoid any problems or last-minute panic. As for accommodation, you will have a whole range of options, on the campus and in the town. Once more, Galway is a lovely but small town, so make sure you book early.

Last but not least, I also have the pleasure of announcing that I was unanimously re-elected President by the Board of ESSE during our August meeting in Braga and so I am looking forward to seeing you all in Galway next summer.

I wish you all happy end-of-year celebrations!

Editorial note

Hortensia Pârlog

My favourite afternoons have always been those when I could lounge in one of my comfortable armchairs, cup of coffee at hand, and leaf through two national cultural magazines that I like, eager for articles that might stir up my interest, or for information about new successful books, and plays, and translations, or about which writer has received what award, about writers' petty squabbles, or plagiarism by top politicians. Alas, these two magazines already have parallel online versions, and, in time, these will probably be the only versions available, as, in the struggle between print and the internet, it is the latter that will, no doubt, be the victor. Everybody assures me that this is ok, as there is no difference between reading online magazines and printed magazines. Isn't there? I like physical, palpable objects, which can be not merely looked at, but also touched, and smelled, and heard or tasted – I like all my senses to be active. Between an online jug of beer and one on the table in front of me, an online beautiful painting and one in an art gallery, the lovely online image of a tea-drinking friend and drinking tea with the friend in flesh and blood, I will always choose the latter. May I also add that sitting and reading for some hours with one's laptop, tablet or e-reader in one's lap is not quite relaxing, as all sorts of accidents may happen – I can think of various tragic scenarios, not just numb arms and legs: the coffee may get spilt on these marvels of technology, or if one dozes off, which sometimes happens when one feels cosy, the electronic devices may fall onto the floor and get trodden on when one is suddenly woken up by doorbell or telephone ringing.

What I am trying to say in this round-about way is that in 2016, *The European English Messenger* is turning into an online-only publication, depriving me of one of my life's little joys, and I shall be stepping down as its editor, a position held for three years (one term), during which the whole editorial team have done their best to fulfill the readership's expectations, by publishing not only news on ESSE matters, but also literary, linguistic and cultural information in the general field of English Studies. We wish Dr. Adrian Radu, the new editor, and his team every success in carrying out their duty during the coming term.

If there still are among us collectors of printed publications (and there must be; after all, there still are stamp collectors, for instance, although stamps are hardly ever used these days!), this last print issue of *The Messenger* will be a valuable collector's item!

The password for all online editions, past and present, of *The Messenger* is **Hermes**.

ESSE BOOK AWARDS 2016
For books first published in 2014 and 2015

ESSE Book Award (Category A): A book prize of €1,500 will be awarded by ESSE in 2016, coinciding with the 13th Conference to be held in Galway, Ireland, for books first published in 2014 or 2015 in each of the following fields:

- a) English language and linguistics
- b) Literatures in the English language
- c) Cultural and area studies in English

ESSE Book Award for Junior Scholars (Category B): A further book prize of €1,500 will be awarded by ESSE in 2016 to a junior scholar for a first research book published in English in each of the three fields mentioned above, provided that publication was in 2014 or 2015. The deadline for submission of books is 1 February 2016. The winners will be announced on the occasion of ESSE-13 in Galway, Ireland.

The requirements are as follows:

- (1) Books eligible for prizes will be those published in English; they should have an ISBN. PhD dissertations published in book format, with an ISBN, are accepted. Editions of collected essays will NOT qualify for these prizes. The books must be works of scholarly research in the field of English studies. Undergraduate textbooks will not be considered.
- (2) Any number of books may be submitted by the same author (provided that they are published within the admitted period of time), except for category B, since junior scholars are expected to submit their *first research book* published in English.
- (3) All books will be evaluated strictly on the basis of their academic value, without regard to publisher, country of publication or nationality of the author.
- (4) **Authors must be members of national associations affiliated to ESSE.**
- (5) **Three copies** must be provided of each book submitted for consideration. No book will be considered for an award unless three copies have been received. The copies **will not be returned.**
- (6) Candidates should write an email to the President of ESSE, **Prof. Liliane Louvel** liliane.louvel@wanadoo.fr, with copy to the Treasurer of ESSE, **Prof. Alberto Lázaro** alberto.lazaro@uah.es, informing them of their intention to participate, declaring their affiliation to a national association which is a member of ESSE, giving their university address, mentioning the field and the category (A or B) to which their book belongs, and indicating whether the copies of the book will be sent by the author or by the publisher. Candidates for the Category B award should also include a brief CV which must contain at least their date of birth, university affiliation, main field(s) of research and previous publications.

After receiving the President's approval, the three review copies should be sent to one of the addresses below by **1 FEBRUARY 2016. The deadline must be observed.**

Books in **English language and linguistics** should be sent to the following address:
Prof. Smiljana Komar, Oddelek za anglistiko in amerikanistiko, Filozofska fakulteta
Askerceva 2, 1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA

Books in **Literatures in the English language** should be sent to the following address:
Prof. Alberto Lázaro, Departamento de Filología Moderna, Universidad de Alcalá
C/ Trinidad, 3, 28801 Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, SPAIN

Books in **Cultural and area studies in English** should be sent to the following address:
Prof. Liliane Louvel, 2 rue de Bois Frémin, 86190 Quincay, FRANCE

The selection committees (three members each) will be appointed by the Board of ESSE in each of the three fields and for the two categories named above. Their composition will not

be made public. Board members shall not pass on any information concerning this matter to the members of their associations. The Executive of ESSE will replace any members who are unable to carry out their duties. The Chairs of the selection committees will report progress regularly to the President of ESSE. The members of the committees can be Board members or ESSE members invited by the Board to do the selection job. The members of the committees and the ESSE Board are excluded from submitting their own books.

- (7) Two months before the opening of the conference a shortlist of a maximum of five books in each field and category will be announced on the ESSE Website. Board members are asked to report to the President any misgivings that they may have about the propriety of awarding a prize to any book on the shortlist, with the President passing on such comments to the committees if he deems it appropriate. The committees will recommend the awards to the Board, or they may recommend that no award be made in a particular field. The committees can also recommend the conferment of “honourable mentions” to any shortlisted books. The President will report to the Board whether the work of the committees has been satisfactorily conducted. The Board may then approve the recommendations of the committees or they may reject a recommendation, in which case no award will be given in that field or category. Winners will be informed immediately in confidence, and the awards will be publicly announced at the General Meeting of ESSE, in Galway, Ireland.

ESSE BURSARIES for 2016

In 2016, ESSE will again offer two types of bursaries:

Type A: a number of bursaries of up to €1,500 each will be available for scholars in need of support to pursue a project or programme of research leading to the writing of their PhD dissertation.

Type B: a number of bursaries of up to €1,500 each will be available for scholars already holding a doctorate or its equivalent.

Applications are invited from all member countries. Awards are made on the basis of academic merit. Priority will be given to scholars employed at Universities in Central and Eastern Europe who are in need of support to pursue a project or programme of research.

Only one application per person is allowed.

Bursaries may not be used to support research trips begun before the Bursary Committee has announced the outcome of the competition.

Applications for Type A and Type B Bursaries will not normally be entertained from candidates who have previously been successful in that competition.

In the case of both competitions, A and B, winners are expected to make a short-term visit to a country where they identify an outstanding holding, collection, or other type of material relevant to their research. Conference participation is *not* supported by these bursaries; award winners may extend their visit at their own expense to attend a conference in the country concerned, but no part of the conference expenses will be covered by the bursary. Bursaries must be utilized and the study trips completed by the application deadline for next year's bursaries, i.e. 1 March 2017.

After completing the research trip, winners will be asked to send a financial report to the Treasurer of ESSE and a report about their results to both the Treasurer and the Chair of the Selection Committee. This latter report may be published in ESSE Messenger.

Applicants for the first type of bursary are required to be members of their national associations affiliated to ESSE, except for those whose associations do not consider PhD students eligible as members; in this case, their supervisors or the department to which they are affiliated must be ESSE members. Applicants for the second type of bursaries must be registered members of their national associations affiliated to ESSE.

The deadline for applications for both types of Bursaries is 1 March 2016.

Notification to the applicants will be sent (electronically) by 15 April 2016. Applicants should send electronically to all three members of the Selection Committee:

- the completed application form (see [below](#)) with sections on personal information, a list of the applicant's most important publications, a research plan, and a provisional budget proposal;
- a scanned or electronically generated letter issued by the president or the secretary of the appropriate national organization to certify the membership of the applicant (or his/her supervisor in Germany and the UK);
- for Type A bursaries, a letter of recommendation, sent directly via email to all three members of the Selection Committee by the supervisor of the PhD candidate.

Selection Committee:

Prof. Andreas H. Jucker (Chair): ahjucker@es.uzh.ch

Prof. Attila Kiss: akiss@lit.u-szeged.hu

Prof. Alison Waller: a.waller@roehampton.ac.uk

APPLICATION FORM

ESSE Bursaries, Type A and B, for 2016

Application deadline: 1 March 2016. Notification about decision: 15 April 2016. Bursaries to be utilized by: **1 March 2017.**

I. PERSONAL SECTION

Name of applicant; title of research project; brief summary of research project (no more than 5 printed lines); affiliation and position (for type a indicate your Phd program, for type b your university and department);

Best email address and telephone number (the latter in case of emergency);

MA degree (year and major/s);

PhD degree (for type b only; year, university and topic);

Other degrees (if applicable);

Most important scholarships:

II. PUBLICATIONS (The list below applies only to Type B applications. For the pre-doctoral Type A application simply list your publications if you have any, or disregard this section. Please provide translations into English of any titles and other details in languages other than English.)

A/ Books authored by applicant

B/ Books edited by applicant

C/ Five most important articles in peer-reviewed journals

D/ Five most important papers in collections or conference proceedings

III. THE RESEARCH PROJECT (no longer than 2 printed pages!)

A/ Research question, general description of the topic

B/ The projected research activities during the bursary period

C/ Expected results

IV. BUDGET PROPOSAL. Please see the [guidelines](#) page. Please remember, that, while the €1,500 is the maximum award, smaller requests are welcome! Conference participation expenses are not eligible for coverage by ESSE bursaries.

A/ Travel expenses

B/ Accommodation

C/ Everyday expenses (€25 per day)

D/ Miscellaneous costs, including any *book purchases* (though please check the guidelines before applying for money to cover book purchases)

E/ TOTAL OF EXPENSES

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR THE ESSE POSITIONS OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

The Nominations Committee of the ESSE Board seeks applications for the positions of **Secretary** and **Treasurer**, which falls vacant in January 2017. The usual term of office is three years. Candidates, who should preferably have been involved in ESSE affairs or have had similar positions in their national associations, should submit, as e-mail attachments:

- a letter of application
- a short (2–3 page) CV
- letters of support from two national associations.

Each national association can also nominate candidates for any of these two positions (only one candidate for each position). In this case, national associations will submit, as e-mail attachments:

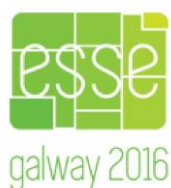
- a letter, signed by the association's President, describing the candidate's competence for the specific office
- a short (2–3 page) CV of candidate(s) proposed
- a letter, signed by another association's President, seconding this proposal
- a letter in which the candidate will express his/her agreement with the candidacy.

Applications and nominations must be submitted electronically, **by 1 June 2016 at the latest**, to the members of the Nominations Committee:

- Wolfgang Görtschacher (Chair): Wolfgang.Goertschacher@sbg.ac.at
- Jana Chamonikolasová: chamonik@phil.muni.cz
- Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou: katkit@enl.auth.gr

From the applications and nominations received, the Committee will select the best candidates (maximum of three for each office). The two officers will be chosen by vote at the ESSE Board meeting in Galway, 21–22 August 2016.

ESSE 13, GALWAY, IRELAND



**OÉ Gaillimh
NUI Galway**

13th ESSE CONFERENCE, GALWAY 2016

The School of Humanities, NUI Galway, looks forward to welcoming you to the 13th ESSE CONFERENCE in Galway, Ireland, **22 August – 26 August 2016**.

DEADLINES

For abstracts of individual papers at seminar sessions and PhD students' sessions and posters: **28 February 2016**.

Confirmation of acceptance of abstracts by seminar convenors and PhD session convenors: **31 March 2016**.

Registration will begin on **1 November 2015**.

Applications for fee waivers (ESSE members only): **from 15 April - 30 April 2016**. Please consult the conference website www.esse2016.org for guidelines on submitting supporting documents.

Early registration: **1 November 2015 - 31 May 2016**.

Late registration: **1 June 2016 – 22 August 2016**.

REGISTRATION

Please note that registration will open on **1 November 2015**, 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, early registration by 31 May 2016	€170
ESSE member, late registration on and after 1 June 2016	€205
Non-ESSE members, early registration by 31 May 2016	€200
Non-ESSE members, late registration on and after 1 June 2016	€230
Accompanying person	€ 55
Postgraduate Students (please send a letter from your supervisor confirming your status)	€75

INSURANCE

Please note that neither NUI Galway, nor ESSE will pay for, or accept liability for, travel, accommodation, living or other expenses incurred by lecturers, convenors, co-convenors, or those invited to participate in round tables, seminars, PhD sessions or posters, unless previously agreed in writing. All conference participants should be aware that neither NUI Galway nor ESSE have or will accept any liability whatsoever for any damage or injury to visitors or their property, or to the university or its property, or to any other party, however such damage or injury may be caused. Delegates are expected to be fully insured by their own institutions or through their personal insurance for personal health, accident/property coverage (also against claims made by third parties) during their participation in the Conference.

TRAVEL

Participants may fly to Dublin Airport, Shannon Airport, Knock (Ireland West) Airport or Cork Airport and then transfer to Galway. Coaches or buses depart from the airports to Galway city centre. Dublin Airport has the most frequent links and a journey on an express coach takes 2 hours and 30 minutes.

General questions about the ESSE 2016 conference in Galway should be sent by email to info@esse2016.org

GALWAY CITY

Galway City is a thriving yet intimate city on the western coast of Ireland. Along with being a popular seaside destination with beautiful beaches, it also has a buzzing cosmopolitan city centre. The city is a joy to explore with its labyrinthine cobbled streets, colourful shop facades and busy café/bar culture. Galway is also well known for its many festivals throughout the year. It is the gateway to Connemara and the Aran Islands, locations made famous in film and literature for their astonishing natural beauty.

WELCOME TO NUI GALWAY

NUI Galway is one of Ireland's oldest universities and is located at the heart of Galway city. A visit to Galway will allow you to travel to sites associated with Ireland's major writers, from W.B. Yeats to James Joyce and beyond.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Please note that each conference participant may convene or co-convene one or more round table(s), seminar(s), and doctoral session(s). However, each conference participant may only present ONE PAPER during the conference - one lecture or one round table paper or one seminar paper or one poster, whether in the round table / seminar session that s/he convenes or in a different one. Postgraduate students selected for Doctoral Sessions may in addition present one other paper in a regular seminar.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Details of plenary speakers will appear on the conference website once confirmed.

SUB-PLENARY SPEAKERS

There will be 17 sub-plenary speakers (in parallel sessions with three or four lectures going on simultaneously). Abstracts of their lectures are posted on the conference website.

