

# British Society for Literature and Science

## Tenth Annual Conference

### University of Liverpool

16-18 April 2015

Hosted by the Literature, Science and Environment research cluster, University of Liverpool

**Venue: The Foresight Centre, 1 Brownlow Street, Liverpool, L69 3GL**

#### **THURSDAY 16 APRIL**

**REGISTRATION: 12.00-12.50** (South Atrium, The Foresight Centre) [N.B. delegates make their own arrangements for lunch]

**WELCOME: 12.50-13.00** (The Gallery)

**FIRST PLENARY SESSION: 13.00-14.00** (The Gallery)

**Claire Preston** (Queen Mary, University of London), ‘Boyle, Donne, and medical *consilia*’  
(Chair: Greg Lynall)

#### **PANEL SESSION 1: 14.00-15.30**

##### **Panel 1A (The Gallery)**

**Collations, Collections, Compilations in the Literature and the History of Science** (Chair: Charlotte Sleight)

Silvia Flubacher (University of Basel), ‘Compiled zoologies – classifications of the mythical and the exotic in early modern physico-theology’

Helena Avelar de Carvalho (The Warburg Institute), ‘Collections of horoscopes -- Between personal diaries and technical treatises’

Janine Rogers (Mount Allison University) and Samuel Gessner (CIUHCT Center for the History of Science and Technology, Portugal), 'Compiling texts and instruments: Chaucer's *Treatise on the Astrolabe* and the tradition of *De fabrica et usu* texts'

### **Panel 1B (The Thornton Room)**

**Art as Optical Device: Technologies of Vision in Modernist Aesthetics** (Chair: Jennifer Cole)

Natasha Ryan (University of Oxford), '*Tableaux rapides*: Théodore de Banville as lanternist and reluctant prose poet'

Robert Daly (University of Oxford), 'Russian Formalism and the Science of Visual Perception'

Laura Ludtke (University of Oxford), 'Casting the Glow: Representing London's Lightscape in the Interwar British Novel'

### **Panel 1C (The Waterhouse Room)**

**Reading Light 1** (Chair: Martin Willis)

Rosalind Powell (Liverpool Hope University), 'The Light Fantastic: Analogy and Possibility in Poetry after Newton'

Rachel Crossland (University of Chichester), "'But what is the light?": Waves and/or Particles in the Writings of Virginia Woolf'

Diane Leblond (University Paris Diderot), 'Optics and sciences of light in contemporary fiction: knowledge, power, and imagination'

### **Panel 1D (The Halsall Room)**

**Dismemberment and Reconstitution of the Cultural Body** (Chair: Josie Gill)

Lena Wångren (University of Edinburgh), 'Cultural Dismemberment: Gender, Amputation and the Medical Gothic'

Chisomo Kalinga (University of Edinburgh), 'How to Have Humour in an Epidemic: Popular African Political Cartoonists and the Narrative of Disease Containment from AIDS to Ebola'

Ally Crockford (University of Edinburgh), "'Do you want to be on the right or the left?'" Monstrous Reconstitutions in Popular Culture'

**TEA & COFFEE: 15.30-16.00 (South Atrium & Chandler Room)**

### **PANEL SESSION 2: 16.00-17.00**

#### **Panel 2A (The Gallery)**

**Science on Stage** (Chair: Carina Bartleet)

Jenni Halpin (Savannah State University), 'Haber's Poison: Feeding the Imagination'

Christopher Herzog (University of Salzburg), 'Theatrical Seeing and Scientific Evidence: Visualising Abnormality in Contemporary Neuroscience Plays'

### **Panel 2B (The Thornton Room)**

#### **Animals and Hybrids** (Chair: Patrick Parrinder)

Emily Alder (Edinburgh Napier University), 'Doctor Moreau's Pink Rabbits'

Laurence Davies (University of Glasgow), 'Superdogs in Mikhail Bulgakov's *Heart of a Dog* (1925/ 1968/ 1987) and Olaf Stapledon's *Sirius* (1944)'

### **Panel 2C (The Waterhouse Room)**

#### **Degenerative Disease and Ageing** (Chair: Josie Gill)

Jordan Kistler (University of Birmingham), "'Dimly as through a mist": Visual Degeneration in the Poetry of Philip Marston'

Folkert Degenring, 'Novel Age: The Representation of Ageing in Contemporary Literature'

