



The British Society for LITERATURE and SCIENCE

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BSLS WINTER SYMPOSIUM 'IMAGINING QUEER ECOLOGIES' ONLINE, 1 DECEMBER

'Imagining Queer Ecologies' is a one-day, online symposium hosted by the British Society for Literature and Science and the University of Oxford, taking place on Friday 01 December 2023, from 09:00 to 18:40 GMT. The symposium is free, open to all, and encouraging of participation from postgraduate researchers (PGRs) and early-career researchers (ECRs). Registration opens on Friday 10 November via [Eventbrite](#).

Queer ecology offers a potent critical and interpretive approach to exploring the intimacies and interdependencies of literature and science, medicine, and technology. It can also serve as a theoretical framework to challenge what Barri J. Gold identifies as the 'concept of nature' developed across the nineteenth century within and beyond the literary and scientific ecosystems in which this concept develops. For instance, how might a consideration of queer ecology together with literature and science encourage us, as Gold exhorts us, to reconsider 'the dominant way of thinking about what we call our environment,

imagining nature as the stage set against which we act and which is ours to do with what we please?'

With this symposium, we seek to foster conversations about a wide range of topics relevant to queer ecology across the field of literature and science, medicine, and technology. We also extend Gold's invitation to reconsider 'nature as nature' to imagining ways of relating to, engaging with, knowing, and representing the environment that do not reproduce the established anthropocentric, technocapitalist, petrocultural, heteronormative, cisgender, ableist, colonial models.

'Imagining Queer Ecologies' opens with a doodle workshop on creating lichen patterns led by Immy Smith (visual artist & head of pencil hoarding) and Maria Christodoulou (biostatistician & keeper of random numbers), exploring how the non-binary nature of lichen symbiotic communities helps us to challenge what we think we know, and to see beyond artificially imposed categories and relationships. The symposium also includes an interdisciplinary roundtable on anticolonialism and queer ecology,

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

Autumn 2023 Newsletter



foregrounding issues of race and colonialism. Confirmed roundtable participants include: Dr Sneha Krishnan (University of Oxford), Dr Lara Choksey (University College London), and Dr Rachel Murray (University of Bristol).

'Imagining Queer Ecologies' is co-organised by Drs Laura E. Ludtke (she/her), Joshua Phillips (he/him), and Martina Astrid Rodda (they/them).

NEW FUNDING OPTION

MEMBERS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE HARDSHIP FUND

This April we trialled a new hardship fund to support attendance at our own conference and found considerable demand. To continue the funding going forward, and in response to feedback at the AGM, we have created a process for members to contribute to the fund: a PayPal link at the bottom of our [funding page](#).

Additionally, we have established the hardship fund as a reserved fund to ensure that all contributions to it are used for the designated purpose: support of scholars in hardship for their participation in our annual conference. (Details on applications to receive funding towards attending the 2024 conference will be forthcoming.)

Applications for BSLs Small Grants to facilitate and promote the study of literature and science and for BSLs bursaries to support postgraduate student members and early career researchers are now accepted quarterly, by the first of March, June, September, and December.

See the [funding](#) section of the BSLs website for further details.

BSLS FUNDING REPORTS

SMALL GRANT: 'AUTHORS AND ALIENISTS'

At the beginning of 2023, I was grateful to receive funding from the BSLs small grant scheme for travel and accommodation costs to support archival research in London.

In February, I spent three days in London, working with mainly undigitised resources at the Wellcome Library and the British Library for my new project 'Authors and Alienists: Networks of Victorian Psychiatry'. The project seeks to examine the relationships and networks (both personal and professional) between mid-Victorian novelists and psychiatrists (Alienists)/Asylum Superintendents. The nineteenth century was a crucial time in the development of modern psychiatric diagnosis and treatment, and Victorian authors engaged extensively in their fiction with the new ideas about insanity and incarceration. However, there is frequently a discrepancy between fictional representations of insanity and asylum practices and the reality of approaches to mental ill health from the 1840s on, despite significant knowledge exchange and networks between authors and alienists in the period. I aim to

analyse this disjunction in terms of theories of authorship and the cultural discourses on 'madness' to consider the ideological incentives at stake in maintaining obsolete depictions—particularly, though not exclusively, in relation to gendered forms of insanity.