- 1. María Jesús Lorenzo Modia**, Universidade da Coruña, mlorenzomodia@udc.es
“National Identities in Nineteenth-century Women’s Writings: Mary Brunton and Lady Morgan”
- 2. Michaela Mudure**, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania, mmudure@yahoo.com
“Gendering Blackness-es: The African American and the Roma Women”
- 3. Frederik Van Dam**, KULeuven, FWO, Frederick.vandam@arts.kuleuven.be
“Songs without Sunrise: Irish Literature and the Risorgimento in the Victorian Age”
- 4. Gaëtanelle Gilquin**, FNRS – UCL, Belgium, gaetanelle.gilquin@uclouvain.be
“A corpus-based comparative and integrated approach to non-native Englishes”
- 5. Michel Van der Yeught**, Aix-Marseille University, France, michel.vanderyeught@univ-amu.fr
“Developing English for Specific Purposes (ESP) in Europe: mainstream approaches and complementary advances”
- 6. Adam Nádasdy**, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, nadasdy.adam@btk.elte.hu
“Phonetic Transcription: Curse or Blessing?”
- 7. Géza Kállay**, Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest, Hungary, kallay.geza@btk.elte.hu
“Is There a Metaphysical Turn in Shakespeare Studies?”
- 8. Madeleine Danova**, Sofia University, Bulgaria, madlen.danova@uni-sofia.bg
“Genre-Bending: The Postmodern Biofiction and After”
- 9. Ondřej Pilný**, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, ondrej.pilny@volny.cz
“The Grotesque: Soliciting Audience Engagement in Contemporary Drama in English”
- 10. Anna Walczuk**, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland, anna.walczuk@uj.edu.pl
“That Amazing Art of Words: the World, Time and Eternity in the Poetry of T.S. Eliot and Elizabeth Jennings”
- 11. Susan Bruce**, Keele University, UK, s.e.bruce@keele.ac.uk
“Articulating Public Goods: TV Drama, Public Institutions and the Value(s) of Humanities critique”
- 12. Diego Saglia**, Università degli Studi di Parma, Italy, diego.saglia@unipr.it
“Continental Voices in Romantic Poetry: Appropriation, Ventriloquism, and Politics”
- 13. Alessandra Marzola**, University of Bergamo, Italy, Alessandra.marzola@unibg.it
“‘The pity of war’ and its transformations in 20th century British Culture”
- 14. Roberta Facchinetti**, Università di Verona, Italy, Roberta.facchinetti@univr.it
“English in the Media: When news discourse sheds its bark”
- 15. Päivi Pahta**, University of Tampere, Finland, paivi.pahta@uta.fi
“Multilingual Practices in Written Discourse: A Diachronic View of Global and Local Languages in Contact”
- 16. Hugo Keiper**, University of Graz, Austria, hugo.keiper@uni-graz.at
“Of Hooks, Earworms, and Other Fishing Tackle. Observations on the Structure, Impact, and Reading of Pop/Rock Songs”
- 17. Marie-Louise Coolahan**, NUI Galway, Ireland, marielouise.coolahan@nuigalway.ie
“Circles, Triangles and Networks: The Transmission and Impact of Women’s Writing, 1550-1700”

ROUND TABLES

The list of speakers for each round table has already been proposed by its convenor(s). 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 encouraging audience participation. Abstracts of the round tables are posted on the conference website.

RT1 “Literary Journalism and Immigration: A Stranger in a Strange Land”

Co-convenors: John S. Bak, Université de Lorraine, France, john.bak@univ-lorraine.fr
David Abrahamson, Northwestern University, IL U.S.A., d-abrahamson@northwestern.edu

RT2 “Re-defining the Contemporary in Anglo-American Fiction”

Convenor: Ana-Karina Schneider, University of Sibiu, Romania, karina.schneider@ulbsibiu.ro

RT3 “Narrative Strategies in the Reconstruction of History in the Work of Contemporary British Women Novelists”

Convenor: Ana Raquel Fernandes, University of Lisbon, Portugal, a_raquel_fernandes@yahoo.com

RT4 “Stories of Their Own: Gender and the Contemporary Short Story in English”

Co-convenors: Jorge Sacido-Romero, U Santiago de Compostela, Spain, jorge.sacido@usc.es
Michelle Ryan-Sautour, Université d’Angers, France, michelle.ryan-sautour@univ-angers.fr

RT5 “Competition out of the ordinary: Roundtable on “top research” in English Studies”

Co-convenors: Janne Korkka, University of Turku, Finland, jkorkka@utu.fi
Elina Valovirta, University of Turku, Finland, elmava@utu.fi

RT6 “The Spatial Turn”: What is Literary Geography Now?”

Co-convenors: Eleonora Rao (Università di Salerno) erao@unisa.it
David Cooper (Manchester Metropolitan University) d.cooper@mmu.ac.uk

RT7 “Romantic-Era Labouring-Class Poetry: New Critical Directions”

Convenor: Franca Dellarosa, Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro, franca.dellarosa@uniba.it

RT8 “The Impact of Oscar Wilde on the Cultures of Our Times.”

Co-convenors: David Charles Rose, Independent scholar, France, oscholars@gmail.com
Yvonne Ivory, University of South Carolina, USA, yivory@sc.edu
Maho Hidaka, Kyoto Women’s University, Japan, mavoile7@gmail.com

RT9 “Uses of literary texts and cultural studies to expand EAP practice: breaking new ground”

Convenor: Ann Gulden, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway, AnnTorday.Gulden@hioa.no

RT10 “Richard Hakluyt’s The Principal Navigations...of the English Nation (1598–1600): Historical and Geo-Political Contexts.”

Co-convenors: Daniel Carey, Moore Institute for the Humanities, National University of Ireland, Galway, daniel.carey@nuigalway.ie
Claire Jowitt, University of Southampton, United Kingdom, c.jowitt@soton.ac.uk

RT11 “Creating a European Anglicists’ Gender Studies Network”

Co-convenors: Renate Haas, University of Kiel, Germany, haas@anglistik.uni-kiel.de
İşil Baş, Boğaziçi University of Istanbul, Turkey, isil@boun.edu.tr
María Socorro Suárez Lafuente, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain, lafuente@uniovi.es

POSTER SESSIONS

Another feature of the 13th ESSE conference will be the poster sessions. A poster is a short, concise, highly accessible description of new, unpublished research mounted on a 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 120 cm in width x 150 cm in height. Posters may address topics specifically connected to the conference seminars, round tables, and lectures, or any other specialised topic in the field of English Studies. 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). Note that posters will not be displayed if the presenter does not attend the conference. Proposals should be sent directly to the Academic Programme Committee at esseabstracts2016@gmail.com by **28 February 2016**.

DOCTORAL SESSIONS

Young scholars who are writing their PhD theses in English Studies and are at least in the second year of their studies at the time of ESSE Conference in Galway are invited to make a brief presentation of their work-in-progress in one of the three doctoral sessions: English Language, Literatures in English, and Cultural and Area Studies. These presentations should deal with the issues addressed or hypotheses tested in the thesis, the results so far obtained, and above all the methodology applied, with the purpose of gaining feedback from peers and established scholars in the field. Each presentation will last 10 minutes, followed by 15 minutes' discussion. Each workshop will be coordinated by two international experts, who will act as co-convenors and will make a selection from the applications received. Note that PhD students attending the doctoral sessions may attend the full ESSE Conference at a reduced fee. Presentation in a doctoral session is not incompatible with participating and presenting a paper in one of the seminars.

Applications should be sent, no later than **28 February 2016**, to the overall organiser of the doctoral sessions, Professor J. Lachlan Mackenzie (VU University Amsterdam, NL and ILTEC, PT) at lachlan_mackenzie@hotmail.com. Note that each PhD student can submit an application to only one doctoral session. Applications must include a letter from the student's PhD supervisor giving the (working) title of the dissertation and confirming that the student is working under his/her supervision and has completed at least his/her first year of PhD studies. The application should also include a summary of the project (of no more than 300 words), indicating:

- 1) The main topic and issues, including the thesis proposed/hypothesis defended
- 2) The methodology (theoretical tools and standpoints)
- 3) Where relevant, the corpus under consideration
- 4) The results so far obtained.

SEMINARS

Seminar topics have been agreed, and presenters in the seminars are now sought. Seminar presentations may be of maximum 15 minutes. Those wishing to present are invited to submit 200-word abstracts of their proposed presentations directly to all the convenors of the seminar in question before **28 February 2016**. The convenors will let all those submitting proposals know whether their proposals have been accepted by **31 March 2016**.

S1 "Pragmatic strategies in non-native Englishes"

Co-convenors: Lieven Buysse, KU Leuven University of Leuven, Belgium,
<lieven.buysse@kuleuven.be> ;

Jesús Romero-Trillo, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain, <jesus.romero@uam.es>

Research on non-native speech has long been dominated by an emphasis on lexical and grammatical patterns. At the same time the various types of non-native varieties of English have often been treated from these perspectives too. To broaden the scope this seminar wishes to explore the variety of discourse pragmatic strategies employed in non-native Englishes, encompassing second language (ESL), learner (EFL) and lingua franca varieties of English (ELF). Papers can focus on any pragmatic feature that helps to shape discourse and/or facilitates interaction (e.g. pragmatic markers, politeness phenomena, prosody). The presented research must be based on corpus-based data.

S2 "Negation and negatives: a cross-linguistic and cross-cultural perspective"

Co-convenors: Irena Zovko Dinković, University of Zagreb, Croatia, <izovko@ffzg.hr>
Gašper Ilc, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, <gasper.ilc@ff.uni-lj.si>

The interest in negation as a universal feature of human language has always instigated much linguistic and linguistic-related research. The purpose of the present seminar is thus to present various viewpoints on negation and negatives in English from a cross-linguistic and cross-cultural perspective. Special focus will be laid on new theoretical perspectives and latest developments in the domain of negation, including the functional, lexical, and discursive nature of negation, formal

approaches to negation, negation in view of the contrastive linguistic method, diachronic vs. synchronic analysis of negation, and pragmatic as well as sociolinguistic aspects of negation.

S3 “Cross-linguistic and Cross-cultural Approaches to Phraseology”

Co-convenors: Zoia Adamia, Ekvtime Takaishvili Teaching University, Rustavi, Georgia, <a.zoia777@gmail.com>;

Tatiana Fedulenkova, Vladimir State University, Russia, <fedulenkova@list.ru>

The seminar will focus on new theoretical perspectives and the latest developments in phraseology, including stylistic investigations, 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 phraseologisms also present great interest, both to native and L2 students. Participants are encouraged to present their observations and theoretical conclusions on the basis of systematic studies of empirical material. Discussions of paradigmatic relations of English phraseologisms (synonymical, antonymical, hypero-hyponymical, etc.) in the system of the language, as well as a cross-linguistic approach, are welcome.

S4 “New advances in the study of the information structure of discourse”

Co-convenors: Libuše Dušková, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, <libuse.duskova@ff.cuni.cz> ; Jana Chamonikolasová, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic,

<chamonik@phil.muni.cz> ; Renáta Gregová, P. J. Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia, <renata.gregova@upjs.sk>

This seminar presents current advances in the different approaches to and applications of the theory of information structure. The focus is on the multifarious aspects of information structure arising from its close relationship to other linguistic disciplines. The papers address the informational aspect of discourse from the viewpoint of context, the theme-rheme / topic-focus structure of the sentence, the structure of larger textual units and the role of intonation, especially in spoken discourse. The analyses are based on the material of written and spoken texts and parallel bi-lingual or multilingual corpora.

S5 “The influence of English on word-formation structures in the languages of Europe and beyond”

Co-convenors: Alexandra Bagasheva, University of Sofia, Bulgaria, <a.bagasheva@uni-sofia.bg>

Jesús Fernández-Domínguez, University of Valencia, Spain, <jesusferdom@gmail.com>

Vincent Renner, University of Lyon, France, <vincent.renner@univ-lyon2.fr>

Virtually all European languages have been affected by the ever-increasing global dominance of English over the last decades. Contact-induced borrowing has been amply described at the lexical level and, even if this has been less often noted, it also often extends to word-formation structures. We invite submissions on any topic related to incipient morphological borrowing and/or changes in productivity of specific processes (e.g. clipping, blending, conversion) or patterns (e.g. semantic right-headedness in compounding) in order to shed new light on both the singularities and commonalities of this wide-ranging phenomenon in the languages of Europe and beyond. Papers on contrastive or methodological issues will be especially welcome.

S6 “Multimodal Perspectives on English Language Teaching”

Co-convenors: Belinda Crawford, Camiciottoli, Università di Pisa, Italy, <belinda.crawford@unipi.it> ; Mari Carmen Campoy-Cubillo, Universitat Jaume I, Spain, <campoy@uji.es>

Multimodal literacy involves the ability to construct meanings from texts that integrate different semiotic resources. In language teaching, the multimodal approach is particularly important to help students learn to exploit modes beyond verbal language (e.g., visual, gestural, spatial) to both understand and produce texts in the target language more effectively. This seminar aims to provide a forum to discuss the role of multimodality in English language teaching. Possible topics for development include: communication processes between teachers and learners that are mediated through multimodal methods and materials, frameworks for teaching multimodal competence, assessment of learning based on multimodal input, assessment of student performance in multimodal tasks and attitudes towards teaching/learning non-verbal communication in the English language classroom.

S7 “Multimodal metaphor and metonymy: creative and ideological socio-cultural practices in English discourse”

Co-convenors:

Laura Hidalgo Downing, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain, <laura.hidalgo@uam.es>
Coral Calvo Maturana, Coventry University, UK, <coralcm@ugr.es>; <ab8578@coventry.ac.uk>

This seminar offers a space for debate on the role of multimodal metaphor and metonymy as creative and ideological socio-cultural practices. The main objective is to explore the processes which enable complex meaning creation in multimodal discourses and the implications this has for the practice of multimodality as a form of creativity and ideological manifestations. By multimodal metaphor and metonymy we understand metaphoric-metonymic constructs and processes in which either the target and/or the source domains are expressed in more than one mode (verbal, visual, acoustic, gestural, movement, perceptual).

S8 “Change from above in the history of English”

Co-convenors: Nikolaos Lavidas, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, <navidas@enl.auth.gr>; Jim Walker, Université Lumière Lyon 2, France, <Jim.Walker@univ-lyon2.fr>

The seminar explores cases of “change from above” in the history of English. Change from above refers to the consciousness dimension of linguistic change, to changes that come from above the level of a speaker’s conscious awareness. It concerns cases of borrowings from languages which the dominant classes consider prestigious, or conscious selection, such as the retention and the re-introduction of affirmative *do* in seventeenth century documents. The seminar will discuss, among other issues, the (re)introduction of elements by the dominant social class in various stages of the history of English, their correlation with changes in other features, their (non)integration into the vernacular system and the question of the coexistent systems.

S9 “Social identities in public texts”

Co-convenors: Minna Nevala, University of Helsinki, Finland, <minna.nevala@helsinki.fi>
Matylda Włodarczyk, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland, <wmatylda@wa.amu.edu.pl>

This seminar aims at discussing ways in which public texts, both historical and modern, encoded the social identities of people in their various interlocutive roles. Social identity is understood as an individual’s self-concept derived from perceived membership in a social group. In language use, social identity construction can be traced through linguistic indicators, such as stance, person reference, modality, and others. Public texts, such as newspapers, instructional texts, prose and drama, can show people’s social selves on different levels of intergroup behaviour. The main interest lies on how writers of these texts place themselves and the people they are either writing about or for within different social categories.

