

# The British Society for Literature and Science

## Eighteenth Annual Conference

Craiglockhart Campus, Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh

13-15 April 2023

For more information about the conference arrangements, see

<https://www.bsls.ac.uk/2023-conference-edinburgh-napier/>

To register, see <https://store.napier.ac.uk/product-catalogue/creative-industries/events>

### Outline Programme

<b>Day 1 Thursday 13 April</b>		
1030	Registration and coffee	Entrance Foyer
1100	[BSLS Exec meeting	Rivers Suite]
1130	Lunch	Entrance Foyer
1245	Welcome	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre
1300-1415	Plenary 1: Scotland roundtable	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre
1430-1600	Parallel sessions 1.A-1.D	Rooms: Lindsay Stewart, 3/05, 3/08, 3/09
1600-1630	Coffee break	Level 2 balcony
1630-1800	Parallel sessions 2.A-2.D	Rooms: 3/03, 3/05, 3/08, 3/09
1800	Sundowners	Rivers Suite
1930	Bus departs Craiglockhart	
<b>Day 2 Friday 14 April</b>		
0830	Bus departs Lauriston Place	
0900 - 1030	Parallel sessions 3.A-3.E	Rooms: 3/03, 3/05, 3/08, 3/09, 3/10
1030 - 1100	Coffee break	Level 2 balcony
1100 - 1200	Plenary 2: John Holmes	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre
1200 - 1245	BSLS AGM: all delegates attend	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre
1245 - 1330	Lunch	Rivers Suite
1330 - 1500	Parallel sessions 4.A-4.D	Rooms: 3/03, 3/05, 3/08, 3/09
1500 - 1530	Coffee break	Level 2 balcony
1530 - 1700	Parallel sessions 5.A-4.D	Rooms: 3/03, 3/05, 3/08, 3/09
1715 - 1815	Plenary 3: Laurence Talairach	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre
1830	Bus departs Craiglockhart	
1900	Conference Dinner	Summerhall
<b>Day 3 Saturday 15 April</b>		
0900	Bus departs Lauriston Place	
0930	Parallel sessions 6	Rooms: 3/03, 3/05, 3/08, 3/09
1100	Coffee Break	Level 3 balcony and 3/06
1130	Parallel sessions 7	Rooms:
1300	Lunch	Entrance Foyer
1400	End	

Day 1 Thursday 13 April			
1030		Entrance Foyer	Registration and coffee
1100		[Rivers Suite	BLS executive committee meeting]
1130		Entrance Foyer	Lunch
1245	Welcome	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre	
1300-1415	Plenary	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre <b>Literature and Science and Scotland</b> Chair: Emily Alder	Scott Lyall, Edinburgh Napier University: "Wherefore I seek a poetry of facts": Science in Hugh MacDiarmid's Poetry' Alice Jenkins, University of Glasgow: [title TBC] Christina Alt, University of St Andrews: 'Nan Shepherd's <i>The Living Mountain</i> and Ecology in Early Twentieth-Century Scotland'
1430-1600	Parallel sessions 1	Room: 3/05 Panel 1.A <b>The Nineteenth Century World</b>  Chair: Jim Scown	Brian Wallace (University of Manchester), "Play the God as You Like!": Technology and Magic in African Exploration Narratives and Fictions of the Nineteenth Century' Keith Williams (University of Dundee), 'The Ghost of Futures Past: Resurrecting a Lost Scottish Pioneer of Transatlantic Science Fiction'
		Room 3/08 Panel 1.B <b>Workshop: DNA, the Sequel: Intractable Aesthetics</b>  Chair: Jerome de Groot	Contributors: Alexandra Alberda (Manchester Museum) Njabulo Chipangura (Manchester Museum) Lara Choksey (University College London) Jerome de Groot (University of Manchester) Maya Sharma (Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre) Krystal Tsosie (Arizona State University)
		Room: Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre Panel 1.C <b>Science and Modernism</b>  Chair: Andrew Frayn	Moyang Li (California State University), 'An Ardent Desire for Mathematics: Virginia Woolf's <i>Night and Day</i> (1919) and the Passing of Victorian Geometry' Imola Nagy-Seres (Humbolt University of Berlin), 'Full of sand and seaweed': Katherine Mansfield's Modernist Rock Pools Eliza Browning, 'Temporality and the Ecology of Water in Virginia Woolf's <i>The Years</i> (1937)' Michael Whitworth (University of Oxford), 'Scientific Language and Images in "A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle"'