My research, therefore, brings into dialogue disparate strands of scholarship in the fields of Literary Studies, cultural histories of 'madness', and the History of Psychiatry. The study aims to show the dialogic nature of interactions between authors and the medical community, and to advance understanding of literary practices in the representation of insanity during a crucial period in legal and medical reform. An additional strand of the project visually maps the networks between Victorian authors and alienists using digital technologies. The aim is to produce an interactive digital resource representing these networks and their significance, to be used by both academics and the general public.

During my BSLs-supported research trip, I was based primarily at the Wellcome library, making use of

their extensive archives on specific asylums, particularly The Retreat at York and Ticehurst Asylum in East Sussex. I also examined their holdings on key medical superintendents, such as the Tukes. Although there is extensive documentation pertaining to pauper lunatic asylums (much of it now digitized), it is often more difficult to access records from the Metropolitan licensed houses, which were the private lunatic asylums in London serving the more affluent classes. Though increasingly regulated in the period, private asylums were not subject to the same requirements as state institutions, and subsequently many records have been lost. I have undertaken significant research on Camberwell House Asylum, Manor House Asylum (Chiswick), and Brooke House (Hackney). The Wellcome's collection of documents pertaining to Camberwell House are incredibly rich and I am also indebted to the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

and Hackney Archives for valuable assistance in locating information about Brooke House.

In addition to the special holdings which I had requested in the Reading Room at the Wellcome, I was able to consult many valuable works on the open shelves. This assisted in my mapping of the various networks between medical figures such as John Conolly, Henry Maudsley, Lyttelton Stewart Forbes Winslow, the Tukes, and the Monros, and authors including Charles Dickens, Charles Reade, Mary Braddon, Elizabeth Gaskell, the Brontës, Wilkie Collins, and Charlotte Mew. The BSLS grant was immensely helpful in kickstarting my research, which has now, through the course of this year, developed into two chapters of a projected monograph and an AHRC bid in preparation.

—Anne-Marie Beller
Loughborough University

SMALL GRANT: ELIZABETH BOWEN

As a PhD candidate from a Spanish university whose research focuses on the work of Anglo-Irish author Elizabeth Bowen, finding resources for such an under-explored literary figure in Spain becomes sometimes a sort of treasure hunt. This summer, when the BSLS communicated to me that I had been granted their Small Grant, for which I am sincerely grateful, I could not imagine how valuable this little gesture would be.

I am writing my dissertation on the relationship between identity, time, and space in Bowen's novels; in particular I look at her rather modern take on motherhoods and the—sometimes veiled—lesbianism that infiltrates her work. For this purpose, access to the library of the Wellcome Collection and the British Library has proved to be essential for a deeper understanding of how the foundational texts on sexology, psychiatry, and psychoanalysis from the late 19th century and first half of the 20th century shaped the thinking—critical, literary, moral—of Bowen's generation. As Teresa de Lauretis acutely observes, 'psychoanalysis defines woman in relation to man',

therefore the more contemporary approaches to this field have allowed me to bring traditional psychoanalysis into contact with gender and queer theory, so that those identities that deviate from the norm do not get precluded by a still prevailing heteronormative tendency in the analyses of dissident sexualities.

Self-described as 'a writer for whom places loom large', Bowen attaches great importance to the role that space plays on the lives of her protagonists, especially the influence of the house. Since I use scientific principles to scrutinise her literary creation and apply concepts borrowed from, including but not limited to, geometric optics, geography, and topography, it was very helpful to be able to consult books at the British Library to incorporate theories on liminal spaces that I didn't have access to previously, and I was able to delve deeper into the inherent relation between identity and space as well as Bowen's devotion to location—and dislocations.

