



The British Society for LITERATURE and SCIENCE

*Professor Greg Lynall (University of Liverpool), Chair; Dr Rachel Crossland (Independent Scholar), Secretary;
Professor Michael Whitworth (Merton College), Treasurer; Dr Will Tattersdill (University of Birmingham), Communications Officer;
Dr Emily Alder (Edinburgh Napier University), Membership Secretary;
Dr Franziska Kohlt (University of York) Book Reviews Editor.
Members at Large: Dr Chisomo Kalinga (University of Edinburgh); Dr Ros Powell (University of Bristol);
Early Career Member at Large: Dr Rachel Murray (Loughborough University);
Overseas Representatives: Dr Liliane Campos (Sorbonne Nouvelle University) Europe;
Dr Jenni Halpin (Savannah State University), North America, Newsletter Editor.*

PGR AND ECR RESOURCES

The BSLS is keen to support its members, in particular those at an early stage of their academic careers, by providing examples of things like successful PhD, postdoc, and job applications. A series of excellent resources can already be found on the Community Resources page of *The Modernist Review* (<https://modernistreviewcouk.wordpress.com/community-resources/>), but on the new PGR/ECR Resources page of the Members' section of our website we are looking to provide resources specific to the field of literature and science. For this, we need your help...

We would be extremely grateful to anyone who was willing to share a resource which they think would be of use to their fellow BSLS members. All submissions will be anonymised, and the edited document will be checked with you before we add it to the website. We are happy to consider any documents you are willing to share, but to start with we would be particularly interested in the following:

- Successful PhD applications
- Successful postdoc applications

The BSLS promotes interdisciplinary research into the relationship between science and literature in all periods.

Winter 2021 Newsletter

- Successful research fellowship applications
- Successful funding applications for public engagement/impact activities
- Successful job applications, both academic and non-academic
- Successful applications for the BSLS's own funding: the Small Grants Scheme and the Postgraduate and Early Career Conference Fund

Contributions should be sent as email attachments (in Word or PDF format) to resourcesbsls@gmail.com, including a brief summary of the nature of the document in the body of the email. Please title your document with its contents (e.g. 'PhD Application', 'Fellowship Application') and collate multiple parts into one document. Please also include your name and email at the top of the document so that we can contact you after we have anonymised the submission to check that you are happy with it. If you would like to suggest any other kinds of resources that you would find useful, please contact us on resourcesbsls@gmail.com.

To get things started, members can now access the recording of the PGR/ECR Training Session from the 2020 Winter Symposium, with warm thanks to Gemma Curto, Ellen Packham, Rachel Murray, Jen Baker and Kanta Dihal. Login to the BSLS website and follow the link to the PGR/ECR Resources page from the Members' section.

—Rachel Crossland

EVENT

PROSTHETIC EMBODIMENT & COGNITION IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY AND BEYOND

ONLINE LECTURE SERIES, 7 JANUARY –
26 FEBRUARY 2021

ORGANISERS: Giulia Maria Chesi and Sofia Varino

This transdisciplinary lecture series examines **prosthetic and machinic embodied practices** since classical antiquity in relation to posthumanism and the radical biotechnological interventions of modern science. The lectures engage with the distinction between what might be considered prosthetic or machinic being neither stable nor given, bringing to the fore how technological practices have throughout history shaken the foundations of classic

divisions between self and non-self, organism and environment, mind and body, and nature and culture. The focus is on three main themes: **agency** as an expansive category encompassing technological, medical, and political practices (Giulia Maria Chesi; Sara Chiarini; Aaron Kachuck; Sofia Varino); **affect** as the technosomatic interface for interactions between humans and machines (Margrit Shildrick; Maria Gerolemou; Tariq Masood); **language, text, knowledge production and codification** as materially mediated and enacted through mathematical, computational, digital, neurocognitive, and robotic structures (Matteo Valleriani; Serafina Cuomo; Nora Götze; Camilla Campedelli).

It is planned to record the lectures.

Website: <https://prostheticembodiment.cargo.site/>

Zoom Link (for all

lectures): <https://bit.ly/prostheticembodiment>

—Sofia Varino

Don't forget that Twitter users can join us online every Friday afternoon (2-5pm UK time) for **#LitSciWrite**.

BSLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Five positions on the BSLS Executive Committee will be up for renewal in April: Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Book Reviews Editor, and Member at Large. The present Membership Secretary, Book Reviews Editor, and Member at Large are seeking to continue in their roles, but all roles are open to nominations.