Day 1 Thursday 13 April cont'd			
1430-1600	Parallel sessions 1	Room 3/09 Panel 1.D <b>Bodies and Biology</b>  Chair:	Beth Brigham (Northumbria University), 'Narratives of Remediation: Dealing with the Remains of Bodysnatching History' Merrilees Roberts (Queen Mary, University of London), 'The involuntary bodies of Keats's <i>The Eve of St Agnes</i> ' Jasmine Tan (Nanyang Technological University), 'Biological metaphors in the poetics of Jane Hirshfield'
1600		Level 2 balcony	Tea/ coffee break
1630-1800	Parallel sessions 2	Room: 3/03 Panel 2.A <b>Fiction in 'Science' Museums</b>  Chair: Jordan Kistler	Jordan Kistler (University of Strathclyde), 'Facts and Fictions at The Loch Ness Centre' Will Tattersdill (University of Glasgow), 'On the Implied Pedagogy of Dinosaurs, from the Crystal Palace to Plant City' Alison Laurence (Stanford University), 'Constructing Dinosaurs at the Creation Museum'
		Room: 3/05 Panel 2.B <b>Labour, Technics, and Print Culture in the Age of Information</b>  Chair: Michael Whitworth	Laura Ludtke (University of New Haven, London), 'Lines of Resistance: the satirical strain in light verse on electrical matters in late nineteenth century poetry' Adele Guyton (University of Leuven), 'Engineers vs. Professors: genre trouble with theory, praxis and didacticism in early science fiction' Harriet Thompson (King's College London), 'Electrical Experts and Ignorant Consumers: telegraphic periodicals & technological humour in the late nineteenth century'
		Room: 3/08 Panel 2.C <b>Seas and Shores (Thurs)</b>  Chair: Hannah Boast	Joan Passey (University of Bristol), 'Nowt So Queer As Coasts: Queer Ecologies at the Shoreline in Victorian Fiction' Cecilia Neil-Smith (University of Exeter), 'Evelyn De Morgan's androgynous mermaid triptych and Darwin's theory of evolution' Virginia Richter (University of Bern), 'Reading the Beach: Forensics and Epistemology in Littoral Detective Fiction'
		Room: 3/09 Panel 2.D <b>Doctors, Health, and Medicine</b>  Chair: Marie Alitt	Louise Benson James (Ghent University), 'Medicine, Meat, and Magazines: Material Objects of Care in Sarah Grand's <i>The Beth Book</i> (1897)' Laura Brook (University of Edinburgh), "'The Patient/Patriot K.': John Keats, Guy's Hospital and the Politics of Power' Emilie Taylor-Pirie (University of Birmingham), 'Poetry, Philanthropy, and Public Health: Science and the Imagination in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries'
1800		Rivers Suite	Sundowners
1930	Bus departs Craiglockhart		