### **Panel 2D (The Halsall Room)**

#### **Female Communities of Science** (Chair: Bethan Roberts)

Nataliia Voloshkova (The John Rylands Research Institute/ Donetsk National Medical University), 'Circulation of Knowledge in the Bluestocking Circle: An Analysis of Mary Hamilton's Diaries'

Rebecca Spear (University of Westminster), "'Safely delivered": midwifery and the female scientific community in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*'

### **PANEL SESSION 3: 17.00-18.30**

### **Panel 3A (The Gallery)**

#### **Analogy in Literature and Science Studies: A BSLS Roundtable** (Chair: Alice Jenkins)

Daniel Brown (University of Southampton), Peter Middleton (University of Southampton), Janine Rogers (Mount Allison University), Sharon Ruston (University of Lancaster), Michael Whitworth (University of Oxford), Martin Willis (University of Westminster)

### **Panel 3B (The Thornton Room)**

#### **Environmentalism and Climate Change** (Chair: Emily Alder)

Alan Rauch (UNC Charlotte), 'Terra Rima: W. H. Hudson, Environmentalism, and the Collapse of Nature'

Chris Pak (University of Lancaster), "'The Rich Sun, / The Power of Growth, the Lever of the Future": Climate Change, Biospheres and Sunlight in Science Fiction'

Anton Kirchhofer and Anna Auguscik (University of Oldenburg), 'Visions of the Immoral Scientist: Morality and the Perception of Science in Ian McEwan's *Solar* and other Contemporary Climate Change Stories'

### **Panel 3C (The Waterhouse Room)**

#### **Nineteenth-Century Light, Shadow and Reflection** (Chair: Simon Marsden)

Derek Ball (University of Leicester), “‘A girl who would have been requiring you to see the stars by daylight’: Light in George Eliot’s novels’

Richard Leahy (University of Chester), ‘Artificial Light in Nineteenth Century Literature: Gaslights as beacons of modernity’

Sam George (University of Hertfordshire), “‘He make in the mirror no reflect’’: undead aesthetics and mechanical reproduction – *Dorian Gray*, *Dracula*, and David Reed’s “vampire painting”

[Thursday evening: optional drinks, followed by optional dinner at various local restaurants – tables booked for 8pm, sign-up sheet at registration]

## **FRIDAY 17 APRIL**

### **PANEL SESSION 4: 9.00-10.30 (except Panel 4D: 9.30-10.30)**

#### **Panel 4A (Laura Jones Room)**

##### **Discourses on Origins between Science and Literature** (Chair: Argyros Protopapas)

Laurel Kornhiser (Quincy College, Massachusetts), ‘Limited Vision and the Search for Origins’

Pascal Nouvel (University Paul Valéry – Montpellier), ‘A typology of discourses on origins’

Marie-Pierre Laudet (University Paul Valéry – Montpellier), ‘Mythical versus scientific explanations of the origin of the world: a sociological inquiry’

#### **Panel 4B (The Thornton Room)**

##### **Scientific Modernisms** (Chair: Rachel Crossland)

Madeleine Geddes-Barton (Kings College, University of Cambridge), ‘Scientific Structuralism and the “Ithaca” chapter of Joyce’s *Ulysses*’

Jocelyn Rodal (University of California, Berkeley), “‘There Came an Equation’’: Ezra Pound and the Modernist Mathematics of Equivalence Relations’

Michael H. Whitworth (Merton College, Oxford), ‘The Value of Science in the Field of Poetry, 1900-1999’

#### **Panel 4C (The Waterhouse Room)**

##### **Cosmology and Geometry** (Chair: Samuel Gessner)

Pietro Daniel Omodeo (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin), ‘Poiesis: Poetry and Cosmos in Renaissance Commentaries on Aristotle’s *Poetics*’

Christine Turk (University of California at Santa Cruz), ‘Abandoning *Virtus*: Reconsidering the Ethical Stakes of 17th-Century Physics and Poesy’

Norbert Schaffeld (University of Bremen), ‘Solid Geometry, Aesthetic Intuition, and Truth Approximation in John Banville’s Novel *Kepler*’

**Panel 4D (The Halsall Room) [N.B. THIS TWO-PAPER PANEL WILL START AT 9.30]**

**Satire and Comedy** (Chair: Jane Darcy)

Philip Jenkins (Clare Hall, University of Cambridge/ University of Salamanca), ““But pray, what does this contribute to the Advancement of Natural Knowledge?” William King’s satires on Sir Hans Sloane and the *Philosophical Transactions*”