Any member of the BSLS is eligible for these posts and can propose themselves or someone else. Each proposed candidate will also need two nominations from members of the BSLS, and these proposals and nominations should be sent to the Chair, Greg Lynall (glynall@liverpool.ac.uk), and the Secretary, Rachel Crossland (rachelclairecrossland@gmail.com). Expressions of interest and proposals should be received by Tuesday 6th April at the very latest.

[FROM THE CONSTITUTION]

4. OFFICERS

4.5 The membership of the Executive Committee shall be determined by elections held at the annual general meeting of the society. Members wishing to stand for election should be nominated by two members of the society before the start of the AGM. Where there is more than one candidate for any post, election shall be held by a ballot on the basis of a single transferable vote.

4.6 Members of the Executive Committee shall serve three-year terms of office.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

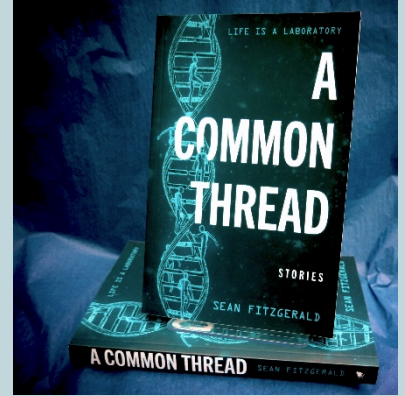
Sean Fitzgerald. *A Common Thread*. Troubador Publishing, 2020. ISBN: 9781800460355; eISBN: 9781800468290

A Common Thread is a collection of contemporary speculative fiction thrillers linked through science and technology. The stories present an opportunity to sample the process of undertaking science in familiar, albeit fictional, worlds. A blend of science and speculation is delivered in the form of three novelettes, two short stories and a novella.

The book has its roots in a practice-as-research critical-creative PhD study undertaken in the fields of science communication and creative writing. The project investigated the extent to which the intricacies of science and technology and the processes of science can be explored in a collection of speculative thriller stories aimed at a mainstream readership.

Published in Nov 2020 by Troubador, *A Common Thread* is available to order and purchase in paperback and eBook formats through most physical and online bookstores, and direct from the publisher at <https://www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop/crime-and-thrillers/a-common-thread/>.

For inquiries or more information, please visit my website at <https://www.seanzfitzgerald.com> and find me on Twitter @mollusc101.



Michael Wainwright. “The Moral Mathematics of Strategic Games in *The Unvanquished*.” *The Faulkner Journal* 31.2 (Fall 2017): 197–228.

The new editors of *The Faulkner Journal* have been trying to catch up on its editions. My article has recently been published (DOI: [10.1353/fau.2017.0006](https://doi.org/10.1353/fau.2017.0006)) as part of this project. William Faulkner’s major publications demand critical respect. In three cases, however, this demand remains unmet. Reviewing *Knight’s Gambit* (1949) for the *Greenville Delta Democrat-Times* (19 November 1949), Shelby Foote states that Faulkner’s latest publication “has probably the lowest specific gravity of any book by this author since *The Unvanquished*, his thirteenth, or possibly even since *Mosquitoes*, his second.” Little has changed in the seventy or so years since Foote’s assessment. This critical stalemate concerns *what matters*, and what matters in *The Unvanquished* is not so much Faulkner’s country, his “own little postage stamp of native soil,” which obsesses so many Faulknerians, but what the utilitarian philosopher Derek Parfit would call *reasons* and *persons*, or the moral mathematics of strategic games, in the novel. A game-theoretic hermeneutic, which complements the rational and mathematical theoretics of Parfitian each–we dilemmas to which the Father of American Pragmatism Charles Sanders Peirce pointed, helps to tease out these matters. The strategic imagery of *The Unvanquished*, a pragmatic picture dominated by repeated versions of an asymmetric strategy and its subsidiaries, hereby emerges from a strategic background rooted in the American Civil War. That emergence is the instrumental means toward an ultimate aim: a contestation of moral reasoning between the persons foregrounded in the novel.

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8-10 April 2021, online

FUTURE BSLS CONFERENCES

The Society welcomes early conversations with members interested in hosting upcoming annual conferences. Please contact the chair, Greg Lynall.

BSLS 17, MANCHESTER, 7-9 APRIL 2022

BSLS 18, EDINBURGH NAPIER, 6-8 APRIL 2023

bsls.ac.uk