<b>Day 2 Friday 14 April</b>			
0830	Bus departs Lauriston Place		
0900-1030	Parallel sessions 3	Room: 3/03 Panel 3.A <b>(Mis)Representing the Ocean and Marine Sciences in Visual and Textual Cultures</b>  Chair: Giulia Champion	Cecilia Neil-Smith (University of Exeter), 'The Mermaids and Sirens of Edward Burne-Jones' Renée Hoogland (University of Southampton), 'Searching for Doggerland: Speculative Fictions across Literature and Maritime Archaeology' Prema Arasu (University of Western Australia), 'Do the Octonauts have Ethics Approval? Comparing Real and Fictional Multidisciplinary Marine Science Teams'
		Room: 3/05 Panel 3.B <b>Science fiction and scientists</b>  Chair: Lucia Dodaro	Zoe Lehmann Imfeld (University of Bern), "'Pray, don't call me a cosmologist – I'm a physicist!': The Peculiarly British Scientific Space Explorer' Paromita Patranobish (Independent Scholar), 'The Speculative Science of Skin in N. K. Jemisin's <i>Emergency Skin</i> (2019)' Nastacia Schmoll (University of Zurich), 'Reevaluating the "Science" in Science Fiction'
		Room: 3/08 Panel 3.C <b>Medicine and Dentistry</b>  Chair: Lara Choksey	Mike Wainwright (Royal Holloway University), 'Hutchinson, Doyle, and Klebs: Syphilis, Familial Anxiety, and Helical Agents' Annie Williams (Trinity College Dublin), 'Dietetics, Dentistry, and Dorothy Richardson' Martin Willis (Cardiff University), 'Sleeping Beauty's Nightmare'
		Room: 3/09 Panel 3.D <b>Literature and Ecology</b>  Chair: Janine Rogers	Liliane Campos (Sorbonne Nouvelle University), 'Can fiction "bring the biosphere home"? Some ironies of multi-scalar perception in Ali Smith's <i>Winter</i> and T. C. Boyle's <i>The Terranauts</i> ' Ryan Day (Saint Louis University, Madrid), 'Proud Cedars, Mutinous Winds: <i>Coriolanus</i> , Biosemiotics, and the Microbiome' Jim Scown (Food, Farming, and Countryside Commission), 'Imagining Nature: Science, Poetry, and the "celestial soil" of Romantic Ecology'
		Room: 3/10 Panel 3.E <b>Nineteenth-Century Science</b>  Chair: Ros Powell	Dennis Henneböhl (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg), 'Performativity and the Construction of Cultural Authority: Literary Representations of Victorian Science' Rachel Zimmerman (University of St Andrews), 'Nineteenth-century scientific method and George Eliot's <i>Middlemarch</i> (1874)' Adelene Buckland (King's College London), "'Touched Out": Sciences of Motherhood, Technology and Mediation in the late Nineteenth Century'
1030		Level 2 balcony	Tea/ coffee break

Day 2 Friday 14 April cont'd			
1100-1200	Plenary	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre Chair: Jenni Halpin	Keynote: John Holmes (University of Birmingham)  Linnaeus and the Limits of Humanity: Antique Anthropology in <i>The Cantos</i> and <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> '
1200-1245	BSLS AGM	Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre	All delegates attend
1245-1330		Rivers Suite	Lunch
1330-1500	Parallel sessions 4	Room: 3/03 Panel 4.A <b>Twentieth-century literature and physics</b>  Chair: Sarah Daw	Sarah Daw (Cardiff University), 'Quantum physics and concrete (eco)poetics in Eric Mottram's <i>Toward Design in Poetry</i> (1977)' Dan Cordle, Nottingham Trent University, 'Physics and Sin: the mythology of J. Robert Oppenheimer in atomic bomb literature' Gemma Curto, University of Sheffield, 'The changing view of scientific innovation in Prigogine and Stenger's <i>Order out of Chaos</i> and Tom Stoppard's <i>Arcadia</i> (1993)'
		Room: 3/05 Panel 4.B <b>Philosophy and Scientific Authority</b>  Chair: Frank James	Manolis Simos (University of Athens), 'Literature against philosophy, or Villiers' antimetaphysical stance' Andrej Zeman (University of Edinburgh), 'An Infinite Variety of Readings: Divine Action in William Paley's <i>Natural Theology</i> ' Josh Wodak (Western Sydney University), 'Probing the Vicissitudes of the Cosmos: The Limits of Knowability in Literary and Scientific Worldviews'
		Room: 3/08 Panel 4.C <b>Interdisciplinary studies in literature and science</b> Chair: Lara Choksey	Josie Gill (University of Bristol), 'Black Lecturer' Tom Hey (Lancaster University), 'Literary and Scientific Approaches to Eating Disorders in 1980s Zimbabwe' Graham Matthews (Nanyang Technological University), 'Mental Health Narratives in Singapore: Patient Voices and Life Writing'
		Room: 3/09 Panel 4.D <b>Fin-de-siècle literature and science</b>  Chair: Louise Benson James	Billie Gavurin (University of Bristol), "'A strange smile": Evolution, Indifference, and the Paterian Femme Fatale in Arthur Machen's <i>The Great God Pan</i> ' Stefano Serafini (University of Warwick), 'Free Will, Moral Insanity, and the Biology of Deviance in Fin-De-Siècle Italy Between Literature and Criminology' Claudia Sterbini (University of Edinburgh) "'This Bleached Nocturnal Thing": sexual evolutions and the pathologization of asexuality in H. G. Wells' <i>The Time Machine</i> '
1500		Level 2 balcony	Tea/ coffee break