S10 “Comparative and Typological Studies of English Idioms”

Co-convenors: Anahit Hovhannisyán, Gyumri State Pedagogical Institute, Gyumri, Armenia, <a_hovhannisyán@mail.ru>

Natalia Potselueva, Pavlodar State University, Republic of Kazakhstan, <nata_potz@inbox.ru>

The seminar will discuss common and specific features of idioms in different languages as compared to English idioms: a) common and specific features in the structure of idioms compared: in the lexical and functional character of their components, in the grammatical composition of the idioms (e.g.: Verb + Adj + Noun), in the dependence of components within idioms, b) common and specific features in the meanings of the idioms compared, in mechanisms of semantic transformation of their prototype: metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, c) common and specific features in the origin of idioms compared, in their functional and pragmatic value. Other adjacent themes are also welcome.

S11 “English Phraseology and Business Terminology: the Points of Crossing”

Co-convenors: Victoria Ivashchenko, The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine/The Institute of the Ukrainian Language, Kiev, Ukraine, <viciivashchenko@ukr.net>

Tatiana Fedulenkova, Vladimir State University, Russia, <fedulenkova@list.ru>

We often come across such phraseological units (PUs) like “fallen angels”, “blanket agreement”, “sleeping beauty”, “green shoe” which appear to function as units of business terminology. Papers

on business terminology of idiomatic character are welcome. Items for discussion: a) structural, semantic and contextual approaches to business PU-terms; b) types, classifications, and LSP applications of terms of idiomatic character; c) metaphor and metonymy as basic mechanisms of meaning transformation of the PU prototypical word combination; d) characteristics of dictionary entries and definitions of PU-terms and their pragmatic value; e) traditions and innovations in teaching business phraseology at universities.

S12 “Research Publication Practices: Challenges for Scholars in a Globalised World”

Co-convenors: Pilar Mur-Dueñas, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain, <pmur@unizar.es>
Jolanta Šinkūnienė, Vilnius University, Lithuania, <jolanta.sinkuniene@flf.vu.lt>

Research evaluation systems in many disciplinary and cultural communities increasingly compel scholars to publish in high impact English-medium journals. The aim of the seminar is to gain new insights into research publication practices of scholars who use English as an international lingua franca. We invite contributions on the impact of English as “the universal language of science” (Testa 2012) focusing on textual, discursive and rhetorical features of research publication genres, as well as the role of language professionals, mediators or “literacy brokers” (Lillis & Curry 2010) in research publication processes. Implications of research policies on (inter)national academic publishing practices are also welcome.

S13 “ESP and specialist domains: exclusive, inclusive or complementary approaches?”

Co-convenors: Shaeda Isani, Université Stendhal, Grenoble 3, France, <shaeda.isani@u-grenoble3.fr>; Michel Van der Yeught, Aix-Marseille University, France, <michel.vanderyeught@univ-amu.fr>; Miguel Angel Campos Pardillos, University of Alicante, Spain, <ma.campos@ua.es>; Marcin Laczek, University of Warsaw, Poland, <m.laczek@uw.edu.pl>

Relationships between English for Specific Purposes (ESP) and specialist domains seem to be taken for granted and yet remain complex to apprehend and difficult to implement. English for medical, legal or economic purposes naturally stems from the specialized domains of medicine, law and economics. Yet, when it comes to teaching and research, ESP practitioners face the conflicting requirements of language and domain-specific expertise. One line of thinking insists that ESP actors are primarily language teachers and that they should not step on specialist turf. Conversely, other views advocate varying degrees of competence in specialized knowledge for successful ESP teaching. The seminar invites insights into the different facets of this debate. Presentations will examine the issue of the relevance of specialized knowledge in ESP teaching and research by focusing on specific varieties of specialized English or by adopting more general views. All theoretical suggestions likely to clarify the links between English and specialist domains will also be welcome.

S14 “Teaching Practices in ESP Today”

Co-convenors: Cédric Sarré, ESPE Paris, France, <cedric.sarre@espe-paris.fr>; Shona Whyte, University of Nice, France, <whyte@unice.fr>; Danica Milosevic, College of Applied Technical Sciences, Nis, Serbia, <danicamil@yahoo.com>; Alessandra Molino, University of Turin, Italy, <alessandra.molino@unito.it>

For over thirty years, English for Specific Purposes (ESP) has been defined by various authors as a learning-centred approach to language teaching where the goal of the learners is to use English in a particular domain. Yet, ESP teaching practices remain extremely varied depending on practitioners, institutions and countries. This seminar focuses on today’s diversity of ESP teaching and learning in Europe and further afield. However, beyond the richness of pedagogical varieties, it also raises the question of the theoretical foundations of ESP practices and, as such, welcomes papers on all aspects and issues of ESP didactics.

S15 “English as a Foreign Language for Students with Special Educational Needs – Chances and Challenges”

Co-convenors: Ewa Domagała-Zyśk, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, <ewadom@kul.pl>; Nusha Moritz, University of Strasbourg, France, <Moritz@unistra.fr>

This seminar is designed as a space for discussions and sharing for linguists interested in teaching English as a foreign language (EFL) to children, adolescents and adults with special educational needs (SEN). For many years in the past D/deaf, blind, intellectually challenged or dyslexic students were excluded from learning foreign languages in special schools. Today they participate in mainstream education on a par with their peers. This situation creates both significant chances and new scientific problems and methodological challenges. The purpose of the seminar is to share research results and ideas about the following issues: 1). Conceptual representations for words in English in individuals with sensory or cognitive challenges; 2. Teaching and learning strategies to enhance both motivation and language performance; 3. The role of oral communication and sign languages in EFL classes for the D/deaf.

S16 “The Discursive Representation of Globalised Organised Crime: Crossing Borders of Languages and Cultures”

Co-convenors: Giuditta Caliendo, University Lille 3, France, <gcaliend@unina.it>;
Giuseppe Balirano, University of Naples L’Orientale, Italy, <gbalirano@unior.it>
Paul Sambre, University of Leuven, Belgium, <Paul.Sambre@kuleuven.be>

Criminal syndicates, by expanding activities across the borders of a globalised world, export their unlawful models abroad. Although raising awareness about world-wide criminal phenomena is a major issue in the fight against crime, little attention has been devoted to how crime syndicates are discursively construed in English. The seminar aims at investigating the discursive representation of organised crime in linguistics, multimodal (critical) discourse studies, and political discourse. The empirical goal is to provide insights on different multimodal productions and/or genres which seem to facilitate the relocation of ‘foreign’ criminal organisations (such as the mafias) in globalised contexts of English.

S17 “Contact, Identity and Morphosyntactic Variation in Diasporic Communities of Practice”

Co-convenors: Siria Guzzo, University of Salerno, Italy, <sguzzo@unisa.it>
Chryso Hadjidemetriou, University of Stockholm, Sweden, <chrysohadi@mac.com>

This seminar aims to look at issues of language maintenance and shift in heritage communities of practice. Specific attention will be paid to discussing their longstanding migration, cultural heritage and identity construction. Mobility, contact and exchanges are increasing, social and communicative networks are becoming more complex, and the sociolinguistics of diaspora is beginning to address new issues. Diasporic communities are constantly increasing in size and number in the urban centres, making them sites of diversity. What happens to single heritage languages as they are relocated into new settings, creating new dialect contact situations? Papers resulting from ethnographic fieldwork and observation with a focus on language use, morphosyntactic variation and heritage identity are of particular interest.

S18 “Plagiarism in Academia vis-à-vis Ethical Aspects and Common Practices”

Co-convenors: Klaus P. Schneider, University of Bonn, Germany, <k.schneider@uni-bonn.de>
Irena Vassileva, New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria, <vassileva.irena@gmail.com>

This seminar will examine the relatively under-researched but ever more common practice of plagiarism by academics. From a theoretical perspective, it will focus on the evaluation of current definitions of plagiarism in terms of their variation, relevance in the digital age, ethical and legal aspects. Central to the discussion will be the delineation of the types of text plagiarism and the elicitation of plagiarism techniques such as direct plagiarism, mosaic plagiarism, paraphrase plagiarism, plagiarism of ideas, among others. Various methods for identifying text plagiarism will be examined, and ways of measuring semantic and structural similarity will be proposed. Special attention will be paid to the phenomenon of translated plagiarism, whose linguistic analysis can help to develop a methodology for recognition of cross-language plagiarism.

S19 “The Fast and the Furious: The Amazing Textual Adventures of Miniscripts”

Co-convenors: Francesca Saggini Boyle, University of Tuscia/University of Glasgow, <fsaggini@unitus.it>; Anna Enrichetta Soccio, University of Chieti, Italy, <esoccio@unich.it>

From the standpoint of complementary linguistic, literary and cultural studies, this panel will examine all forms of micro-textuality. The diversity of past and present-day microtextuality includes textual sermons, graffiti, flash fictions, media texts (hashtags, blogs, twitter size fictions), literary ephemera (greeting cards, postcards and trade cards), extreme bowdlerizations, essential compendia to be read in one sitting, one-act plays, aphorism, epigrams, funerary inscriptions, captions. This panel argues for a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of the concepts of ‘mini-text’, ‘mini-narratives’ and ‘textual snapshots’, the metaphorical ‘small print’ that has traditionally been relegated to peripheral or spectralised narratives.

S20 “A Poetics of Exile in Poetry and Translation”

Co-convenors: Sara Greaves, Aix-Marseille University, France, <sara.greaves@univ-amu.fr >
Stephanos Stephanides, University of Cyprus, Cyprus, <steve@ucy.ac.cy >

We have read poetry in exile (Ovid or Victor Hugo, for instance) and poetry as exile (Janet Frame). Today’s mobile world – decolonized and sometimes recolonized, fractured by war or natural disasters – brings about situations of exile that are physical but also linguistic, and which affect literary practices such as poetry and translation. Hybridity, in-betweenness and transculture are among the salient characteristics, and poets’ and translators’ strategies may register public and/or private exilic historicities. This seminar will seek to explore and define a poetics of exile in contemporary English-language poetry and poetry in translation.

S21 “Shakespearean Romantic Comedies: Translations, Adaptations, Tradaptations”

Co-convenors: Márta Minier, University of South Wales, UK, <marta.minier@southwales.ac.uk>
Maddalena Pennacchia, Roma Tre University, Italy, <maddalena.pennacchia@uniroma3.it>
Iolanda Plescia ‘Sapienza’ University of Rome, Italy, <iolanda.plescia@gmail.com>

Written in a mature phase of Shakespeare’s career, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night* represent the quintessence of “romantic comedy”, a successful genre that since Shakespeare’s time has unfailingly met the tastes of audiences all around the world. The seminar aims to explore the language of Shakespearean comedy in this specific sub-corpus and the particular challenges it poses not only in translation from language to language (interlingual translations), but also in transfer to modern audiences within the same language (intralingual translations) and from one medium to another (intersemiotic translations) in the English-speaking world and beyond. Specific takes on textual hybrids - tradaptations - are among the topics of the seminar.

S22 “Anachronism and the Medieval”

Co-convenors: Lindsay Reid, NUI Galway, Ireland, <lindsay.reid@nuigalway.ie>; Yuri Cowan, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, <yuri.cowan@ntnu.no>

This seminar focuses on anachronism, broadly defined, and its relation to the medieval period. Often understood negatively as a computational fault or disruptive error, anachronism is closely related to archaism, presentism, and para-/pro-chronism, as well as to the notion of the preposterous (in its literal Latin sense of “before-behind”). Contributors to this seminar might reflect on broad issues of temporality or on particular instances of anachronism—intentional or unintentional—in relation to medieval literary exemplars, but equally welcomed are contributions that explore anachronicity in conjunction with later (Renaissance to contemporary) engagements with the medieval past and its textual traditions.

S23 “The (in)human self across early modern genres: Textual strategies 1550-1700”

Co-convenors: Jean-Jacques Chardin, Université de Strasbourg, France, <chardin@unistra.fr>
Anna Maria Cimitile, Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale", Italy, <amcimitile@unior.it>
Laurent Currelly, Université de Haute-Alsace, France, <laurent.currelly@uha.fr>

Recent studies on early modern constructions and representations of the self, the body and the human suggest a reappraisal of the notion of selfhood in terms of an unbounded – for example with respect to animals, or the in-human space of technology – and vulnerable form. This seminar will examine how we are to reconsider the early modern envisionings of the human in its imbrications with the inhuman (the elemental, the animal, technology), how we are to read the

textual assertions and dissolutions of the early modern self, and how we shape our critical appraisal and reinventions.

S24 “Renegade Women in Drama, Fiction and Travel Writing: 16th Century- 19th Century”

Co-convenors: Ludmilla Kostova, University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria, <ludmillak3@gmail.com>; Efterpi Mitsi, University of Athens, Greece, <emitsi@enl.uoa.gr>

Taking our cue from Eric R. Dursteler (2011), we define renegade women not only as religious converts but as transgressors of boundaries of any sort. Significant representations of such women are to be found in a variety of dramatic and fictional genres as well as in travel writing. The seminar invites papers exploring this exceptional variety in texts produced over a lengthy period of time, stretching from the Renaissance to the end of the 19th century. Topics include, but are not limited to: border crossing(s), female autonomy, gender and transgression, gendered conversions, “passing”, forms of antagonism and complicity, “connectedness” vs religious/political divides, cultural/literary histories of renegade women.

S25 “Picturing on the Page and the Stage in Renaissance England”

Co-convenors: Camilla Caporicci, University of Perugia, Italy/LMU, Germany, <camilla.caporicci@gmail.com>; Armelle Sabatier, University of Paris II, France, <arm.saba@free.fr>

This seminar aims to explore new perspectives on the complex nexus between visual arts and literature in Tudor and Stuart England, with particular reference to the art of portraiture. The act of “creating portraits” in 16th and 17th century literature ranges from representations of a diversity of images, such as miniatures, large-scale portraits, or even statues, to the eloquence of verbal picturing in emphasis. Beyond the religious controversy surrounding icons at that time, and the influence of aesthetic and literary paradigms (for example Petrarchism or Mannerism), pictures could also be interpreted as mental images created by the “mind’s eye”.

S26 “Icons Dynamised: Motion and Motionlessness in Early Modern English Drama and Culture”

Co-convenors: Géza Kállay, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, <kallay@ucsc.edu>
Attila Kiss, University of Szeged, Hungary, <kiss_a_m@yahoo.com>
Zenón Luis Martínez, University of Huelva, Spain, <zenon.luis@dfing.uhu.es>

An example of English Renaissance contrariety is the simultaneous presence of motion and motionlessness in cultural representations. The heritage of icons of contemplation and their dynamised theatrical versions, the dramatic adaptations of the tradition of the tableaux vivant, the frozen figures of early modern drama on the stage of the emblematic theatre, the systematically prolonged moments of horrible deaths, the tensions and antagonisms of body and soul, fixation and ascension, passage and stagnation are all examples of an early modern obsession with motion and motionlessness. Contributions are welcome to this seminar from all interpretive angles including early modern cultural studies, Biblical hermeneutics, cultural semiotics, and image-text studies.

S27 “English Printed Books, Manuscripts and Material Studies”

Co-convenors: Carlo Bajetta, Università della Valle d’Aosta, Italy, <carlo.bajetta@univda.it >
Guillaume Coatalen, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, France, <guillaumecoatalen@hotmail.com>

This seminar’s focus is on the physicality of English printed books and manuscripts, whether they be strictly literary or not. We are particularly interested in how particular editions and manuscripts shape the text’s interpretation and reading practices. Research topics include, and are not restricted to, finding rare editions and manuscripts, archival work, book and manuscript collections, printing practices and scribal work, paleography, manuscripts as books, the coexistence of manuscripts and printed books, editing printed books and manuscripts, electronic versus printed editions, editing and digital humanities. Bibliographical and manuscript studies have been on the cutting edge of literary theory and papers on authorship, the constitution of the text or hermeneutics are welcome.

