

**British Society for Literature and Science**  
**Annual Conference 2016**

**Nicholson Rooms, University of Birmingham**

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> April**

12:00+ Arrival (nb. lunch is not provided)

12:50 Welcome

**13:00 PLENARY – Sharon Ruston (Lancaster)**

**“Using Letters in Literature and Science Studies: the Case of Humphry Davy”**

**14:00 PANELS 1**

1A. Time and Space

- Nina Lyon (Cardiff): “Mimesis, metaphysics and metamathematics in Carrollian satire and *Flatland*”
- Rebecka Klette (Birkbeck): “Invading History, History Invading: Evolutionary Time Travel and Atavistic Temporalities”
- Wolfgang Funk (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz): “Social Ethics and the Evolution of Mathematical Space: Writing on N-dimensional Spaces after Darwin”

1B. Ethics in Medicine

- Anna Rasokat (Cologne): “JG Ballard's Translational Medicine and the Ethics of Care”
- Jerome de Groot (Manchester): “Double Helix History: the use of DNA in Popular Genealogy”
- Morven Cook (Hull): “Euthanasia Narratives”

1C. Mythology and the Empirical

- Jimmy Packham (Birmingham): “Herman Melville and the ‘fossilifers stone’”
- Felicity Powell (Sheffield): “Quantum Mythology: Violence, Religion, and Trickster Physics in the works of Ted Hughes”
- Kanta Dihal (Oxford): “Science and Religion in Madeleine L’Engle’s *A Wrinkle in Time* and Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*”

15:30 Break

**16:00 PANELS 2**

2A. The Occult

- Lesley Gray (Kent): “On the thresholds of science: the art of storytelling in the mesmeric tales of Edgar Allan Poe”
- Eleanor Dobson (Birmingham): “Through a Glass Darkly: Materialising Mummies in Fin-de-Siècle Literature, Photography and Film”

2B. Nerve Specialists

- Melissa Dickson (Oxford): “Nineteenth-Century Nervous Systems and Cultural Fantasies of Adaptation”
- Helen Goodman (Royal Holloway): “Symptoms of Stress and Self-Medication in the Nineteenth-Century Scientific Community”

2C. Textual Estrangement

- Anna Sikora (National University of Galway): “Mad Science or the Future of Medicine? - nonfictional visions in John Wyndham’s science fiction”
- Simon de Bourcier (Independent): “‘To Re-See, See Better, See Beyond’: Science as Estrangement in Lily King’s *Euphoria* and Karen Joy Fowler’s *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*.”

2D. In The Shadow of the Bomb

- Jenni G. Halpin (Savannah State): “Rehearsing to Avoid the Performance in Terry Johnson’s *Insignificance*”
- Daniel Cordle (Nottingham Trent): “Burning Books: The Archive and Nuclear Culture in the Late Cold War”

2E. Neurology over Time

- Darren N. Wagner (McGill): “Paradigm Shifts in Literature and Neuroscience, c. 1740–1818”
- Natalie Riley (St. Andrews): “‘Who is to say where one begins and the other ends?’: Literature and the Neurosciences in Siri Hustvedt’s *The Blazing World* (2014)”

**17:00 PANELS 3**

3A. SLSAeu Roundtable: Conceptual Methodologies

Josie Gill (Bristol), Stefan Herbrechter (Coventry), Manuela Rossini (Basel), Johnny Golding (Birmingham City), Rosalind Powell (Bristol), Rachel Crossland (Chichester)

3B. Polymaths?

- A. G. Tait (Independent): “‘The True Philosophy’ of Robert Hunt: Poet, Historian, Scientist”
- Jordan Kistler (Birmingham): “Housing Literature, Art, and Science under one roof: the 19th century British Museum and the poetry of Arthur O’Shaughnessy”
- Cristiano Turbil (Brighton): “Paolo Mantegazza and *The Year 3000*: Italian literature and science”

3C. Reading: Attention and Inattention

- Shannon McBriar (Amsterdam University College): “‘An alternation of flights and perchings’: Mind wandering and states of attention and rest in Virginia Woolf’s ‘Street Haunting’ and ‘The Mark on the Wall’”
- Ben Morgan (Oxford): “Embodied Cognition and the Project of the Bildungsroman”
- Naomi Rokotnitz (Tel-Aviv): “Goosebumps and Shivers: Visualisation, Projection and Embodied Resonance in the Reading Experience”

18:30 Close for day (informally arranged drinks/dinners)

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**9:00 PANELS 4**

(Panels in this session consist of short, informally-delivered papers followed by considerable discussion time.)

4A. Narrativizing Science

- Nina Engelhardt (Edinburgh): “Bodies in Flight - Imagining the Flying Body and Writing Flights of Fancy”
- Greg Lynall (Liverpool): “‘Nothing wounds so much as Jest’: the power of mock-scientific English prose in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries”
- Maria Avxentevskaya (Freie Universität Berlin): “Literary Techniques in the Futurology of Science”

4B. Interdisciplinary Methodologies

- Zoë Lehmann Imfeld (Bern): “Fictionality Beyond Fiction”
- Josie Gill (Bristol): “‘Literary Archaeology’: Exploring the Lived Environment of the Slave”
- Emily Alder (Edinburgh Napier): “Sensing Knowledge: Edith Nesbit’s ‘The Three Drugs’ and ‘The Five Senses’”

#### 4C. Teaching Literature and Science

Panel TBA

#### **10:00 PANELS 5**

##### 5A. The Self in the Other

- Matthew MacKisack (Exeter): “*Ut Pictura Poesis* Before and After Differential Psychology”
- Michael Whitworth (Oxford): “Subatomic erotics: molecules and particles in late C20th and early C21st British poetry”
- Barri Gold (Muhlenberg College): “Reading Ecologies, or, Musings on the Possible Contributions of Literary Studies to the Present Ecological Crisis”