Day 2 Friday 14 April cont'd			
1530-1700	Parallel sessions 5	<p>Room: 3/03 Panel 5.A <b>Unlearning and Decolonising Marine (Sciences) Epistemes</b></p> <p>Chair: Giulia Champion</p>	<p>Ben Smith (University of Exeter), 'Ghost Nets and Phantom Islands: Mapping the Anthropocene'</p> <p>Suzanne Manizza Roszak (University of Groningen), 'Oceanic Fictions, Nonwestern Epistemologies, and Undoing Heteropatriarchy: Nnedi Okorafor and Rita Indiana in Conversation'</p> <p>Meghan Judge (Stellenbosch University), 'A Spectral Encounter with Vastness and Self Noise along the Weathering Spine of the Agulhas Current'</p> <p>Corlia Meyer (Stellenbosch University), 'Haunting along the West Coast of Southern Africa'</p>
		<p>Room: 3/05 Panel 5.B <b>Humphry Davy Notebooks Project</b></p> <p>Chair: Sharon Ruston</p>	<p>Andrew Lacey (Lancaster University), 'Davy's "History of Natural Science"'</p> <p>Eleanor Bird (Lancaster University), 'Humphry Davy, Transatlantic Slavery, and Constructions of Race in His Early Notebooks'</p> <p>Frank James (University College London), 'Humphry Davy's Disorganised Notebooks'</p>
		<p>Room: 3/08 Panel 5.C <b>Evolutionary Theories</b></p> <p>Chair: Jordan Kistler</p>	<p>Ben Hall (University of Glasgow), 'Scepticism, Wonder, and Evolutionary Ideas in Victorian Freak Show Acts'</p> <p>Anna McCullough (University of St Andrews), '"A Degenerated Brother": Margaret Gatty and Idiosyncratic Theories of Evolution'</p> <p>Richard Fallon (University of Birmingham), 'Societal Orthogenesis: H. G. Wells, Marie Stopes, and Directed Evolution in 1928'</p>
		<p>Room: 3/09 Panel 5.D <b>Medical Narratives</b></p> <p>Chair: Laura Ludtke</p>	<p>Sara Cole (Lancaster University), '"But By What Science Are You Master of So Great a Power?": Elizabeth Inchbald's Animal Magnetism'</p> <p>Rosie Crocker (University of Sheffield), '"This is what I told Dr Jordan": Recentring the Patient Narrative in Margaret Atwood's Alias Grace (1996)'</p> <p>Mila Daskalova (University of Glasgow), 'The Role of Medical Networks in the Spread of Asylum Periodicals in the Nineteenth Century'</p>
		<p>Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre</p> <p>Chair: Will Tattersdill</p>	<p>Keynote: Laurence Talairach (Alexandre-Koyré Center for the History of Science and Technology, University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès)</p> <p>Science through the Looking-Glass: Women, Natural History and Victorian Children's Literature</p>
1715-1815	Plenary		
1830	Bus departs Craiglockhart		
1900	Summerhall	Conference dinner	