S28 “Romanticism and the Cultures of Infancy”

Co-convenors: Cian Duffy, St. Mary’s University, Twickenham, UK, <cian.duffy@stmarys.ac.uk>
Martina Domines Veliki, University of Zagreb, Croatia, <mdomines@ffzg.hr>

Wordsworth's assertion that "the child is father of the man" is one of the most familiar statements of the Romantic interest in the relationship between childhood experience and adult identity. Indeed it has become something of a commonplace now to assert that the Romantics invented childhood as we understand it. This seminar will investigate the extent to which the wider concept of infancy became a key trope of European thought across a range of different areas of enquiry during the long eighteenth century (1700-1830), from speculation about the age of the cosmos to discussions of the history of civil society.

S29 "The Politics of Sensibility: Private and Public Emotions in 18th Century England"

Co-convenors: Jorge Bastos da Silva, University of Porto, Portugal, <jorgebastosdasilva@gmail.com> ; Dragoş Ivana, University of Bucharest, Romania, <dragos.ivana@lils.unibuc.ro>

Aiming to explore the importance of emotions in 18th Century England, this seminar addresses a wide array of questions related to the relationship between feelings and politics, the bourgeois novel of sentiment, the new cult of sensibility epitomised by the Man of Feeling, moral philosophy, economics, gender relations and aesthetic experience. Special attention will be paid to the process of negotiating public and private emotions with a view to highlighting forms of feeling that have been deemed responsible for the emergence of a politics of sensibility upheld not only by various groups and class identities but also by rhetorical and stylistic strategies meant to represent sensibility as both *forma mentis* and *modus operandi*.

S30 "And when the tale is told": Loss in Narrative British and Irish Fiction from 1760 to 1960"

Co-convenors: Ludmilla Kostova, University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria, <ludmillak3@gmail.com >;

Barbara Puschmann-Nalenz, Ruhr-Universitaet Bochum, Germany, <puschbbc@gmail.com>

This seminar deals with representations of various forms of loss in late 18th to mid-20th century narrative fiction. Loss – not only through death – of individuals, loss of beliefs, of memory, places, values, objects and moments in time often turn out to be a shaking or releasing experience for narrators and characters, causing them to re-shape identity, concept of life and community, or the past. From different theoretical positions such as narratology, psychology or philosophy the topic of loss and its fictional portrayals can be approached to reveal how the absent is represented, recalled by memory and imaginatively re-invented. Discussion topics include, but are not limited to: absence/presence, cultural and religious collective memory, transformation by narrativisation, imagination, identity, self-image.

S31 "Regional and World Literatures: National Roots and Transnational Routes in Scottish Literature and Culture from the 18th Century to Our Age"

Co-convenors: Gioia Angeletti, University of Parma, Italy, <gioia.angeletti@unipr.it>

Bashabi Fraser, Edinburgh Napier University, UK, <b.fraser@napier.ac.uk>

The panel intends to explore the multifaceted ways in which Scottish literature and culture from the eighteenth century onwards have become vehicles and interpreters of an increasingly plural, transcultural, diasporic and liquid world. While preserving regional specificities, through the centuries Scottish literature and culture have looked beyond national boundaries, both impacting on and absorbing elements of English, European or world literatures through migration processes and mutual exchanges. We welcome papers on a broad range of topics.

S32 "The Sublime Rhetoric and the Rhetoric of the Sublime in British Literature since the 18th Century"

Co-convenors: Éva Antal, Eszterhazy Karoly University, Eger, Hungary, <antaleva@ektf.hu>

Kamila Vránková, University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic, <vrankova@pf.jcu.cz>

In the words of J.B. Twitchell, the sublime has always been a complicated and ambiguous category. Nevertheless, a tension between the knowable, familiar world and the constant pressure of the unknown, the incomprehensible and uncontrollable, analysed in Edmund Burke's influential study, remains a significant attribute of the sublime. The view of the sublime as a loss of a meaningful relation between words and the intensity of individual experience of reality (reflected in particular rhetorical devices) permeates aesthetics from Romanticism to postmodern art. The seminar is concerned especially with the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries (the Gothic, Romantic

and Victorian traditions) but also with their influence on modern literature. Aesthetical discussions (Burkean and Wordsworthian, Kantian, poststructuralist) are welcome as well.

S33 “Peripatetic Gothic”

Co-convenors: David Punter, University of Bristol, UK, <david.punter@bristol.ac.uk>
Maria Parrino, University of Venice, Italy, <maparrin@tin.it>

This seminar analyses Gothic itinerant trajectories by going beyond the literature of the English-speaking countries and mapping works written in (or translated from) other European languages. Such an approach aims at problematizing the modern conception of “Europe” in order to acknowledge mutual influences across geographical and historical borders and boundaries. Papers may address topics as diverse as early Gothic cross-currents within Europe; Europe-wide genres such as melodrama and the horror film; specifically modern terrors and fears of the Other. We will specifically invite addresses to national Gothic traditions outside the canon as conventionally conceived.

S34 “The Fiction of Victorian Masculinities and Femininities”

Co-convenors: Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy, <Marino@lettere.uniroma2.it> ; Adrian Radu, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, <adrian.radu@ubbcluj.ro >

This seminar aims at exploring Victorian literature from the perspective of gender, gender roles and representation and to provide an opportunity to discuss the literary output of Victorian male and female writers, the specific depiction of genders, the way writers, works, specific characters include conventional or non-conventional representations of both sexes, but also the way the Victorian public received and accepted them.

S35 “Reading Dickens Differently”

Co-convenors: Leon Litvack, Queen’s University Belfast, UK, <L.Litvack@qub.ac.uk>
Nathalie Vanfasse, Aix-Marseille Université, France, <nathalie.vanfasse@univ-amu.fr>

Many challenges have arisen recently to traditional ways of reading texts. Scholars like Todorov, Compagnon, Jouve, Macherey and Picard have posed poignant questions: What is literature for? Why do we study it? What are the gaps to be filled? How is it a form of game-playing? This seminar seeks to explore how Dickens’s texts may be radically reconceived. Strategies may include digital projects; innovative editions; an exploration of anomalies, and incoherencies, and absences; and the provision of more ‘complete’ texts. Such investigations may offer exciting new possibilities for engagement, redefinition, and liberation, to aid in the rescue mission of a seemingly imperilled form.

S36 “Desire and "the expressive eye" in Thomas Hardy”

Co-convenors: Phillip Mallett, University of St Andrews, UK, <pvm@st-andrews.ac.uk> ; Jane Thomas, University of Hull, UK, <J.E.Thomas@hull.ac.uk> ; Isabelle Gadoin, Université de Poitiers, France, <isabeluis2@free.fr> ; Annie Ramel, Université Lumière-Lyon 2, France, <annie.ramel@gmail.com>

Thomas Hardy has inspired critics with an interest in the visual arts: many of his texts can be read as “iconotexts” with a powerful “painting effect”, even in the absence of any direct reference to painting (Louvel). Desire is another theme which has found its way into major criticism of Hardy’s work - the first item in the series being J. Hillis Miller’s *Distance and Desire* (1970). This seminar will explore the relation between desire and the gaze in Hardy’s work. Is the eye an “expressive eye” (Bullen), which makes manifest the “positive, dynamic and productive dimension of desire” (Thomas), or is it “the evil eye”, “full of voracity” (Lacan)? We will welcome proposals opening new directions in Hardy criticism, linking the desiring subject / the power of the gaze / the writing process.

S37 “The finer threads: lace-making, knitting and embroidering in literature and the visual arts from the Victorian age to the present day.”

Co-convenors: Laurence Roussillon-Constanty, Université Toulouse 3, France, <laurence.constanty@gmail.com> ; Rachel Dickinson, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, <R.Dickinson@mmu.ac.uk>

English studies have recently been expanding in order to accommodate increased awareness of the cultural importance of the “lesser arts” in fashioning narrative discourse but still relatively little interest has been paid to the unique role played by the so-called “feminine” crafts in the construction of literature, knowledge and identity. This session invite papers on the production and the representation of lace-making, knitting and embroidering in literature and the visual arts from scholars of literary studies and material culture as well as art history, text and image studies, or aesthetics.

S38 “Work and its Discontents in Victorian Literature and Culture”

Co-convenors: Federico Bellini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy, <federico.bellini@unicatt.it> ; Jan Wilm, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany, <wilm@em.uni-frankfurt.de>

Queen Victoria’s reign is a fruitful testing ground for the interdisciplinary study of literature and work, a research field which has recently come to prominence. The period is characterized by a growing polarization between apparently contradictory stances: some sanctify work as the central value of modernity, while others question the work ethic in favour of the right to leisure. This polarization regards the discourse of politics as well as those of medicine, economy, law, and aesthetics and is reflected in the literary production of the time. For this seminar, we invite scholars to investigate this polarization from an interdisciplinary perspective in order to dig into the relationship between work, labour, and literature in the Victorian era.

S39 “Impressions 1860-1920”

Co-convenors: Bénédicte Coste, University of Burgundy, France, <bncoste@free.fr>
Elisa Bizzotto, University of Venice, Italy, <bizzotto@iuav.it>
Sophie Aymès-Stokes, University of Burgundy, France, <sophie.aymes@u-bourgogne.fr>

The seminar will discuss intermedial practices, the mutual influence of artistic practice and textual production, as well as the dual meaning of impression as a mode of reception and of expression. Papers will examine impression both as theme and trope in literary texts and art criticism in connection with the material characteristics of media in which writers/artists chose to express themselves. They can also address how the shift from late Victorian aesthetics to modernist experimentation was negotiated in this field. The time period considered here saw the advent of photomechanical process and the revival of printmaking as an “original” mode of expression based on the premium granted to individual impression as autographic response and to the trope of the print as imprint on a medium and/or on the mind.

S40 “The Neo-Victorian antipodes”

Co-convenors: Mariadele Boccardi, University of the West of England, UK, <Mariadele.Boccardi@uwe.ac.uk> ; Therese-M. Meyer, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, <therese.meyer@anglistik.uni-halle.de>

From Patrick White’s *Voss* (1957), arguably the earliest example of Neo-Victorian fiction, to recent Man-Booker winner *The Luminaries* (2013), the antipodes are a favoured setting for Neo-Victorian novels. This seminar explores how Neo-Victorian fiction constructs Australia, New Zealand and the Southern Pacific as, variously, the site of uncanny domesticity, an Other to Britain, a landscape to be colonised or scientifically appropriated, a frontier for the testing of masculinity, an occasion for re-writing of canonical texts. We aim to investigate the intersection of Neo-Victorian preoccupations with nineteenth-century discourses with post-colonial theorising of settler colonialism.

S41 “Tracing the Victorians: Material Uses of the Past in Neo-Victorianism”

Co-convenors: Rosario Arias, University of Málaga, Spain, <rarias@uma.es>
Patricia Pulham, University of Portsmouth, UK, <Patricia.Pulham@port.ac.uk>
Elodie Rousselot, University of Portsmouth, UK, <Elodie.Rousselot@port.ac.uk>

This seminar addresses the notion of the “trace”, delineated by Jacques Derrida and Paul Ricoeur, to engage with the tangibility of the Victorian past in contemporary culture. The “trace” has attracted renewed critical interest in the last few years, particularly in connection with the interplay of past and present in today’s cultural production. However, the potential of the material object

(the trace) to reanimate the past has received scant attention in neo-Victorianism. Papers dealing with the presence and (in)visibility of the Victorian past in contemporary literature and culture, materiality and “the sensory turn”, as well as museum studies and thing theory in relation to the Victorian “trace”, are particularly encouraged.

S42 “Reinterpreting Victorian Serial Murderers in Literature, Film, TV Series and Graphic Novels”

Co-convenors: Mariaconcetta Costantini, G. d’Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy, <mc_costantini@hotmail.com> ; Gilles Menegaldo, Université de Poitiers, France, <gilles.menegaldo@univ-poitiers.fr>

Serial murderers came to the fore in the Victorian era both contextually and artistically. The spread of violence and crime in large cities raised the problem of law and order, consequently attracting the attention of journalists and fiction writers. Yet, serial murder constituted a specific phenomenon within this growing attraction for deviance. If crime tended to be associated with the marginalized and with socially problematic areas of the metropolis, the idea of serial killing posed thorny new problems. In the light of today’s craze for neo-Victorianism, this seminar intends to explore various ways in which contemporary culture re-imagines Victorian serial killers and their deeds in relation to our postmodern fascination with deviance and perverse behaviour.

S43 “Victorian and Neo-Victorian Screen Adaptations”

Co-convenors: Shannon Wells-Lassagne, Université de Bretagne Sud, France, <shannon.wellslassagne@gmail.com>; Eckart Voigts, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany, <e.voigts@tu-braunschweig.de>

The proximity of the Victorians to us has manifested itself in the popularity of the period and its storylines in contemporary literature, which tends to emphasize previously hidden aspects of their original narratives or of their society, questioning the gaps present in the conventional understanding of the period. This has also translated to Victorian screen narratives, either as adaptations of canonical Victorian literature or neo-Victorian fictions. By exploring issues including globalization, ‘sexsation’, or visual and material culture in relation to Victorian and neo-Victorian adaptation, we hope to shed light on how adaptation reveals the nature of this fascination with the Victorian period.

S44 “Modernist Non-fictional Narratives of Modernism”

Co-convenors

David Bradshaw, Worcester College, Oxford University, UK, <david.bradshaw@worc.ox.ac.uk>
Christine Reynier, University Montpellier3-EMMA, France, <christine.reynier@univ-montp3.fr>

The aim of the seminar will be to focus on the non-fictional writings – essays, diaries, letters, etc. - of the modernist period by canonical writers or less famous ones and to explore the way in which they construct Modernism. Are the paradigms they shape the same as those now regarded as modernist paradigms - the ordinary, the unspectacular; the event, etc. What version do they give of them? What other paradigms do they put forward? What narratives do these Modernist non-fictional writings provide of Modernism and how do they compare with the narratives of Modernism provided by critical theory?

S45 “Technology and Modernist Fiction”

Co-convenors: Armela Panajoti, University of Vlora, Albania, <armelap@assenglish.org>
Eoghan Smith, Carlow College, Ireland, <esmith@carlowcollege.ie>

Technology (advanced knowledge applied in the creation and use of tools, equipment, facilities and accessories) has historically not only made life easier but has also reconfigured human and social relationships, fed man’s imaginations, scientists and artists alike, and created the more recent realities of technoculture. In literature, the early possibilities of technology inspired masterpieces such as Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Technology in its commodifiable forms was a major preoccupation of literary artists at the beginning of twentieth century. This seminar will focus on modernist fiction with the intention to seek productive perspectives on the intersections of literature and technology, with special emphasis on the contribution of the latter to the modernist quality of the first.

S46 “Reportage and Civil Wars through the Ages”

Co-convenors: John S. Bak, Université de Lorraine, France, <john.bak@univ-lorraine.fr>
Alberto Lázaro, Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain, <alberto.lazaro@uah.es>

In the case of civil wars, public concern and academic interest have grown considerably in recent decades, owing to social media’s ability to disseminate news that the traditional press ignores and the digital humanities’ commitment to scan and upload reportages once buried in the archives. Papers are thus invited to explore a wide range of issues in reportage scholarship, including literary genre, narrative strategies, censorship, propaganda, gender roles and perspectives, from medieval warfare to more modern civil conflicts in the Americas, South Africa, Ireland, England, Finland, Austria, Spain, Greece, etc.