##### 5B. Astronomy

- Nicky Atkins (Chichester): “Perfecting early scientific experience through literature: *Sidereus Nuncius* and *The Man in the Moon*”
- Kimberley B. Dimitriadis (Sydney): “The Eclipse and the Observer: Astronomy in George Eliot’s *The Mill on the Floss*”
- Emanuela Ettorre (Chieti-Pescara): “Thomas Hardy, Astronomy and the Cosmologies of Fiction”

##### 5C. Life of Breath

- Peter Garratt (Durham): “Respiration and Inspiration: Breath in *Fin de Siècle* Aesthetics”
- Arthur Rose (Durham): “Tim Winton’s Pneumatic Materialism: Notes on Anoxia”
- Naya Tsentourou (Exeter): “Hamlet’s Windy Suspiration of Forced Breath”

11:30 Break

**11:45 Annual General Meeting of the BSLS**

12:45 Lunch

#### **13:20 PANELS 6**

##### 6A. Animals and Humans

- Xiao Yizhi (Brown): “Vivisection and the Birth of the Victorian Mad Scientist”
- Katherine Ford (Science Museum, London): “Islands of monstrosity: beasts, human and otherwise in adventure and science fiction at the fin de siècle”
- Sally Blackburn (Liverpool): “Vernon Lee and Vivisection: A Mutilation of Morality”

##### 6B. Pedagogies of Science

- Sarah Hanks (Oxford): “‘But, master, [...] tell me why that strange light of many tints shines upon the dark moon?’: Depictions of scientists and science teachers in the works of Robert Stawell Ball and Arabella Buckley”
- Melanie Keene (Cambridge): “‘Begin with the girls’: narratives of science and education in juvenile periodicals, ca. 1860-1910”
- Rachel Crossland (Chichester): “‘Facts, not theories’: W. A. Shenstone, school laboratories and the Cornhill Magazine, 1903-1908”

##### 6C. Land Usage: The Politics of Urban and Rural Spaces

- Kristine Kowalchuk (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology): “Overcoming Agricultural Amnesia: Learning from Seventeenth-Century Farming Manuals”
- Matthew Holmes (Leeds): “Malthus’s Shallow Grave: The Population Bomb (1968) and British Agricultural Science”
- Ana Duarte Rodrigues (Lisbon): “Environmental issues in Portuguese literature and British scientific essays in the turn for the twentieth century”

### 15:00 ACTIVITY SESSION 1

You will have signed up for one of the following on Thursday:

- Winterbourne Gardens Tour
- Lapworth Museum Tour
- Magic Lantern Show
- Printing Press Demonstration

### 16:10 ACTIVITY SESSION 2

Again, you will have signed up for a second of the above four options.

### 17:15 PLENARY – Harriet Ritvo (MIT)

“Species Problems”

18:15 Wine reception – Winterbourne House

19:15 Travel to conference dinner (only for delegates who have booked onto the dinner)

## Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April

### 9:15 PANELS 7

#### 7A. Scientific Travel

- Martin Willis (Cardiff): “Medical Tourism in Victorian Edinburgh”
- Anna Burton (Liverpool): “Reading ‘sylvan phenomena’: Uncovering the development of Picturesque and Geological discourses in *The Woodlanders*”
- Antonio Raschi (CNR - Institute of Biometeorology, Firenze): “GO TO HELL! How Dante Alighieri met geothermy (and greenhouse effect) in his chthonian trip.”

#### 7B. The State of the Novel

- Anna Auguscik (Oldenburg) and Anton Kirchhofer (Oldenburg): “Canons and Critical Profiles of the Contemporary ‘Science Novel’: Perspectives on Genres, Markets and Media Presence”
- Rachel Holland (Lancaster): “The Third Culture Novel: interactions between science and humanities culture in contemporary fiction, with close reference to Ian McEwan’s *Saturday*”
- Natalie Roxburgh (Siegen): “The Rise of the Pharmacological Novel?”

#### 7C. Medicine and Gender

- Neil MacFarlane (Birkbeck): “‘A broad, squat, pury, fat thing’: Brutish Corpulence in *Pamela* (1740)”
- Cybèle Arnaud (Maryland): “Is there a doctoresse in the house? The relationship between gender and medicine in Early Modern French theatre”
- Rebecca Spear (Cardiff): “‘Doctoring and coddling’: Childcare and female neighbourhood in Jane Austen’s *Emma*”

10:45 Break

### 11:00 PANELS 8

#### 8A. Victorian Social Disease

- Sally Shuttleworth (Oxford): “Diseases of Speculation in Victorian Fiction”
- Andrew Mangham (Reading): “Natural Wastage: Social Problem Fiction and the Science of Decomposition”
- Gavin Budge (Hertfordshire): “Fading Away: Consumption, Mysticism and Decadence in George Macdonald”

#### 8B. Organising Information

- Alison Adam (Sheffield Hallam): “Why did we ever imagine that Sherlock Holmes invented forensic science?”
- Christina Alt (St. Andrews): “Making Ecology Modern: Discursive Experiments in Early Twentieth-Century British Ecology”

- Gi Taek Ryoo (Chungbuk National University, Korea): “Ashbery's Poetics of Noise: Information Theory, Order and Chaos”

8C. Poetry: Ornament or Experiment?

- Rosalind Powell (Bristol): “Alternative Spaces: creating natural philosophy through verse”
- Marcin Leszczyński (Warsaw): “Scientific analogy in Polish and English romantic poetry”
- Gregory Tate (St. Andrews): “Experimental Evidence: The Uses of Poetry in Victorian Science Communication”

**12:30 PLENARY – Alice Roberts (Birmingham)**

13:30 close