—Layla Ferrández Melero

FUTURE BSLS CONFERENCES

BSLS 19, BIRMINGHAM, 10-12 APRIL 2024, JOINTLY WITH COSciLIT AND SLSAEU

BSLS 20, LANCASTER, 10-12 APRIL 2025

BSLS 21, STRATHCLYDE, 2026

The Society invites conversations with members interested in hosting upcoming annual conferences. Please contact the chair, Jenni Halpin (jennihalpin@gmail.com).

bsls.ac.uk

BSLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

We are seeking to fill a number of impending vacancies at the April Annual General Meeting, including:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Member at Large
- Overseas Representative (North America)

Any member of the BSLS is eligible to be nominated for (and serve in) an open post, except that it is expected that overseas representatives will generally be based in the regions they represent. All openings are open to nominations. The chair will happily have exploratory discussions with interested members.

Any member 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, Jenni Halpin (jennihalpin@gmail.com), and to the treasurer, Laura Ludtke (lludtke@gmail.com). Expressions of interest and proposals should ideally be received by 31 March.

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 PUBLICATION

Martina Zimmermann, Joe Wood, Harriet Boulding and Ross Pow, 'Shifting How We View the Ageing Process.'
London: The Policy Institute at King's College London, 2023. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/policy-institute/assets/shifting-how-we-view-the-ageing-process.pdf>

This Report summarises findings from a Policy Lab held in the context of The Sciences of Ageing and the Culture of Youth (SAACY), a research programme on ageing funded by a UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowship. SAACY looks at how we talk and think about ageing, in scientific research, medical practice and wider culture, and how the way we do so can affect our experiences of ageing, the meaning we assign to getting older, and the decisions we make about older people. The Report condenses findings from a one-day workshop that explored the value, feasibility and acceptability of shifting how we view the ageing process. Its goal is to achieve attitudinal change to ageing, by moving away from a narrative of disease and decline towards the idea that ageing is a lifelong process of change.

BSLS REVIEWS

NEWLY PUBLISHED REVIEWS

Sharon Ruston and contributors have been busily adding reviews to the website; here are just a few added since April:

- Abbott, Steve, reviewed Sarah Hart, *Once Upon a Prime* (Flatiron Books, 2023)
- Banbury, Thomas, reviewed Marija Grech, *Spectrality and Survivance: Living the Anthropocene* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2022)
- Blunsden, Laura, reviewed Allan V. Horwitz, *Personality Disorders: A Short History of Narcissistic, Borderline, Antisocial, and Other Types* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023)
- Brigham, Bethany, reviewed Nicole C. Dittmer and Sophie Raine (eds), *Penny Dreadfuls and the Gothic: Investigations of Pernicious Tales of Terror*, Gothic Literary Studies Series (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2023)
- Chubb, Jennifer reviewed Gemma Milne, *Smoke & Mirrors: How Hype Obscures the Future and How to See Past It* (Robinson, 2020)
- Crocker, Rosalind, *Anne Whitehead, Medicine and Empathy in Contemporary British Fiction: an Intervention in Medical Humanities* (EUP, 2017)
- Crocker, Rosalind, reviewed Fred Cooper, Luna Dolezal, and Arthur Rose, *COVID-19 and Shame: Political Emotions and Public Health in the UK* (Bloomsbury, 2023)
- Dobrzynski, Dion, reviewed Andy Brown, *The Tree Climbing Cure: Finding Wellbeing in Trees in European and North American Literature and Art* (Environmental Cultures Series) (London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2023)
- Edelman, Diana, reviewed Michael Wainwright, *Literature, Parasitism, and Science: The Untold Worms of Stoker, Stevenson, and Doyle* (Cambridge Scholars, 2022)
- Harper, Jenny, reviewed Adeline Johns-Putra and Kelly Sultzbach, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Climate* (CUP, 2022)
- Kistler, Jordan, reviewed S. Pearl Brilmyer, *The Science of Character: Human Objecthood and the Ends of Victorian Realism* (University of Chicago Press, 2022)
- Sankaran, Neeraja, reviewed Robert Zaretsky, *Victories Never Last: Reading and Caregiving in a Time of Plague* (University of Chicago Press, 2022)
- Seymour, Laura reviewed Jennifer Flaherty and Deborah Uman, eds. *Liberating Shakespeare: Adaptation and Empowerment for Young Adult Audiences: Shakespeare and Adaptation* (Bloomsbury, 2023)
- Summerfield, Caroline, reviewed Debra Benita Shaw, *Women, Science and Fiction Revisited* (2023)
- Talairach, Laurence, reviewed Laura Forsberg, *Worlds Beyond: Miniatures and Victorian Fiction* (Yale University Press, 2021)
- Tobin, Katie Ann, reviewed Jennifer Fay, *Inhospitable World: Cinema in the Time of the Anthropocene* (Oxford University Press, 2018)
- Trafford, Elizabeth, Natalie Berkman, *OnLiPo and the Mathematics of Literature* (Peter Lang, 2022)
- Whitworth, Michael, reviewed Elizabeth L. Throesch, *Before Einstein: The Fourth Dimension in Fin-de-Siècle Literature and Culture* (Anthem Press, 2017) and Mark Blacklock, *The Emergence of the Fourth Dimension: Higher Spatial Thinking in the Fin de Siècle* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)
- Williams, Annie, reviewed Hannah Freed-Thall, *Modernism at the Beach* (Columbia University Press, 2023)