S47 “The paradoxical quest of the wounded hero in contemporary narrative fiction”

Co-convenors: Jean-Michel Ganteau, University of Montpellier 3, France, <jean-michel.ganteau@univ-montp3.fr>; Susana Onega, University of Zaragoza, Spain, <sonega@unizar.es>

Our traumatised post-WWII age has witnessed the emergence of a new type of wounded hero immersed in a paradoxical life quest that involves the embracing of suffering, alienation and marginalisation as a form of self-definition. Is this radical shift the result of a move from a (neo-) humanist ethics based on the centrality of the subject to a (post-) Levinasian ethics of alterity that draws the emphasis on attentiveness to the other’s suffering, vulnerability and trauma? Or is this evidence of the resurgence of a Romantic conception of the self? The seminar seeks contributions based on the analysis of narrative fictions in English from the 1980s onwards aimed at casting light on the wounded hero and related issues.

S48 “Spaces of erasure, spaces of silence: Re-voicing the silenced stories of Indian Partition”

Co-convenors: Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome, Italy, <marino@lettere.uniroma2.it>
Daniela Rogobete, University of Craiova, Romania, <dani.rogobete@yahoo.com>

The present seminar tries to focus on the voices and narratives generally overlooked by historical mainstream discourses, in the attempt to nuance and deepen the traumatic experience of Indian Partition as depicted in the Indian English novel. Starting from the idea of spatial disruption and its devastating consequences on national and individual identity triggered by Partition, the seminar welcomes proposals on the reconfigurations of domestic spaces, on women’s and children’s untold stories and their alternative narrative spaces, on spaces of gendered violence, on various strategies of recuperation, re-voicing and re-membering the Partition.

S49 “The Postcolonial Slum: India in the Global Literary Imaginary”

Co-convenors: Om Prakash Dwivedi, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College, University of Allahabad, India <om_dwivedi2003@yahoo.com>;
Daniela Rogobete, University of Craiova, Romania, <dani.rogobete@yahoo.com>

In the global literary imaginary, the slum life in India is most often stereotypically pictured as a source of fear, abjection, poverty, hunger, overpopulation, dirt and disorder. These fictional representations of marginal spaces maintain, proliferate, and legitimize cultural polarizations, projecting a discrediting light upon the entire Indian space and the South Asian city in general. Starting from diverse depictions of the slum in Indian English novels this seminar seeks to analyze the recent reconfigurations in the biopolitics of slums in the context of capitalist based globalization, and the way they encapsulate Indian reality in the global literary imaginary, questioning its postcoloniality.

S50 “Globalisation and Violence”

Co-convenors: Pilar Cuder-Domínguez, University of Huelva, Spain, <picuder@dfing.uhu.es>
Cinta Ramblado-Minero, University of Limerick, Ireland, <cinta.ramblado@ul.ie>

One of the characteristics of postmodernity is the global flow of people, goods, capital, and information within a single system of production and exchange legitimised by the logic of late capitalism. Global connections have enhanced citizens’ feelings of increasing violence in our midst, whether state-enforced or counter-hegemonic. In addition, violence often operates at many levels (political, economic, social) in what has been considered a gendered continuum that

positions men and women differently as perpetrators or victims. This panel invites discussion of public discourses about violence and its social significance, representation, and circulation in literary and other cultural texts within the context of English Studies.

S51 “Perpetrator Trauma in Contemporary Anglophone Literatures and Cultures”

Co-convenors:

Michaela Weiss, Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic, <michaela.weiss@fpf.slu.cz>

Zuzana Buráková, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia, <zuzana.burakova@upjs.sk>

Although much has been written about the victim trauma, there are still significant gaps in our treatment of perpetrator trauma. Dirk Moses postulates that “perpetrator’s trauma, the delayed consciousness of the crimes one’s forebears have committed, continues to haunt the perpetrator-collective until it changes sufficiently to narrate it into a new legitimating story as a constitutive part of its self-understanding.” Due to this current shift of focus from trauma suffered by victims to that of the perpetrator, we hope to address the issues of contrast between the testimonies of the survivors and the executioners, focusing both on individual and collective memory that significantly affects the history and identity of the perpetrating nation. We encourage proposals that address our topic from the perspective of collective guilt, national identity, gender, ethnicity, memory, trauma and Holocaust and postcolonial studies.

S52 “Leadership politics in the United Kingdom’s local government”

Co-convenors: Stéphanie Bory, Université de Lyon III, France, <stephanie.bory@univ-lyon3.fr>

Nicholas Parsons, University of Cardiff, UK, <parsonsn@cardiff.ac.uk> ; Timothy Whitton,

Université de Clermont-Ferrand II, France, <timothy.whitton@univ-bpclermont.fr>

This seminar will focus particularly on the importance of leaders and their particular brand of politics in these elections. To what extent have leaders’ attitudes changed recently in the realm of local and devolved politics to enable them to keep abreast with the challenges of modern leadership? How has “mediated leadership” trickled down from national to local and devolved politics? Have Facebook and Twitter played an important role? We seek papers that deal specifically with the personalisation of politics within local and devolved government in the UK. Contributions on leadership issues that highlight the complex relationship between local/devolved and national politics will also be welcomed.

S53 “The Politics of Language in Contemporary Scottish and Irish Drama”

Co-convenors: Ian Brown, University of Kingston, UK, <ijmbrown@hotmail.com >

Daniele Berton-Charrière, Université Blaise Pascal, France, <Daniele.Berton@univ-bpclermont.fr

In 1980, Brian Friel's *Translations* had its first production, its themes highlighting the importance of language politics in an imperialist setting. In both Scottish and Irish contemporary drama since then, language forms and usage have been a prime issue, either in forms of theatrical dialogue as in Enda Walsh's *Disco Pigs* (1996) or in the varieties of language used in recent Scottish theatre. Papers are invited which explore aspects of the politics of language in contemporary Irish or Scottish drama.

S54 “The Inner Seas connecting and dividing Scotland and Ireland”

Co-convenors: Jean Berton, Université de Toulouse-Jean Jaurès, France, jean.bertron@univ-tlse2.fr

Donna Heddle, University of the Highlands and Islands, UK, <Donna.Heddle@uhi.ac.uk>

From the Minch to the North Channel the marine area has been a most active zone for adventurers, traders, marine scientists, pilgrims and hermits, fishermen, painters, migrants, pirates, missionaries, sailors, bird watchers, spies, etc. whether Irish, Roman, Scottish, Viking, English, American, Russian, German, French and Spanish. This seminar invites papers on fiction in all its aspects from historical to crime fiction dealing with all sorts of activities in this area from fighting to romance and extending to hinterlands on both sides.

S55 “I hear it in the deep heart’s core’: political emotions in Irish and Scottish poetry”

Co-convenors: Stephen Regan, Durham University, UK, <stephen.regan@durham.ac.uk >

Carla Sassi, Università di Verona, Italy, <carla.sassi@univr.it>

Nations can be the object of intense emotions, and while some are notoriously blinding and destructive, others can be for the common good. Poetry can play a powerful and positive role in articulating the thoughts and feelings of a nation. It can direct hearts and minds towards principles of equality, justice and democracy, so that the nation becomes the catalyst for global change. We invite contributions that consider poetry as vehicle and shaper of political emotions.

S56 “Twenty-first century Scottish literature”

Co-convenors: Marie-Odile Pittin-Hédon, Aix-Marseille Université, France, <marie-odile.hedon@univ-amu.fr> ; Scott Hames, University of Stirling, UK, <scott.hames@stir.ac.uk>
Camille Manfredi, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, France, <camille.manfredi@univ-brest.fr>

This seminar aims to examine cultural diversity in twenty-first century Scotland. We welcome papers that focus on the interrogation of borders and of the national sentiment in twenty-first-century Scottish literature, and on the various ways that writers “reconfigure the possible” in a key period of their political and cultural history. Questions might be raised as to the dynamic of contemporary Scottish cultural politics and the way literary nationalism is being overtaken by the mass-movement politics of independence; both taking it over in the sense of determining the political/social frames in which literary criticism operated, thus rendering key paradigms redundant, and overtaking in the sense of surpassing and leaving behind, thus marking the end of the age of nationalist politics and the beginning of what Tom Nairn terms the age of “nationality-politics”.

S57 “Celtic Fictions - Scottish and Irish Speculative Fiction”

Co-convenors: Jessica Aliaga Lavrijsen, Centro Universitario de la Defensa Zaragoza, Spain, <jeskeal@unizar.es> ; Colin Clark, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, <scoczech@gmail.com>

The thesis of much modern Speculative Fiction in Ireland and Scotland is the generation of a creative space in which, imaginatively, solutions are sought and simulated for real political, social and metaphysical problems. Often the result of impasses and failed channels for expression in society, speculative writing may be ludic, genre-hopping and heteroglossic offering refreshing and innovative discursive space. This panel seeks to expose and explore deliberately transgressive texts and engage with authors concerned with negotiating topoi neglected by conventional, institutionalized institutions and to bring together practitioners from various literatures and genres to discuss the potentialities of the speculative mode.

S58 “The Symbolic Power of Humour: Gender Issues and Derision”

Co-convenors: Florence Binard, Université Paris Diderot, France, <florence.binard@eila.univ-paris-diderot.fr> ; Renate Haas, University of Kiel, Germany, <haas@anglistik.uni-kiel.de>
Michel Prum, Université Paris Diderot, France, <prum.michel@wanadoo.fr>

The aim of this seminar will be to study the complex normative relationships between the authors of humour and the butts of their jokes regarding gender issues. On the one hand it will examine how women and men have used humour to ridicule or laugh at the stereotypical normative and/or anti-normative gender attitudes. On the other hand, it will attempt to analyse the normative purpose of humour, including its role in the construction of new gender norms. The papers may use approaches from various fields of study: history of ideas, literature, philosophy, journalism, cinema, painting, sciences, arts, etc. No historical period will be excluded.

S59 “Religion and Literatures in English”

Co-convenors: Pilar Somacarrera, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain, <pilar.somacarrera@uam.es>; Alison Jack, University of Edinburgh, UK, <a.jack@ed.ac.uk>

Religion has been an endless source of motifs and inspiration for literatures in the English language. The Bible has always had a central place in English literature, although its influence was heightened after the publication of the King James Bible of 1611. Since then, it has provided subjects for literature to writers like D.H. Lawrence and James Joyce. This seminar welcomes contributions dealing with any aspect of the relationship between religion and the literatures in English: papers about the relation between religion, Bible intertextuality and gender are particularly welcome.

S60 “Memory, Autobiography, History: Exploring the Boundaries”

Co-convenors: Irena Grubica, University of Rijeka, Croatia, <irena.grubica@gmail.com>

Aoife Leahy, Independent Scholar, Ireland, <aoifebleahy@hotmail.com>

This seminar will focus on various modes of memory that shape autobiographical and historical discourse in literature. It will explore the ways these discourses are interrelated and sometimes mutually exclusive. What implications does memory have in “autobiographical poetry”, “autobiographical theatre”, “historical autobiography”, “autobiographical histories”, life writing, memoirs, etc.? Suggested topics may include: collective, cultural and individual memory, autobiographical memory, historical memory, counter-memory, mimesis of memory, figures of memory, fictions of memory, false memories, amnesia, narrative memory, hypermnnesia, memory and genre, memory and “possible worlds”, gendered memories, memory and visualization, echoic memory.

S61 “Contemporary Irish female writing at the intersection of history and memory”

Co-convenors: Anne Fogarty, University College Dublin, Ireland, <Anne.fogarty@ucd.ie>

Marisol Morales-Ladrón, University of Alcalá, Spain, <Marisol.morales@uah.es>

History has been taught as a continuous narration of events that evaded gaps and inconsistencies for the sake of offering a linear sense of the past. However, memory, both as an individual psychological construct and as a collective recollection, has challenged the process involved not only in what we remember, but in how and why we recall the past in a given way. The purpose of this seminar is to look at how Irish writers in the last decade have engaged in the exploration of a type of historical fiction that attempts to place women back in a history from which they were often written out. Female authors, such as Emma Donoghue, Mary Morrissey, Evelyn Conlon, Anne Enright, Anne Haverty or Lia Mills, among others, would be cases in point.

S62 “Irish Auto/Bio/Fictions”

Co-convenors: Liam Harte, University of Manchester, UK, <liam.harte@manchester.ac.uk>

Roberta Gefter Wondrich, University of Trieste, Italy, <gefter@units.it>

Recent years have witnessed a growing recognition of the importance of autobiography as a discursive strategy in postcolonial literatures, yet much work remains to be done at the national level. This seminar takes the case of Ireland as a testing ground for the evaluation of the strengths and limitations of autobiographical writing, broadly conceived, as a tool for intervening in authorised accounts of history and reconfiguring the relations between citizen, community and nation. We are particularly interested in critical discussions of autobiographical modes and practices – including biofictional ones – that creatively distort established conventions and productively exploit the unstable generic divisions between autobiography, biography and fiction.

S63 “Biography”

Co-convenors: Joanny Moulin, Aix-Marseille University, France, <joanny.moulin@univ-amu.fr>

Hans Renders, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, <j.w.render@rug.nl>

This seminar invites contributions to the study of biography as a genre, considering that it raises specific issues that distinguish it from autobiography. It would equally be interested in approaches to the practice of biography as a method of academic research, from microhistory to literature and cultural studies. For instance, individual papers may address theoretical questions, case studies of particular biographers’ works, the history and the poetics of biography, the impact of the biographical turn, the evolution of biographical dictionaries, or the innovative influences of the biopic and digital humanities.

S64 “Life-Writing and Celebrity: Exploring Intersections”

Co-convenors: Oline Eaton, King’s College London, UK, <faith.eaton@kcl.ac.uk>

Sandra Mayer, University of Vienna, Austria, <sandra.mayer@univie.ac.at>

Nanette O’Brien, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK, <nanette.obrien@wolfson.ac.uk>

In recent years, life-writing and celebrity studies have separately evolved into vibrant and innovative areas of Humanities research, but the connections between these fields have, so far, been insufficiently addressed. This seminar invites papers that focus on the intersections of life-

writing and celebrity in an historical as well as a contemporary English-language literary and cultural context, exploring, among others, ideas of image, persona, self-fashioning, myth, mediatisation and commodification. We will address the influence of these concepts on the writing and reading of lives. Highlighting possibilities of theoretical and methodological cross-fertilisation, the seminar will promote new interdisciplinary research.

S65 “Contemporary Writers on Writing: Performative Practices and Intermediality”

Co-convenors: Amaya Fernandez Menicucci, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, <Amaya.Fernandez@uclm.es>; Alessandra Ruggiero, Università di Teramo, Italy, <aruggiero@unite.it>

In the contemporary “convergence culture”, marked by an explosion of “performance discourse”, writers are growingly exploring other media to tackle issues concerning their own writing and literature at large. They do so through performative and intermedial practices that make the writer-text-reader relationship more dynamic and interactive, and that sometimes turn authors into celebrities. The seminar will focus on these manifold practices by which writers perform themselves, their idea of literature, or their authorial role, not limiting themselves to the written page but making also use of audiovisual and digital resources, such as documentaries, films, video interviews, booktrailers, blogs, forums, links to social networks.

