Biological Discourses
The Language of Science and Literature around 1900
A Postgraduate-Led Conference at St John’s College, Cambridge

Friday, 10 April 2015

10.00 Registration
11.00 Welcome
11.15 Keynote Lecture
   Heike Bauer (London): Death and Inversion
12.00 Panel 1: Sexology
   Linda Leskau (Bochum): Vegetal Perversions in Texts by Alfred Döblin
   Cyd Sturgess (Sheffield): Constructing the Boundaries of Desire: Theories of Sexual ‘Inversion’ and Sapphic Self-Fashioning in Berlin and Amsterdam (1918-1933)
13.00 Lunch
14.00 Panel 2: The Racial Other
   Aisha Nazeer (St Andrews): The Degenerate, Racial ‘Other’: Reading the Abject in Marryat’s The Blood of the Vampire and Haggard’s She
   David Midgley (Cambridge): The Legacy of Haeckel in the Writings of German Anti-Racists
15.00 Panel 3: Infections and Infestations
   Michael Wainwright (London): The Lair of the White: Stoker’s Literal Projection of a Helminthic Nightmare
   Marie Kolkenbrock (Cambridge): Gothic Infections: Discourses of Bacteriology and Occultism in the Literature of Prague and Vienna around 1900
16.00 Tea
16.30 Panel 4: Reproductive Issues
   Michael Eggers (Cologne): A Kiss is not just a Kiss. Adalbert Stifter’s Novella ‘The Kiss of the Sentze’ and the Reproduction of Mosse
   Charlotte Woodford (Cambridge): Biology and the Romance: Eugenic Thinking in Early Twentieth-Century Fiction by Women
18.00 Graduate Workshop
   An Opportunity to Present Research Plans and Seek Advice

Saturday, 11 April 2015

9.00 Panel 5: The Darwinian Legacy
   Elena Borelli (New York): The Beast Within: Darwinism and Desire in the Fin de Siècle
   Anahita Rouyan (Bologna): Resisting ‘Excelsior Biology’: H.G. Wells’s The Time Machine and the Late Victorian (Mis-)Representations of Charles Darwin’s Theory of Evolution
   William Dodd (Birmingham): From Hitler to Darwin? Dolf Sternberger’s Panorama or Views of/from the Nineteenth Century (1938) as Cultural History in the Shadow of National Socialism
10.30 Coffee
11.00 Panel 6: Psychology and Aesthetics
   Tracey Loughran (Cardiff): Biology, Trauma and History: ‘Shell-Shock’ in British Medical Literature and Fiction, ca. 1914-1930
   Sarah Cain (Cambridge): Attention and Efficiency: The Experimental Psychology of Modernism
   Rey Lawson-Conquer (Oxford): ‘Synaesthesia is the art of perceiving, itself’: The Uses and Abuses of a Cross-Disciplinary Metaphor
12.30 Commentary
   Angus Nicholls (London)
13.00 Lunch
14.00 Panel 7: Literary Transformations
   Robert Craig (Cambridge): ‘I looked for myself … but found the world’: Looking for a New Hermeneutics in Alfred Döblin’s Literary Anthropologies and Biologies
16.00 Keynote Lecture
   Staffan Müller-Wille (Exeter): Heredity around 1900
16.45 Tea
17.30 Conference Closes

Advance registration required by Friday, 27 March 2015.
Conference fees: £30 (standard rate one or both days); £25 (Friends of Germanic or Italian Studies at the IMLR); £20 (students).
Register online at http://onlinesales.admin.cam.ac.uk/, using the form overleaf/at www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk > events or www.mml.cam.ac.uk/german, or contact german@mml.cam.ac.uk (tel: 01223 335 037)

Conference organisers: Robert Craig, Ina Linge and Annja Neumann (Cambridge)

Background image: ‘Chordaria flagelliformis’ from Anna Atkins: Photographs of British Algae. Cyanotype Impressions Vol. 2 [British Library, item 80:11 (80)]