Louise Lee (Roehampton University), ‘Darwin’s Antic Sublime: Comedy, Species Fixity & the Nonsense of Looking’

**TEA & COFFEE: 10.30-11.00 (South Atrium & Chandler Room)**

**PANEL SESSION 5: 11.00-12.30**

**Panel 5A (Laura Jones Room)**

**Savages and Degeneration** (Chair: Lena Wånggren)

Rosalyn Buckland (King’s College London), ‘Mobs, Medics and “Mental Mutilation”’

Katherine Ford (University of Reading), ‘Prehistoric man, savages and the degenerate’

Margery Vibe Skagen (University of Bergen), ‘The Wild Woman, the Little Mistress, and the Pedestal Monster’

**Panel 5B (The Thornton Room)**

**Form and Material in Literary Ecological Engagement: ASLE-UKI panel** (Chair: John Holmes)

Sue Edney (Bath Spa and Bristol Universities), ‘Material monsters in Blake and Browning: “Making and marring clay at will”’

Adrian Tait, ““Part of the Great Machinery”: Leslie Stephen’s Mountainous Encounters’

John Parham (University of Worcester), ‘Bleak Intra-Actions. Dickens, Romanticism, Material Ecology’

Emma Trott (University of Leeds), ““Organic poetry” and Material Ecologies: Jon Silkin’s Language of Flowers’

**Panel 5C (The Waterhouse Room)**

**Humphry Davy** (Chair: Patricia Fara)

Tim Fulford (De Montfort University), ‘The Volcanic Humphry Davy and the Romantic Scientist’

Sharon Ruston (University of Lancaster), ‘Transmutation or Transformation? Humphry Davy’s Romantic Chemistry’

Frank A.J.L. James (Royal Institution and University College London), ‘What Humphry Davy learnt from Thomas Beddoes: The Medical Pneumatic Institution, 1794-1801’

**Panel 5D (The Halsall Room)**

**Physics and the Physicist** (Chair: Jenni Halpin)

Gi Taek Ryoo (Chungbuk National University), 'Space-time Continuum of Events: William Carlos Williams and the Theory of Relativity'

Carina Bartleet (Oxford Brookes University), 'The Physics of the Possible: An Electro-dynamics of Theatrical Bodies'

Natalie Roxburgh (University of Oldenburg), 'Shedding Light on the Scientist: Character and Quantum Theory in *Properties of Light*'

**LUNCH: 12.30-13.15 (South Atrium & Chandler Room) - including a wine reception sponsored by The Centre for the Study of Science and Imagination, University of Westminster, to celebrate the publication of Martin Willis, *Literature and Science* (Palgrave, 2015)**

### **PANEL SESSION 6: 13.15-14.15**

#### **Panel 6A (Laura Jones Room)**

**Science and the City** (Chair: Sue Edney)

Martin Willis (University of Westminster), 'Science in the City: Scientific Display and Urban Performance in Victorian Travel Guides to London'

Conor Reid (Trinity College Dublin), 'Neurasthenia: A Peculiarly American Disease'

#### **Panel 6B (The Thornton Room)**

**Astronomy and Optics** (Chair: Peter Garratt)

Maria Avxentevskaya (Freie Universität Berlin), 'The Spiritual Optics of Narrative: John Wilkins's Popularization of Copernicanism in Early Modern England'

Madeleine Wood (Queen Mary, University of London), '"I can see double stars": Parallax, Optical Binaries, and the Triangulation of Desire in Thomas Hardy's *Two on a Tower* (1882)'

#### **Panel 6C (The Waterhouse Room)**

**Chemistry and Self-experimentation** (Chair: Sharon Ruston)

Melissa Dickson (St Anne's College, Oxford), 'Confessions of an English Green-Tea Drinker'

Hannah Brunning (University of Westminster), 'Homemade chemistry: Self-experimentation in late-Victorian fiction'

#### **Panel 6D (The Halsall Room)**

**Scientific Womanhood** (Chair: Patricia Fara)

Joanne Knowles (Liverpool John Moores University), '"Devoted to Science"? Mary Kingsley, professionalism and discursive positioning'

Claire G. Jones (University of Liverpool), 'Sex, Science and Suffrage in Edith Ayrton Zangwill's *The Call* (1924)'