S66 “Narrated Science / Scientific Storytelling”

Co-convenors: Jürgen Meyer, Paderborn University/Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, <juergen.meyer@anglistik.uni-halle.de>
Manuela Rossini, University of Basel, Switzerland, <manuela.rossini@unibas.ch>

English-speaking media are particularly productive in developing a rich diversity of hybrid, experimental publication formats designed for the transmission of current scientific theories and knowledge to a lay audience. This seminar brings together the fields of scientific popularization and culture/media analysis delineating intersections of science and society. Our aim is to create a greater scholarly awareness for the many didactic and aesthetic strategies in (re-)presenting 'popular' scientific knowledge in texts and media. This under-researched area may trigger innovative disciplinary approaches as well as inter-/transdisciplinary output, because it inverts and transcends the conventional critical approach to "science (in) fiction".

S67 “Word and Image in Children’s Literature”

Co-convenors: Laurence Petit, Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier 3, France, <laurence.petit@univ-montp3.fr> ; Camille Fort, Université de Picardie Jules Verne, France, <camillefort@yahoo.fr>; Karen Brown, University of Saint-Andrews, UK, <keb23@st-andrews.ac.uk>

This seminar will consider the interaction between words and pictures which lies at the heart of children’s literature. Meant to entertain and instruct, children’s literature stages the complicity between two semiotic codes engaged in a relation which is alternately, or simultaneously, didactic, hermeneutic, emblematic, aesthetic or ludic, as words and pictures serve or subvert each other, complete or compete with one another. In our discussion of the ways in which the hybrid combination of text and image is what produces meaning as well as provides verbal and visual pleasure, we will also examine the status of the reader/viewer of such texts, thus broadening the emphasis on formal issues to cultural and historical issues of power and gender.

S68 “Representing Diversity in Black British and British Asian Children’s Literature”

Co-convenors:
Petra Tournay-Theodotou, European University Cyprus, Cyprus, <P.Tournay@euc.ac.cy>;
Sofía Muñoz Valdivieso, University of Málaga, Spain, <simunozvaldivieso@gmail.com>

Despite the fact that the study of children’s literature is an ever-increasing, vibrant field, within the lively scene of Black British and British Asian writing literature for children still occupies a marginal space. Even though some authors have managed to gain wider visibility such as John Agard, Grace Nichols, Malorie Blackman, and Benjamin Zephaniah, children’s literature written by authors from an ethnic and racially diverse background is especially underrepresented when it comes to critical attention in academic circles. This seminar invites papers that will look at how

literature for children and young adults written by Black British and British Asian writers address the complexities of the cultural situation of contemporary British society in the early 21st century and thus make an important contribution to the call for greater diversity in children's books.

S69 “Young Adult Fiction and Theory of Mind”

Co-convenors: Lydia Kokkola, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden, <lydia.kokkola@ltu.se>
Alison Waller, University of Roehampton, UK, <a.waller@roehampton.ac.uk>

Many recent young adult novels probe the workings of the mind, yet inviting a sceptical and questioning reading stance. These texts draw attention to complex functions of memory, emotion and consciousness that are central to being and growing, often seeking to engage their adolescent readers through narrative games or formal experiment. We invite papers exploring connections between contemporary YA and theory of mind, through thematic, narratological, or response-based enquiries. Topics might include: modes of empathy; nonhuman protagonists; remembering and forgetting; cognitive development; narrative and neurolinguistics; reading and feeling. Papers examining works from different English-speaking cultures, or offering comparative analysis with children's or adult fiction are welcomed.

S70 “Performing Indigeneity in Contemporary Theatre and Drama”

Co-convenors: Ewa Kębłowska-Lawniczak, University of Wrocław, Poland, <freeway.bohemia@gmail.com>; Eva C. Karpinski, York University, Canada, <evakarp@yorku.ca>

The aim of this seminar is to explore presentations and representations of indigeneity in the work of contemporary playwrights and performance artists from Europe, the Americas, Australia and Africa. We are interested in new aesthetic and epistemological possibilities created by combining heterogeneous influences, hybridized forms, and multiple heritages. In particular, we want to find out how these writers, artists, and performers draw on and adopt indigenous sources and "ways of knowing" (embodied and spiritual) and how they situate themselves in relation to postcolonial, postmodern, and decolonial thought. The seminar also invites considerations of the question of how these cultural productions address their local, national, and diasporic audiences.

S71 “Thinking about Theatre and Neoliberalism”

Co-convenors: H el ene Lecossois, Universit e du Maine, Le Mans, France, <helene.lecossois@univ-lemans.fr>; Lionel Pilkington, NUI Galway, Ireland, <Lionel.pilkington@nuigalway.ie>

For today's dominant economic frame--neoliberal capitalism--the theatre occupies a place of surprising importance. Theatre's dynamic and immediate relationship to a creative economy discourse appears to confirm the idea of the creative individual as flourishing best outside social affiliations and responsibilities, while the figure of the actor/performer herself appears as a paradigmatic figure for work that is flexible, precarious and often poorly paid. This seminar welcomes papers that discuss the relationship between neoliberal capitalism and the practice of European theatre and performance, or any aspect of its theorisation and history.

S72 “Dilemmas of Identity in Postmulticultural American Fiction and Drama”

Co-convenors: Enik o Maior, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania, <enikomaior@yahoo.com>; Lenke N emeth, University of Debrecen, Hungary, <nemeth.lenke@arts.unideb.hu>

Questions of race and ethnicity have been a permanent source of conflict in American society. Postmulticultural discourse, however, revises earlier essentialist definitions of these concepts and offers newly-arising configurations of cultural and ethnic hybridity like “race-neutral,” “cultural mulatto,” and “post-ethnic/racial/soul.” Interrogations of racial meanings affect the personhood of minorities and the construction of the cultural and ethnic dimensions of Jewish identity. The seminar invites contributions discussing various aspects of this paradigm shift in the reconceptualization of American cultural identity. We welcome papers that examine innovative ways of “staging” the formation of new American identities.

S73 “Literary Prizes and Cultural Context”

Co-convenors: Wolfgang G ortschacher, University of Salzburg, Austria, <wolfgang.goertschacher@sbg.ac.at>; David Malcolm, University of Gdansk, Poland, <angmd@ug.edu.pl>

Literary prizes form a fascinating interface between literature and society. Particularly noteworthy works are awarded prizes, increasing sales and benefitting the authors, their publishers, and their sponsors; further, the members of juries tend, in one way or another - often as writers themselves - to be intimately connected with the world of books and their dissemination. Prizes range from those such as the Man Booker, which bring with them substantial money, prestige and sales, to others which offer little more than encouragement. Whilst it is anticipated that the Man Booker Prize will be a major focus of our seminar, we will also address prize culture in all its manifestations, both in the UK and elsewhere.

S74 “21st-Century Female Crime Fiction”

Co-convenors: Wolfgang Görtschacher, University of Salzburg, Austria, <wolfgang.goertschacher@sbg.ac.at>; Agnieszka Sienkiewicz-Charlish, University of Gdańsk, Poland, <agnieszka.sienkiewicz@ug.edu.pl>

Crime fiction has been one of the most prolific literary genres for over a century. One subgenre that has really taken off since the early 1980s is female crime fiction. The proliferation of female writing in this area, complete with female sleuths, ranges across styles such as “cosy”, “hard-boiled”, “forensic”, and “humanist”. As early as 1987 Sisters in Crime, an organization that has 3,600 members in 48 chapters worldwide, was founded with the mission “to combat discrimination against women in the mystery field.” Today the situation seems to have only slightly changed. This seminar aims to survey the crime scene and question protagonists, victims, and suspects, but also to suggest future developments and lines of investigation.

S75 “Media, culture and food - meaning of new narratives”

Co-convenors: Slávka Tomaščíková, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia, <slavka.tomascikova@upjs.sk> ; María José Coperías-Aguilar, Universitat de València, Spain, <maria.j.coperias@uv.es>

The immense growth of new media in the 21st century has caused substantial changes in the old media, both in their forms and their contents. In the last two decades food as a cultural phenomenon has become one of the most visible narrative categories in discourses of old and new media. The space provided to various elements related to food has been enormous and is still growing. Contributions could focus on the analysis of food elements which constitute new narratives in any kind of media, traditional or digital. They could also examine the relations between culture, food and media consumption addressing questions connected to the role food plays in the creation of meaning in contemporary media narratives.

S76 “Gendered Bodies in Transit: from Alienation to Regeneration?”

Co-convenors: Maria Isabel Romero Ruiz, University of Málaga, Spain, <mirr@uma.es>
Manuela Coppola, University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’, Italy, <mcoppola@unior.it>

This seminar will investigate the centrality of mechanisms of discipline and both physical and psychological punishment in the treatment and representation of “deviant” bodies in past and contemporary societies. It will address the complexity of the processes of regeneration and healing, opening the debate on issues of subversion and resilience of marginalized gender identities. We encourage papers that, through the analysis of cultural and literary forms, bring to the fore the ways in which the traumatic experiences of bodies subject to various kinds of violence, exploitation and discrimination can lead to the construction of new forms of subjectivity and community.

S77: “Women on the Move: Diasporic Bodies, Diasporic Memories. Constructing Femininity in the Transitional and Transnational Era in Contemporary Narratives in English”

Co-convenors: Julia Tofantšuk, Tallinn University, Estonia, <jul@tlu.ee >
Silvia Pellicer Ortín, University of Zaragoza, Spain, <spellice@unizar.es>

As societies go through the age of migration, boundaries between countries and individuals gradually blur. This seminar invites contributions drawing on the representations of femininity in contemporary narratives in English – from the 1980s to the present – exploring whether current fictional and liminal genres act as transitional sites where multidirectional gendered memories, gendered spaces, travelling bodies, plus innovative feminist perspectives and hybrid and

ecofeminist notions of the female self are (re)defined. The seminar aims at unveiling the oppressive forces relegating women to a diasporic condition and the liberating synergies providing new spaces to voice their silenced experiences.

S78 “Travel and Disease across Literatures and Cultures”

Co-convenors: Ryszard W. Wolny, Opole University, Poland, <rwolny@uni.opole.pl >
Sanja Runtić, University of Osijek, Croatia, <podgajci@gmail.com>

In this seminar we propose to investigate the ways in which literature, film and art have dealt with the various aspects of disease and dying. We will be particularly interested in the representations and images that combine traveling with disease. Henry James's *The Wings of the Dove*, Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* or Jim Jarmusch's *Dead Man* are just a handful of examples of outstanding works combining traveling with death. We will be interested in a more in-depth investigation of these phenomena in culture. We would like to analyse and juxtapose various works of art that highlight diseased bodies traveling for cure or dignified death. We want to establish how literature and film deal with the problem of old age as well as mental health and balance. We would like investigate how health (including mental health and balance) are imagined and represented symbolically.

S79 “20th and 21st century British Literature and medical discourse”

Co-convenors: Nicolas Pierre Boileau, Université d’Aix-Marseille, France, <nicolas.boileau@univ-amu.fr>; Clare Hanson, University of Southampton, UK, <C.Hanson@soton.ac.uk>

A number of scholars have recently explored the symbolic value of illness in literature but how far can or should literature go beyond metaphor in representing the experience of illness? How far does Rita Charon’s concept of “narrative medicine” capture the distinctiveness of literature as an alternative to medical discourse? We invite papers on the interconnections between literature and medical discourse in 20th and 21st century British literature.

S80 “Writing Old Age in twenty-first-century British Fiction”

Co-convenors: Sarah Falcus, University of Huddersfield, UK, <S.J.Falcus@hud.ac.uk >
Maricel Oro-Piqueras, University of Lleida, Spain, <maricel.oro@dal.udl.cat>

The publication of Barbara F. Waxman’s (1990) and Margaret M. Gullette’s (1989) seminal works on representations of characters in their late middle and old age marked the beginning of a new interest in literary and cultural studies. With the exponential ageing of the worldwide population, cultural conceptions have become valuable sources of analysis in order to challenge restricted stereotypical images of this last stage of a human life. In this seminar, we are interested in exploring how contemporary British fiction has risen to the challenge of representing old age and ageing for a new century.

S81 “Ekphrasis Today”

Co-convenors: Renate Brosch, Universität Stuttgart, Germany, <renate.brosch@ilw.uni-stuttgart.de >
Danuta Fjellestad, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden, <danuta.fjellestad@engelska.uu.se >
Gabriele Rippl, University of Berne, Switzerland, <gabriele.ripl@ens.unibe.ch>

Why is ekphrasis still a popular device for literary works in spite of the ubiquity of visual images in our media society? Even though today most images are accessible at a mouse click, ekphrasis – in referencing cultural knowledge – offers the satisfaction of identifying with elite literacy and education. It is Liliane Louvel’s helpful proposal to situate instances of ekphrasis along a spectrum of different degrees of importance accorded to the pictorial reference. This seminar aims to discuss the function of ekphrasis today, asking questions about the cultural work performed by this ancient expressive mode in the digital age.

S82 “The Secular Icon”

Co-convenors: Susanne Peters, Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg, Germany, <susanne.peters@ovgu.de>; Shoba Ghosh, University of Mumbai, India, <englishmumbai@yahoo.com>

Our encounters with sacred and secularized images and objects are multifarious. In popular visual culture such as film, photography, art, as well as literary fiction, visual and textual representations of sacred and secularized issues, images and objects, can be discussed in a number of historical as well as contemporary contexts, such as the rise of nationalism, religious fanaticism, or the hype of

the individual, which may be connected to specific cultural practices of representation. The seminar aims to establish a comparative perspective and invites papers that trace and analyse the secular icon in both post-colonial and western traditions.

S83 “Literary and cinematographic prequels, sequels, and coquels”

Co-convenors: Ivan Callus, University of Malta, Malta, <ivan.callus@um.edu.mt> ; Armelle Parey, Université de Caen, France, <armelle.parey@unicaen.fr>; Isabelle Roblin, Université du Littoral-Côte d’Opale, France, <roblin@univ-littoral.fr>; Georges Letissier, Université de Nantes, France, <georges.letissier@univ-nantes.fr>

Prequels, sequels and coquels (a coquel takes place simultaneously with another story) have always been part and parcel of the literary and, more recently, filmic landscapes. These three elements can of course also be combined to produce a more complex structure. The aim of this seminar would be to analyse the narrative strategies implemented by their authors and the reasons why, apart from the obvious marketing ploy, they are so popular. For practical reasons, we would ask potential contributors to deal with late twentieth to twenty-first century works.

S84 “Cultural politics in Harry Potter: death, life and transition”

Co-convenors: Rubén Jarazo-Álvarez, University of the Balearic Islands, Spain, <r.jarazo@uib.es>; Pilar Alderete, NUI Galway, Ireland, <pilar.alderete@nuigalway.ie>

Concerning Harry Potter's saga, this panel proposes to investigate death, necropower and its relationship to Capitalism, with special emphasis on cultural representation of rites of passage, from life to death, and sometimes, the other way back. Taking into account Posthumanism and the different postulations on bodies transiting from one realm to another in HP world, we invite participants to analyse any aspect with regard to the novels and/or films.

S85 “Fantasy Literature & Place”

Co-convenors: Jane Suzanne Carroll, University of Roehampton, UK, <jane.carroll@roehampton.ac.uk>; Anja Müller, University of Siegen, Germany, <anja.mueller@anglistik.uni-siegen.de>

The imagined landscapes of fantasy literature may reflect real locations and engage with the histories, cultures and literary representations of those places. Alternatively, narratives may unfold in entirely unfamiliar worlds and make use of metatextual devices, such as maps, to form and frame the landscape. This seminar reflects the growing critical awareness of the importance of place in fantasy literature and the potential relationships between Europe and the other worlds of fantasy fiction.