<b>Day 3 Saturday 15 April</b>			
0900	Bus departs Lauriston Place		
0930-1100	Parallel sessions 6	Room: 3/03 Panel 6.A <b>Eighteenth-century literature and science</b>  Chair:	Greg Lynall (University of Liverpool), 'Observation and Empire in <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> ' Alessio Mattana (University of Turin), 'Between Providence and Science: Daniel Defoe and the Great Storm' Ros Powell (University of Amsterdam). 'Epistolary Science c. 1670-1740'
		Room: 3/05  Panel 6.B <b>Literature and Technology</b>  Chair:	Samridhi Aggarwal (King's College London and National University of Singapore), 'Technoculture and Dystopic Futures in Afrofuturist Texts' Cheryl Lee (Nanyang Technological University), 'Popular Attitudes Towards Science and Technology in The Smart Nation: The Question of Autonomy in 21st Century Singaporean Science Fiction Narratives'
		Room: 3/08 Panel 6.C <b>Science and contemporary literature</b>  Chair: Liliane Campos	Kelly Yin Nga Tse (Education University of Hong Kong), 'Maritime crisis and the language of materiality' Marco Caracciolo (Ghent University), 'The Quantity of Fiction Grows': Science, Formal Hybridity, and Ethical Uncertainty in Benjamin Labatut's <i>When We Cease to Understand the World</i> Jenni Halpin (Savannah State University), 'Adjusting Past and Future: <i>Improbable Frequency</i> and Real Language'
		Room: 3/09 Panel 6.D <b>Science, fantasy, and mythology</b>  Chair: Jasmine Tan	Jade Corregge (University of Melbourne), 'Encouraging fantastical explorations for all: island adventures and scientific anecdotes in Edith Nesbit's <i>The Book of Dragons</i> ' Prema Arasu (University of Western Australia), 'Are Sea Monsters Real?' Marion Troxler (University of Bern), 'Make a Myth Come True: Science and Mystification in Amy Sackville's <i>Orkney</i> '
1100		Rivers Suite	Tea/ coffee Break
1130-1300	Parallel sessions 7	Room: 3/03 Panel 7.A <b>Publishing your Literature and Science Article</b>	A PGR/ECR workshop run by the Journal of Literature and Science  Sarah Daw and Martin Willis, Cardiff University

Day 3 Saturday 15 April cont'd			
1130-1300	Parallel sessions 7	Room: 3/05 Panel 7.B <b>OceanicGraphic Roundtable</b>  Chair: Giulia Champion	Contributors: Prema Arasu (University of Western Australia) Tomas Buitendijk (University College Dublin) Alejandro Limpo González (University of Southampton) Renée Hoogland (University of Southampton) Aster Hoving (University of Stavanger) Julia Jung (German Marine Research Alliance) Mia Strand (Nelson Mandela University)
		Room: 3/08 Panel 7.C <b>Critters and the more-than-human</b>  <b>Chair:</b>	Shannon Lambert (Ghent University), 'Fictions of Bio-Messiness: Animal Models and Forms in Keyes' <i>Flowers for Algernon</i> and Fowler's "Us" Janette Leaf (Birkbeck University of London), 'Behind the Bee's Mind: Apian Intelligence in Laline Paull's <i>The Bees</i> ' Mo O'Neill (University of Sheffield), 'Evolutionary vitalism in Edward Carpenter's more-than-human thought'
		Room: 3/09 Panel 7.D <b>Science, technology, and the Anthropocene</b>  Chair: Jenni Halpin	Anna Auguscik and Anton Kirchhofer (University of Oldenberg), 'Creative (Non-)Fiction and the 'Meta-Science Novel': Stratigraphic Storytelling in Jaspreet Singh's <i>Face: A Novel of the Anthropocene</i> (2022)' Matthew Lear (University of Edinburgh), "'Constructing Collapse": Technology and Housing in Mike McCormack's <i>Solar Bones</i> ' Sian Macfarlane (Coventry University), 'Francis Brett Young and the Anthropocene: The flooding of the more-than-human landscapes of Wales'
1300		Entrance Foyer	Lunch
1400	End		