## **PANEL SESSION 7: 14.15-15.45**

### **Panel 7A (Laura Jones Room)**

#### **Nature, Environment and Health** (Chair: Ros Powell)

Bethan Roberts (University of Liverpool), 'The Lives of the Nightingale in the Long Eighteenth Century'

Felix Sprang (LMU Munich), "'Surrounded by earth and air, and all the active powers" – The Science and Politics of Consuming Air in Eighteenth-Century Novels'

Jane Darcy (UCL), 'From spas to sea-bathing: the phenomenon of the Isle of Wight in the Romantic period'

### **Panel 7B (The Thornton Room)**

#### **Minds of the Microbial and Machine** (Chair: Ivan Callus)

Stephen Hills (UCL), "'The Ghosts of Charles Manson and IBM, Playing with Cruise Missiles": The Writing of History by Psychoanalysis and Cybernetics in J. G. Ballard's *Hello America*'

Bruce Clarke (Texas Tech University), 'Narrating Intellectual Microbes'

Simon de Bourcier, 'Gödel, Turing, Hofstadter: Mathematical Contexts for Postmodernist Self-Reference'

### **Panel 7C (The Waterhouse Room)**

#### **Invention, Imagination and Technology** (Chair: Will Tattersdill)

Courtney Salvey (University of Kent), 'That "Light Bulb Moment": Inventing Invention in Early Nineteenth-Century Britain'

Andy Sawyer (University of Liverpool) and Nickianne Moody (Liverpool John Moores University), 'Jane Webb Loudon's Science Writing: Knowledge within Boundaries'

Patrick Parrinder (University of Reading), 'Science vs. Alchemy under the Microscope: Fitzjames O'Brien's "The Diamond Lens" (1858)'

### **Panel 7D (The Halsall Room)**

#### **Popular Science Writing** (Chair: Michael Whitworth)

Oliver Hill-Andrews (University of Sussex), 'Writing in a Modern Renaissance: J. G. Crowther's Scientific Journalism'

Kanta Dihal (University of Oxford), "'Nerd-On-Nerd Violence": The Rhetoric behind the Astrophysics Popularizations of Stephen Hawking and Leonard Susskind'

Josie Gill (University of Bristol), 'The Roots of African Eve: Science Writing on Human Origins and Literary Narratives of African Ancestry'

### **TEA & COFFEE: 15.45-16.15 (South Atrium & Chandler Room)**

## **PANEL SESSION 8: 16.15-17.15**

### **Panel 8A (Laura Jones Room)**

#### **Reading Light 2** (Chair: Madeleine Wood)

Peter Garratt (University of Durham), 'Ruskin's Science of Light'

Clare Stainthorp (University of Birmingham), 'Striving towards the light: the functions of optical science in Constance Naden's writing'

### **Panel 8B (The Thornton Room)**

#### **Violence and Vivisection** (Chair: Claire Jones)

Ann Loveridge (Canterbury Christ Church University), '[Re]imagining the Scientific Image: Manipulating the Power of Sight in Late-Victorian Anti-Vivisection Literature'

Emanuela Ettore (University of Chieti-Pescara), "'...some ghastly medical freak": Edward Berdoe and the Improbable Religion of Science'

### **Panel 8C (The Waterhouse Room)**

#### **Romanticism, Science and Technology** (Chair: Sharon Ruston)

Marcin Leszczyński (University of Warsaw), "'Confusion to the memory of Newton": The attitude of English and Polish Romantic poets towards Isaac Newton'

Argyros I. Protopapas (University of Athens), 'Shelley's Camera Obscura: The Functions of his Cone of Night in the Context of the Poet's Visionary Enterprise'

### **Panel 8D (The Halsall Room)**

#### **Poetry and Social Sciences** (Chair: Janine Rogers)

John Holmes (University of Reading), 'Algernon Swinburne, Anthropologist'

Peter Middleton (University of Southampton), 'Which Science, Which Literature? Tracing the impact of the social sciences on postwar poetry'

**[Assemble in South Atrium at 17.15, for walk to Victoria Gallery & Museum]**

**SECOND PLENARY SESSION (in association with the Eighteenth-Century Worlds research centre): 17.30-18.30 (Leggate Theatre, Victoria Gallery & Museum)**

**Patricia Fara (University of Cambridge), 'The trials and triangulations of Erasmus Darwin'**  
(Chair: Greg Lynall)

**CONFERENCE DINNER: from 19.00 (Waterhouse Café, VGM)**



## **SATURDAY 18 APRIL**

### **PANEL SESSION 9: 9.00-10.30**

#### **Panel 9A (The Gallery)**

##### **Teaching Literature and Science to Literature Students and Scientists** (Chair: Martin Willis)

Will Tattersdill (English Literature, University of Birmingham)