We invite papers exploring the role of place in fantasy literature. Possible topics may include: world-building; fantasy and national identity; maps and mapping; wilderness; utopia and dystopia; urban fantasy.

S86 “Calculables and Incalculables in Teaching English Today”

Co-convenors: Roy Sellars, University of St Gallen/University of Southern Denmark, Denmark, <roy.sellars@unisg.ch> ; Graham Allen, University College Cork, Ireland, <g.allen@ucc.ie>

The process of calculation has become ever more prominent in departments of English across Europe. Accreditations, benchmarking, internationalisation, transparency, audits, assessments, learning outcomes, key competences, deliverables: the list goes on. At the same time, teaching practice remains, we propose, fundamentally and necessarily incalculable. In this seminar we want to bring together teachers from different European contexts in order to reflect on recent developments and to ask: how can resistance to pedagogical calculation be conceptualised and organised without falling back into passive critique or another discourse of calculables? If the history of theory and before it philosophy entails, as we would assert, a history of pedagogics (teaching practices which reflect not only on their practice but also on their very possibility), does theory/philosophy have anything to say, today, in defence of the incalculable?

Looking forward to seeing you all in Galway!
Prof Patrick Lonergan, NUI Galway.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam William Nemser (1923 – 2015)

Günther Sigott
University of Klagenfurt

William Nemser, founding Professor of the Department of English and American Studies, passed away on Thursday, 12th March 2015 at the age of 91.

As a pioneer in English Studies at the University of Klagenfurt, he will always hold a prominent position in the department's memory. Over decades, his sharp intellect and his inimitable humour were the hallmark of the Klagenfurt English Department.

William Nemser was a real scholar. In scholarly discourse, academic hierarchies were of little consequence to him. He stood for, and lived, his subject, linguistics, without ever losing sight of the expanse of academia. His professional background and his experience brought an entirely new dimension to English Linguistics in Austria. His career led him from Columbia University in New York and from the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington DC to Europe, where he exerted a permanent impact by applying the concepts of Contrastive Linguistics to various European languages. His scholarly career took him via stopovers in former Yugoslavia to Romania and Hungary, where his work on approximative systems left permanent traces in the research literature. It was typical of his scholarly curiosity that he resisted repeated attempts made by his home institution to call him back to the US and instead continued his scholarly work in Europe, even in politically difficult times.

On 1st October 1973 William Nemser was appointed Professor of English Linguistics including Language Pedagogy at the newly founded Department of English and American Studies. Here he faced the challenge of setting up a university department. The stories he had to tell about this task were as entertaining as they were instructive in showing the manifold challenges to be mastered in the process of developing an academic institution and implementing innovative ideas. In the Klagenfurt Department, his work laid the foundations of Applied Linguistics, which to this day continues to be a characteristic feature of this institution.

William Nemser's scholarly interest in linguistics in general and in language acquisition in particular remained vibrant also after his retirement. We were all very happy to meet him on the occasion of the department's 40th anniversary, which gave us the chance to retain vivid, thankful and admiring memories of him. We no longer hear him laugh in the corridor, but his ideas are around.

In Memoriam Helmut Bonheim (1930-2012)

Martin A. Kayman
Cardiff University

Losses of memory

As I was researching an article for the *Messenger* last February, I came across the sad news that the first regular editor of the newsletter (1991-94) and two-term President of ESSE (1994-2000), Helmut Bonheim, had passed away three years previously on 13 February 2012.¹ He had been followed a few months later by his wife, Jean. We knew that Helmut had suffered from Alzheimer's for a number of years, so the news of his death was not entirely unexpected among those who had worked closely with him in the past and had been friends

¹ 'Printing the *Messenger*: The End of an Era', *European English Messenger* 24.1 (Summer 2015), 6-9.

with the Bonheims. What *was* shocking was the realisation that ESSE had been unaware of his passing. It turned out that the *James Joyce Quarterly* had formally noticed his death, as, I'm informed, had the *Deutsche Anglistenverband*, but past and present editors of the *Messenger* were unaware that Helmut had passed away, as were the past and present Secretaries, Treasurers and Presidents of the Society whom I was able to contact. Alzheimer's attacks short-term memory, but how is it possible that ESSE had 'forgotten' the man who had given the *Messenger* shape and purpose and established it at the Society's heart, and who had thereafter successfully presided over a period of major expansion? As Ado Haberer (President 2001-7) put it, with the end of Helmut's presidency, 'a page in ESSE's history had been turned', the 'romantic "great adventure" some thought [the Society] was destined to be' had come to an end in the face of 'the realities of life', and the organisation had come into an age of 'maturity, stability and responsibility'.²

While all would agree that the period from 1991-2000 represents the decisive first chapter of ESSE's life, not everyone would see it in terms of a romantic adventure whose illusions were wrecked on the realities of life. It is certain that Bonheim did promote an 'adventurous' vision for ESSE – but whether that adventure was romantic or whether it was in fact profoundly and practically responsible, will depend on one's point of view and sense of history, and, perhaps, of Europe. While exciting and hopeful, the 1990s were not necessarily easy years and one of Helmut's achievements was to manage an often fractious Board while holding firm to the vision as the Society grew and manoeuvred its way through financial crises, the clamour of bloody military conflict, the consolidation of new regimes and the birth of new nations. Certainly, a number of ESSE-ists did not agree with all aspects of that vision and/or Bonheim's way of promoting it, as was their right. But many did share the vision and were pleased to work with Bonheim, such as the Founding Secretary (1990-1996) and source of many initiatives, Robert Clark, Neil Forsyth (Bonheim's successor as editor of the *Messenger*, 1994-97), Graham Caie (Secretary 1999-2002) and others, members of the Board or active and willing contributors to its destiny, such as the former President of the English Association, Gordon Campbell. I include myself among these. I first met Helmut when he approached me after a sub-plenary at ESSE/2 (Bordeaux, 1993). His invitation to contribute to the *Messenger* led to an extensive correspondence, many conversations, and collaboration over seven years, including the three years during which my first term as editor overlapped with his second as President.

The names that feature here are those of ESSE colleagues whom I managed to contact and who were able to contribute (and to those I missed for one reason or another, my apologies).³ A further sadness in researching and writing this piece has been the recognition that many other senior contributors to the Society's early life have passed away or, having retired, have junked their files, or, in at least one case, succumbed to the same condition that beset Helmut, and with them go chunks of its collective memory.⁴ When an organisation loses access to its original vision, it runs every risk of falling into little more than the routines of 'maturity, stability and responsibility' which, of course, are nonetheless also indispensable to its sustainability. Besides the names of past officers of the Society and the dates and locations of its regular conferences, the 'History' page of the ESSE website provides an exhaustive list of every Board and Executive meeting, but no record of the growth of the Society, or any

² Adolphe Haberer, 'ESSE: The Coming of Age', address to the 2nd FINSSE Conference, Tampere, 21-23 August 2003. Copy kindly made available by the author.

³ Besides those mentioned explicitly, I am grateful to the many colleagues who responded helpfully to my enquiries.

⁴ Carmelo Cunchillos (Treasurer 1996-2002) died in 2010 and Norman Blake (Secretary 1996-99) in 2012 – see 'In memoriam: Carmelo Cunchillos', *European English Messenger*, XIX. 2 (Autumn 2010), 19-20 and Graham Caie, 'In Memoriam: Norman Blake (1934-2012)', *European English Messenger*, XXI. 2 (Winter 2012), 24-25.

other substantive milestones in its development.⁵ Hence, I feel, a fitting homage to Bonheim might attempt to recall some of the realities and challenges of ESSE's early days and the sense of purpose that sought to construct a Society among European scholars that would be able to play a part in shaping those realities for the better. Perhaps the partialities, inaccuracies and lacunae that are bound to populate this text will provoke others to write to the *Messenger* and thus further revivify memories of ESSE's early years.

Recalling a commitment to English Studies in/and Europe

The most decisive feature of the period from Bonheim's appointment as editor to the end of his second term as President was, then, the growth of the Society from its original twelve members, corresponding to the then European Economic Community, into a federation of 30 associations.⁶ Crucially, of the associations that joined between 1991 and 2000, three quarters were formed in the post-Soviet nations of Central and Eastern Europe, spurred on by the existence of ESSE and the active personal encouragement and assistance of Bonheim, Clark, and the Founding President (1990-1995), Piero Boitani.

Helmut had a very deep commitment to the idea of Europe, not only in terms of an international and cross-disciplinary vision of English Studies, but also as a broader historical project. Fernando Galván (President 2007-13) recalls his encounters with Helmut as a member of the AEDEAN Executive from 1992 and later its representative on the ESSE Board:

When reading him, or when we met at the conferences and shared meals and discussions, Helmut always proved to be a fully committed scholar, but not only in academic terms. Of course he had an insatiable curiosity about all matters concerning the University, what and how we taught, what our students did, the mobility programmes we were developing at the time, or how we were facing the Bologna challenges in our respective countries. But I could also appreciate his deep social commitment as a European citizen, who genuinely believed in political and supra-national cohesion, in the ideal of a united Europe, one firmly established on the foundations of education and culture and not only on the interests of the markets.⁷

Rooted in scholarly values and international ideals, Bonheim's commitment expressed itself in the tireless pursuit of practical measures on both fronts. These were indeed exciting times for Europe; Helmut's activity as an officer of ESSE covered the period that included both the Maastricht Treaty (1993) – which extended ERASMUS and TEMPUS funding to the humanities – and the Bologna Agreement (1999): in short, the period during which the single European area in Education effectively took shape. Helmut first appeared in the 0 issue of the *Messenger* and at the first post-Founders Board meeting as an expert on ERASMUS.⁸ He began by seeking to position ESSE as the privileged interlocutor for the European Commission's support of the subject, and ended by working hard on the ground to encourage the development of ERASMUS and TEMPUS projects, which he saw as one of ESSE's major achievements.⁹

More central to Helmut's vision than the Europeanisation of English Studies within the European Union, however, was the development of the discipline in Central and Eastern Europe, both in terms of the sharing of resources and support for the political struggle, where

⁵ Hans-Jürgen Diller's essay, 'The Birth and Growth of ESSE: Some Personal Recollections' remains a helpful source – see Balz Engler and Renate Haas (eds), *European English Studies: Contributions towards the History of a Discipline* (Leicester: The English Association, for ESSE, 2000), 323-334.

⁶ Of current members who joined after the founding dozen, only Albania, Armenia, Malta, Slovakia and Turkey post-date the 'Bonheim years'.

⁷ Fernando Galván, personal communication, 19 February 2015.

⁸ Adolphe Haberer, remarks at the Helsinki Board (2000), made available by the author. See Helmut Bonheim, 'ESSE and ERASMUS', *European English Messenger*, 0 (Autumn 1990), 14-15.

⁹ See Helmut Bonheim, 'What has ESSE accomplished', *European English Messenger*, II. 2 (Autumn 1993), 4-6.

necessary, for academic independence. With over sixty years of Anglo-American Studies behind it, Bulgaria was one of the keenest communities to seize on the opportunities and solidarities offered by ESSE. For Alexander Shurbanov, 'From the very start ESSE was created by people with Helmut's cast of mind. It was one of the first truly international organizations called to life right after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 by the common thrust towards the unification of the two long-divided halves of Europe in the spirit of collegiate cooperation.'¹⁰ Krystyna Stamirowska, founding secretary of the Polish Association for the Study of English, provides some further detail:

After 1990 when Central and East European countries were released from the Soviet domination and the Soviet troops were gradually being withdrawn, the emergence of what was then called 'new democracies' released new energies at all levels; and the development of English Studies became one of Helmut Bonheim's top priorities.... Much of his energy and strategic talents combined with unusual perseverance were now channelled into practically supporting a complicated process of transformation of English Studies in the countries ... which he rightly saw as unjustly deprived of their chances of development. Although included under one umbrella, their traditions and systems of education differed considerably, of which prof. Bonheim was well aware. Applying what he himself jokingly called his 'Teutonic approach', Bonheim started by co-organising [with Robert Clark] so-called 'fact-finding visits' by well-known academics.¹¹

The visits were funded by the Tempus programme and resulted in two influential reports on the state of English Studies in four post-Soviet countries, for which Helmut himself wrote the chapter on Poland.¹² Between 1991 and 1993, associations were formed not only in Bulgaria and Poland, but likewise the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia, and were welcomed into ESSE.

Shurbanov's reference to 'Helmut's cast of mind' brings us to the crux of the matter. Gordon Campbell, who himself supported ESSE at the time by building contacts at a more junior level across post-Soviet Europe, sums up the cultural forces which defined that 'cast of mind':

Helmut was a distinctive type of European. He was born in Danzig, so Eastern Europe was part of him. He was raised in Chicago, so one of his identities was American. His adoptive country was Germany, and he was so determined to assimilate that he and Jean decided as a matter of principle to speak German to each other, even at home (he used to say that he only had 95% of his personality in either language).¹³

Robert Clark, who worked more closely with Helmut than anyone in ESSE, elaborates on the significance of this biography:

Personally, it seemed to me that Helmut was a 'displaced person', having been brought up in America by Jewish parents exiled in the 1930s, and having chosen to return to Germany in 1965... I suppose this personal history was the origin of Helmut's highly philosophical irony: he was and was not German, was and was not Jewish. He was not American, though educated there, and not British, though married here and spending much of each summer in St John's Wood. It seemed to me he lived in what Thomas Mann called 'the pathos of the

¹⁰ Alexander Shurbanov, personal communication, 14 March 2015.

¹¹ Krystyna Stamirowska, 'Remembering Helmut Bonheim', personal communication, 3 August 2015.

¹² Robert Clark, Piero Boitani and Helmut Bonheim, *English Studies in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland* (European Commission Tempus Office, 1991); Robert Clark and Frits Beukema, *English Studies in Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia* (European Commission Tempus Office, 1992).

¹³ Gordon Campbell, personal communication, 3 August 2015. Born in 1930, Bonheim emigrated to Chicago with his parents shortly before the Second World War. He was educated in the USA (BA, Cornell 1951; MA, Columbia 1952 and, following a period as a Fulbright scholar in Vienna, PhD University of Washington in Seattle 1959). He taught at Seattle and then at Santa Barbara, California until 1965 when he became a visiting professor in Munich and a short time later Professor of Anglo-American literature in Cologne, a post he held until his retirement in 1995.

*middle', constitutionally within and without his social situations. Perhaps this is why he was such a genial broker of a unifying Europe: he was thoroughly aware of our need for a Europe that would resist narrow islands of the mind.*¹⁴

For myself, despite many years of proximity, I was unaware of Helmut's origins, although I may have suspected them, being Jewish myself. It was then not so much his Jewishness as his relationship to it in the context of his (inter)national heritage that is important here. Campbell observes: 'Jewish identity is another distinctive matter. Helmut declared himself entirely uninterested in his Jewish heritage, and felt no discomfort living in a country with a savage anti-Semitic past. He did not, he said, dwell on the Holocaust.' It was perhaps this that made Helmut such a positive, almost deliberately innocent, European, a learned philologist with his eye on the future. One should not mistake this for romanticism in any dismissive sense.