The BSLS Newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November, with submissions deadlines typically the last Friday of the preceding month.

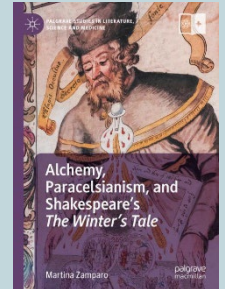
Editor: Jenni Halpin

PALGRAVE STUDIES IN LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND MEDICINE

RECENT TITLES

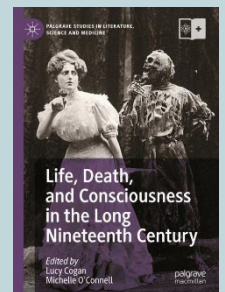
Martina Zamparo, *Alchemy, Paracelsianism, and Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale*

This book explores the role of alchemy, Paracelsianism, and Hermetic philosophy in one of Shakespeare's last plays, *The Winter's Tale*. A perusal of the vast literary and iconographic repertory of Renaissance alchemy reveals that this late play is imbued with several topoi, myths, and emblematic symbols coming from coeval alchemical, Paracelsian, and Hermetic sources. It also discusses the alchemical significance of water and time in the play's circular and regenerative pattern and the healing role of women. All the major symbols of alchemy are present in Shakespeare's play: the intertwined serpents of the caduceus, the chemical wedding, the filius philosophorum, and the so-called rex chymicus. This book also provides an in-depth survey of late Renaissance alchemy, Paracelsian medicine, and Hermetic culture in the Elizabethan and Jacobean ages. Importantly, it contends that *The Winter's Tale*, in symbolically retracing the healing pattern of the *rota alchemica* and in emphasising the Hermetic principles of unity and concord, glorifies King James's conciliatory attitude.



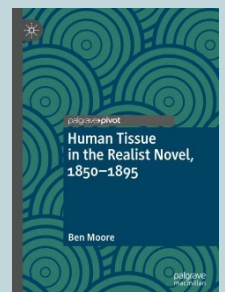
Lucy Cogan and Michelle O'Connell (eds), *Life, Death, and Consciousness in the Long Nineteenth Century*

This book explores how the writers, poets, thinkers, historians, scientists, dilettantes and frauds of the long-nineteenth century addressed the "limit cases" regarding human existence that medicine continuously uncovered as it stretched the boundaries of knowledge. These cases cast troubling and distorted shadows on the culture, throwing into relief the values, vested interests, and power relations regarding the construction of embodied life and consciousness that underpinned the understanding of what it was to be alive in the long nineteenth century. Ranging over a period from the mid-eighteenth century through to the first decade of the twentieth century—an era that has been called the 'Age of Science'—the essays collected here consider the cultural ripple effects of those previously unimaginable revolutions in science and medicine on humanity's understanding of being.



