

CAPTIVATING CRIMINALITY 11

HYBRIDISATION AND GENERIC EXPERIMENTS IN CRIME NARRATIVES

27-29TH JUNE 2024

ESZTERHÁZY KÁROLY CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, EGER, HUNGARY

Keynotes

Mariaconcetta Costantini. Professor of English Literature at G. d'Annunzio University, Pescara, Italy

Ruth Heholt. Professor of English Literature at Falmouth University, Falmouth, England

Tamás Bényei. Professor of English Literature at the University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

Call for Papers

The Captivating Criminality Network is delighted to announce its eleventh Captivating Criminality conference. Organised in cooperation with Eszterházy Károly Catholic University and the Hungarian Society for the Study of English, this conference will be held in Eger, Hungary from 27th to 29th of June 2024.

Building upon and developing ideas and themes from the previous ten successful conferences, Hybridisation and Generic Experiments in Crime Narratives will examine the ways in which crime fiction as a genre has developed by interacting with other genres and forms of literature over the past two hundred years. Recognizing that crime fiction is an umbrella term that incorporates various sub-forms, many of which have just recently appeared, this conference is dedicated to exploring the genre's flexibility in applying various narrative strategies and generic features to address local, national, cultural and global phenomena. The topic of the conference stems from and rejects traditional views on the genre of crime fiction as static and, due to its formulaic nature, exempt from sophistication or significance. Instead of Tzvetan Todorov's suggestion in his influential 1966 essay that the relationship between the individual text and the genre is one of embodiment or adherence to rules and conventions, the conference draws on recent academic criticism of crime fiction foregrounding the "mobility of genre", which, as the editors of *The Routledge Companion to Crime Fiction* (2020) remark, highlights "the experimental and transgressive aspects of crime fiction and in particular locates the dynamism of the genre in a constant tension between the affirmation and negation of genre norms" (17). Papers presented at Captivating Criminality 11 will thus inquire into the innovative nature of crime fiction, which not only engages in the deconstruction of the 'law of the genre' – to speak with Derrida, a delimiting and norm-setting principle (1980) – but also in the production of hybrid narratives. The increase in genre hybridity has proved that the field is in constant flux and the combination of respective features and forms calls for a revision of the dialectics between 'literature' and 'genre fiction', on the one hand, and of crime fiction as a rule-bending rather than rule-bound genre on the other hand.

Papers presented at Captivating Criminality 11 will examine the crossing of forms and themes to shed light on the literary journey crime fiction as a genre has covered since its recognition as a popular form of literature. Speakers are invited to explore the volatility of crime fiction with special regard to hybridisation and generic experiments that reflect genre evolution as well as the fragility of canonical forms, deconstruct the separation of high and popular forms of literature and enable the genre to appropriate cultural, regional or national differences. Abstracts dealing with the wide-ranging generic and medial varieties of crime narratives are welcome, as well as papers adopting a range of theoretical, sociological and historical approaches.

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Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Classic Whodunits and the Neo-Golden Age
- Thrillers
- The Hard-Boiled and Noir
- Crime Fiction and the Gothic
- Crime Fiction and the Sensation Novel
- Crime Fiction and the Adventure Novel
- Crime Fiction and the Western
- Historical Crime Fiction
- Highbrow and Middlebrow Fiction
- Ecological Mysteries
- Revenge Stories
- Crime Fiction and Postmodern experimentation
- Crime Fiction and Science Fiction
- Crime Fiction and Romance Fiction
- The Real and the Virtual
- Adaptation and Interpretation
- Crime Fiction and Form
- True Crime
- Crime Fiction and Contemporary Debates
- Crime Reports and the Press
- Geographies of Crime
- Real and Symbolic Boundaries
- Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity
- Film Adaptations
- TV series
- Early Forms of Crime Writing
- Victorian Crime Fiction
- The Media and Detection
- Postcolonial Crime and Detection
- Lockdown Crime Fiction
- Crime Fiction and the Global Novel
- Contemporary Trends in Crime Fiction

Please submit your 250-word abstracts for 20-minute presentations and proposals for panels and a short bio-note (about 100 words) at <https://uni-eszterhazy.hu/f/cc11-abstract-submission> by 31st January 2024.

Please feel free to submit abstracts presenting work in progress as well as completed projects. Postgraduate students are welcome.

Please note that the conference is to be an exclusively on-site event and you will need to be a registered member of ICFA to present a paper. Details of the conference fee and how to join the association, to follow.