A committed practice

Bonheim's engagement with Central and Eastern Europe did not of course end with the creation of associations of English Studies, but involved a day-to-day effort to give substantive support to scholars and to their dignified integration into the wider academic community. Shurbanov and Stamirowska both told me of their treasured Bonheim archives that bear testimony to those efforts. The former writes:

*I still keep, together with his interesting papers in the study of stylistics, dozens of Helmut's long detailed letters sent to me over a number of years, all concerned with the actions that we ought to take to ensure that there would be a proper supply of literary texts and up-to-date criticism for East-European academic libraries and a much closer communication between young Anglicists of the East and the West. Helmut was impatient to see these changes happen. He kept writing to the British Council and every organization that could be addressed on these matters, attempting to secure their assistance. And his usual politeness did not prevent him from being insistent to the end.*¹⁵

One notable event, made possible by grants Helmut obtained from the DAAD, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the *Stiftungsverband der deutschen Wissenschaft*, brought together a number of representatives of the subject in the 'new democracies' for the first time in a symposium on 'Resources for Education in Eastern Europe' in Berlin in 1998, enabling them also to attend what was for some their first Board meeting.¹⁶

Helmut's lobbying for investment by the European Commission and the British Council were in the end largely unsuccessful – such as his call for a fund for short-term appointments for young Central European scholars to enable them to experience Western institutions themselves directly, rather than be lectured to by touring experts from the UK; or a one-off subsidy to build academic libraries. But he made the *Messenger* into an instrument to promote discussion and information flow and to share awareness and resources, and how to access the latter. In his first editorial he laid out his project for the newsletter as the place where 'the middle-term and grander aims of ESSE' could be discussed. It is worth quoting at length, not least, in my view, for its penultimate sentence:

First of all, streamers of professional contacts and personal friendships are to connect English Departments with one another, since information is of mutual benefit, in the realms of educational policy as of scholarship. Knowledge of how things are done elsewhere is part of the defense against outside interference, a bulwark against attacks on university autonomy. Second, mutual information should help us counter the inequalities between the larger and the smaller nations of Europe, the richer and the poorer, a state of things with which we were confronted long before the fall of the iron curtain. Third, from the very first germs of the ESSE venture to the present, a strong sense of sympathy with our colleagues

¹⁴ Robert Clark, personal communication, 17 July 2015.

¹⁵ Shurbanov, *ibid.*

¹⁶ Reports from the participating countries were published as a supplement to the *Messenger*, VIII. 2 (Autumn 1999), available at <http://www.essenglish.org/berlin.pdf>.

*from the Baltic to the Black Sea has been evident, as well as a great eagerness to support their efforts at reorientation and renewal. It has been a matter of course to report on their work, to bring them into the network and help them build up contacts, promote the younger generation of scholars there and above all work toward providing them with better libraries. It is in the nature of things that this will take not years but decades. Fourth, there is a complex of values that gave rise to the European Community which ought to be realized in English Studies as well.*¹⁷

The building of this community involved a number of practical initiatives, for example, programmes to make journals and monographs available to departments in the 'new democracies' while at the same time raising the profile of European-based scholarship, through the creation of 'a European bibliographical base'.¹⁸ While Clark led on the large-scale operations, such as his project for an *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies*, in which the publications were selected and filtered by critical comments from a network of Europe-based scholars, Helmut wrote or commissioned reports on 'English Studies in...', 'Checklists' of resources, and 'Briefings' on trends in different areas of the subject, as well as 'tips and tricks' for setting up ERASMUS exchanges. As President, he came up with a scheme, with the help of a Cambridge bookshop, to transfer the personal libraries of retiring professors who were losing their office space to departments in Central and Eastern Europe. Although not always successful, such adventurous projects were certainly worth trying. Fernando Galván again:

When evoking those conversations I cannot help bringing back to my memory his eyes, full of life, enthusiasm and energy when speaking about the project of providing our Eastern European colleagues with journals in English Studies published in the West. I had been editing a scholarly journal myself a few years before, and was naturally approached by Helmut and kindly invited to contribute with the donation of a number of copies which were to be sent regularly to university libraries in Eastern Europe. We did so of course, and years later I saw some of the positive results of those initiatives started by Helmut in my visits as ESSE President to departments and conferences across Eastern Europe.

At the same time, as Campbell reminds us, 'He was without illusions about the task of cultural integration', as was shown by his deft management of very delicate issues relating to the finances of our first conference in Eastern Europe.

While some of the projects designed by Bonheim were not lacking in grandiosity of ambition, his action was also often discreet and personal. As Campbell continues:

Helmut saw ESSE as a tool in which, in his chosen sphere, he could do his bit to create a united Europe. Sometimes he did so secretly, notably in financial support for East European colleagues. At the meeting that I attended in Cologne, for example, Helmut quietly paid the travel and accommodation costs of East European visitors out of his own pocket.

Tom Healy, who was involved with the original creation of ESSE, likewise testifies to Helmut's 'striking disposition to help people', citing, alongside the Cologne case, examples of his personal support for writers and translators and, most tellingly, the occasion on which, during 'the break-up of Yugoslavia, he hastily arranged a six-month fellowship for [a] Shakespeare scholar ... when it was no longer safe for him to stay in Serbia.' Tom concludes: 'There are many other examples of Helmut's generosity whose recipients are probably not directly aware of his having been the instigator of the grant, the invitation, the fellowship that came at a point in their careers when they most needed it.'¹⁹

Healy's reference to Yugoslavia reminds us that these were not only years of hope for a new Europe, but also a time of conflict at its centre. Secretary Caie recalls:

¹⁷ Helmut Bonheim, Editorial, *European English Messenger*, I. 1 (Autumn 1991), 6-7.

¹⁸ Bonheim, Editorial, *European English Messenger*, I. 3 (Autumn 1992), 8.

¹⁹ Tom Healy, personal communication, 31 August 2015.

These were difficult years for ESSE, as some of the negotiations at Board meetings concerning the membership of new countries from Central and Eastern Europe were fraught and at times emotional. This was the period of war in the former Yugoslavia, in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular, and discussions were naturally tense. Helmut was an excellent chairman and managed to help members separate the political from the academic and to give much support to academics from member states which were suffering during this conflict.

Helmut's practical wisdom and diplomacy were tested by the war and by the occasional overflow of reactions to the creation of new states and the appearance of old ideologies. Challenges were not, of course, the preserve of the 'new democracies'. Bonheim had also to manage tensions between long-established Western nations, not least concern over ESSE's independence from British influence, the sometimes patronising attitudes towards representatives from less well-resourced countries, and the problems arising from attitudes towards the membership fee and its payment displayed at various times by different associations which, until Carmelo Cunchillos (Treasurer 1996-2002) got a grip on things, threatened the Society's sustainability. In sum, as Caie concludes:

It may be difficult for the younger generation of scholars to appreciate, but at the time of Helmut's presidency there was a great need to bring east and west Europe together and to collaborate on scholarly activities; ESSE under Helmut's regime did so much to achieve this collaboration in English studies. He helped break down the insularity of English studies in individual countries by creating a pan-European vision of the subject. It would be no exaggeration to say that he changed the world of English studies in Europe.

In recognition of his work, he was awarded the *Grosses Bundesverdienstkreuz*, the Presidential Medal for services to East-West Relations.

Memories of/in the end

As I observed early on, not everyone agreed with Helmut's vision for ESSE, or for particular projects or, perhaps most of all, for how he went about things – not least in relation to the development of a model for the conference, the nature of, and need for, the newsletter, the institutional and interdisciplinary character of the *European Journal of English Studies*, relations with the journal's publisher, and to two key moments of succession, that of Clark at the Glasgow Board in 1995 (in which, to confess an interest, I was personally involved) and his own in 1999. Shurbanov's conclusion to the short memoir he provided for this article touches on a bundle of key themes:

Although we seem to have met and talked more than once in the subsequent years, my memory tells me that I saw Helmut last at an ESSE Board meeting in Timișoara, Romania in August 1999. This was one of the final meetings he chaired as President of the Society and he had insisted that I should attend it as an invited guest, hoping to bring me back to active participation in the organizational life. My nostalgic memories of the early years of ESSE made me expect an idyllic friendly gathering, but instead I found myself in the midst of a tense, nervous and hostile atmosphere, in which Helmut's position reminded me of Shakespeare's Richard II sorely beset by his unruly barons. Like poor Richard, Helmut was gentle and pensive, almost melancholy, but unlike him, he was not given to self-pity and sentimental posturing. On the contrary, he was his usual dignified self, witty and not averse to self-irony, capable of cracking a joke even at the ruthless disease that had started eroding him from within and would not desist until it reached its complete triumph. I shall never forget how at the beginning of the meetings he quipped with a smile: 'Some of us here are not all there.'

The character traits noted here were commented on by many other contributors, as of course the poignant conclusion. Robert Clark recalls 'Helmut's essential humanity and extraordinarily dry sense of humour, so dry it was possible entirely to miss it'. Graham Caie refers to 'a courteous, kind and benevolent man ... a true gentleman ... caring and

considerate.’ Krystyna Stamirowska draws attention to his fundamental modesty: ‘in the years I knew him, he never mentioned anything he accomplished in terms of achievement. He preferred to talk of what was as yet unachieved.... At the same time, he was most tolerant of others; I never heard him find fault with or criticize anyone, even if he had good reasons.’ Healy elaborates on that modesty: ‘one of the memorable things about Helmut is that he was not one for dramatic self-promotion. He was, in the best possible sense, a gentle man and someone who put individual human concerns above institutional interests or forging his own reputation. Indeed, his apparent lack of self-interest could be infuriating on occasion: it was almost impossible to find out much about his own work, as he insisted on talking about your own, usually making excellent suggestions or recommending a book or article that showed the erudition that rested underneath his modest exterior.’

Healy also states: ‘In retrospect, I suspect his somewhat phlegmatic approach that became increasingly pronounced as he was approaching retirement was an early indication of the disease, one which few of us realised at the time.’ And thus we come to the last chapter. Stamirowska recalls ‘After the summer 2001 when I last saw the Bonheims in Cologne and it dawned on me that all might not be well, our contacts became irregular and rare. In 2004 silence ensued. After a few attempts to phone and mail, I gave up, realizing that they had decided to withdraw.’ After a period in which she respected Helmut’s ‘Alzheimer’s silence’, one of his former students and colleagues at Cologne, Reingard M. Nischik, discovered his address from his daughter:

When I travelled from Konstanz to visit him in the nursing home in Köln-Porz, I first saw the door to his room with the sign: ‘Helmut Bonheim’ (no titles anymore). He was lying in bed, in a slumber, still good-looking: I was amazed how little, relatively speaking, his appearance had changed even though he was by then in his eighties. After more than two decades, I was looking at the person to whom, because he had set me on the path, to a significant extent I owed my professional happiness.

*When I returned an hour later, I saw him sitting in the common room in a wheelchair: slumped, head down, staring at the floor.... I carefully approached him and slowly and cautiously, yet repeatedly, tried to tell him who I was. I told him how grateful I was to him for making it possible for me to choose a profession I have found so rewarding and fulfilling. By and by, I got the impression that he started to vaguely remember, or that at least some of my urgent words got through to him to some degree. Tears were running down his cheeks, yet he hardly said anything. I saw a copy of Joyce’s *Ulysses* on the bookshelf in the common room, no doubt deposited there by his daughter. I took the book and put it in his hands. It was immediately obvious that this was a person who had spent a great deal of his life with books. He looked at the book as if at a very precious object, handled it very carefully, and slowly thumbed through it, page by page, probably unable to read anymore. This went on for some minutes. Then seemingly purposefully he shut the book, carefully handed it over to me, and ceremoniously placed it into my hands – from the teacher to his former doctoral and postdoctoral student, as if he wanted to tell me that it was now up to others to continue the work, and that his time was over.... That was the last time I saw Helmut Bonheim. He died five weeks later. Memories of his kindness live on, together with profound respect for his extraordinary personality and his life achievement, and with deep gratitude.²⁰*

Professor Nischik reminds us of Helmut Bonheim the mentor and colleague. Let us conclude again with the words of a former President of our Society, Fernando Galván, and thus with a positive image of strength and preservation, not loss:

Helmut was a good and very nice man, full of humour and innovative ideas. It is a great sadness that he is no longer with us, as it was also very painful when I saw him for the last time in Berlin at a conference and I discovered that his memory was failing, that he had

²⁰ Reingard M. Nischik, ‘Helmut Bonheim: Inspiring Teacher, Generous Mentor’, personal communication, 9 July 2015.

problems in recognising me... But even if in the end that terrible disease led him to forget some of us, ESSE cannot certainly forget Helmut Bonheim, his work, his huge efforts in making ESSE bigger and more relevant in the European sphere. He will always be remembered with gratitude and admiration by those who understand what he did and what he tried to do. Helmut might have undoubtedly uttered those Horatian words of *Non omnis moriar* which bear witness to the achievements of a man committed to education, culture and research in a united Europe.

ESSE misses him, and, Heaven knows, Europe misses men and women like him.

WRESTLING WITH THE (POST)-POSTMODERNISM

Post-postmodernism: An Ugly Wor(l)d?

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That postmodernism is already dead is a truism accepted by everybody. Its end has been repeatedly stated in recent years. The most famous declaration belongs to Linda Hutcheon, who, in the epilogue to the 2002 edition of *Politics of Postmodernism*, says in a loud voice: "It's over!" (166). But if postmodernism is no longer alive and kicking, what is? Post-postmodernism, obviously. The term makes Nealon (2012: ix) feel frustrated, because it is terribly unattractive, "just plain ugly," "infelicitous, difficult both to read and to say, as well as nonsensically redundant." The truth is that it has been frequently used since the turn of the century and it is more convenient, says the same critic, than "after Postmodernism," "the end(s) of Postmodernism," "Postmodernism 2.0," or "overcoming Postmodernism." Why? Because it indicates an important mutation: 'Post' is not a marker of chronological posteriority or subsequent historical order but a sign of intensification. It might therefore be a good solution for the multiplicity of contradictory tendencies and incoherent sensibilities which characterize the present times. What Nealon (2012: x-xi) also underlines is that, if Fredric Jameson's (1991) claims that postmodernism represents the cultural logic of late capitalism, capitalism itself is the thing that has intensified most radically into "the 'just-in-time' (which is to say, all-the-time) capitalism of our neoliberal era". Among the major tasks of post-postmodernism, he also mentions the necessity

to construct a vocabulary to talk about the „new economies” (post-Fordism, globalization, the centrality of market economies, the new surveillance techniques of the war on terrorism, etc.) and their complex relations to cultural production in the present moment, where capitalism seems nowhere near the point of its exhaustion. (Nealon 2012: 15)

But how can we construct a new vocabulary when, from the very beginning, we are stuck with the first word we should agree upon: the name of the trend? Variants are so numerous that it becomes almost impossible to enumerate them all. Epstein et al. (1999: 467) believe in *transmodernism* and its new non-ironic aesthetics. Lipovetsky (2005) speaks about *hypermodernism*, whose cultural practices and social relations are linked to hyperconsumerism. Samuels (2008) proclaims that we live in an epoch of *automodernism*, in which (technological) automation and (human) autonomy are correlated by an extended exchange of information. Kirby (2009) prefers the term *digimodernism* for a world which favours the new computerized variants of textuality, while Bourriaud (2009) declares that we live in a period of *altermodernism*, a successful synthesis between modernism and post-colonialism expressed in a globalized perception, nomadism, exile, and elsewhere-ness. Velmeulen and van den Akker (2010) approach the