Nick Battey (Biological Sciences, University of Reading) and John Holmes (English Literature, University of Reading)

Vic Callaghan (Computer Sciences and Electronic Engineering, University of Essex) and Ping Zheng (Business, Canterbury Christ Church University)

Duncan MacKay (Astrophysics, University of Kent)

#### **Panel 9B (The Thornton Room)**

##### **Modernist Illuminations** (Chair: Emma Trott)

Alice Barnaby (University of Bedfordshire), 'Thinking with light: Alfred North Whitehead and Wallace Stevens'

Mandy Bloomfield (Plymouth University), "'See sun, and think shadow": objectivist poetics and quantum physics'

Rosalind Alderman (University of Southampton), '(In)visible lights: Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Ronald Johnson, and the transformative tensions of collage'

#### **Panel 9C (The Waterhouse Room)**

##### **Evolutionary Legacies in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century American Literature: Anthropology and Eugenics** (Chair: Conor Reid)

Michael Collins (University of Kent), 'The Last Sage of Quincy and Last Queen of Tahiti: The Anthropological Education of Henry Adams'

Jennifer Cole (University of Oxford), "'This heroic epic of a fading race": *Poetry Magazine* and the Bureau of American Ethnology'

Jude Riley (Northumbria University), "'In the face of idiots": Eugenics, Race and Disability in Elizabeth Madox Roberts's *My Heart and My Flesh*'

#### **Panel 9D (The Halsall Room)**

##### **(Dis)Placing Madness: Negotiating the Boundaries in Nineteenth-Century Mental Sciences and Literature** (Chair: Jane Darcy)

Kalika A. Sands (Wolfson College, Oxford), "'The fact is, I was a trifle beside myself; or rather out of myself, as the French would say": Space and the Splitting of Self in the Fiction of Charlotte Brontë and Eliza Lynn Linton'

Erin Lafford (Corpus Christi College, Oxford), 'Clare and the Phrenologists: "morbid dwelling" and the Place of Health'

Franziska E. Kohlt (Brasenose College, Oxford), "'We're all mad here": Lunacy, Lewis Carroll and Victorian Psychiatry'

**TEA & COFFEE: 10.30-11.00 (South Atrium & Chandler Room)**

**PANEL SESSION 10: 11.00-12.00**

**Panel 10A (The Gallery)**

**Scale: European Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSAeu) panel** (Chair: Folkert Degenring)

Victor Grech (Medical School, University of Malta), ‘Cosmic Scale’

Ivan Callus (University of Malta), ‘Scale and Literature, or, A Literary Theory of Everything’

**Panel 10B (The Thornton Room)**

**Modernist Visions** (Chair: Laura Ludtke)

Rey Conquer (University of Oxford), “‘Synaesthesia *is* the act of perceiving, itself”: the uses and abuses of a cross-disciplinary metaphor’

Lesley Gray (University of Kent), ‘Doctor Bacteria and the art of science: The visionary work of Santiago Ramón y Cajal’

**Panel 10C (The Waterhouse Room)**

**The Scientific Gaze** (Chair: Joanne Knowles)

Aisha Nazeer (University of St Andrews), ‘A Feminist Re-Vision: Fowles’ Critique of the Scientific Gaze in *The Collector* and *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*’

Susan Morgan (Cardiff University), “‘Modest Venus’’: is the female body avoided in anatomy because of a tradition that finds it shameful or transgressive?’

**Panel 10D (The Halsall Room)**

**The Stereoscope** (Chair: Rachel Crossland)

Jonathan Potter (University of Leicester), ‘A Victorian Lady Looks at a Man and Dies: Reading the Stereoscope through Popular Fiction’

Cleo Hanaway-Oakley (University of Oxford), “‘frozen in stereoscope’’: Binocular Vision in the Work of James Joyce’

**THIRD PLENARY SESSION: 12.00-13.00 (The Gallery)**

**Keith Barnham (Imperial College London), ‘*The Burning Answer*: combining popular science with a political message’** (Chair: Greg Lynall)

**LUNCH & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 13.00-14.00 (South Atrium & Chandler Room / The Gallery)**

**END OF CONFERENCE: 14.00**