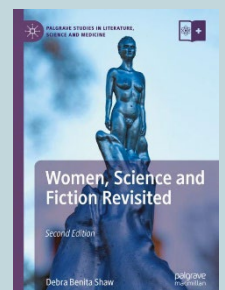
Ben Moore, *Human Tissue in the Realist Novel, 1850-1895*

This Pivot engages with current debates about anthropocentrism and the Anthropocene to propose a reappraisal of the realist novel in the second half of the nineteenth century. Through three case studies, it argues for 'human tissue' as a conceptual tool for reading that brings together biology, literature and questions of layering. This new approach is shown to be especially salient to the Victorian period, when the application of 'tissue' to biology first emerges. The book is distinctive in bringing together theoretical concerns around realism and the Anthropocene – two major topics in literary criticism – and presenting a new methodology to approach this conjunction, demonstrated through original readings of Charles Kingsley, George Eliot, and Emile Zola and two English-language writers he influenced (George Moore and Vernon Lee).



Debra Benita Shaw, *Women, Science and Fiction Revisited*

Women, Science and Fiction Revisited is an analysis of selected science fiction novels and short stories written by women over the past hundred years from the point of view of their engagement with how science writes the world. Beginning with Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland* (1918) and ending with N K Jemisin's *The City We Became* (2020), Debra Benita Shaw explores the re-imagination of gender and race that characterises women's literary crafting of new worlds. Along the way, she introduces new readings of classics like Ursula Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, examining the original novels in the context of their adaptation to new media formats in the twenty-first century. What this reveals is a consistent preoccupation with how scientific ideas can be employed to challenge existing social structures and argue for change.





PhD Awarded

Anna McCullough

Evolutionary Regression in Victorian Children's Literature

This thesis, supervised by Gregory Tate, examines Victorian children's literature and evolution, arguing that children's authors blend evolutionary paradigms rather than subscribing to a specific theory. Children's authors are particularly interested in recapitulation, but I argue that they often envision recapitulation as nonlinear or regressive. Spanning literary and scientific works from 1861 – 1911, this thesis draws together several academic disciplines, including history of science, Victorian studies, and scholarship on children's literature. I analyse a wide selection of fantastical children's texts, including works by Andrew Lang, George MacDonald, Rudyard Kipling, and Frances Hodgson Burnett. This work fills multiple gaps in scholarly literature by re-evaluating children's authors as scientific theorists who contribute new ideas to evolutionary discourse.

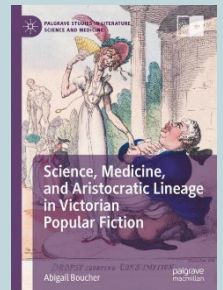
The thesis was examined in July by John Holmes (Birmingham) and Christina Alt (St Andrews), passing with no corrections.

Awarded by the University of St Andrews



Abigail Boucher, *Science, Medicine, and Aristocratic Lineage in Victorian Popular Fiction*

This book explores the dialogue between popular literature and medical and scientific discourse in terms of how they represent the highly visible and pathologized British aristocratic body. It explores and complicates the two major portrayals of aristocrats in nineteenth-century literature: that of the medicalised, frail, debauched, and diseased aristocrat, and that of the heroic, active, beautiful 'noble', both of which are frequent and resonant in popular fiction of the long nineteenth century. Abigail Boucher argues that the concept of class in the long nineteenth century implicitly includes notions of blood, lineage, and bodily 'correctness', and that 'class' was therefore frequently portrayed as an empirical, scientific, and medical certainty. Due to their elevated and highly visual social positions, both historical and fictional aristocrats were frequently pathologized in the public mind and watched for signs of physical excellence or deviance. Using popular fiction, Boucher establishes patterns across decades, genres, and demographics and considers how these patterns react to, normalise, or feed into the advent of new scientific and medical understandings.



Nicolas Pierre Boileau, *Mental Health Symptoms in Literature since Modernism*

Mental Health Symptoms in Literature since Modernism looks at various ways of treating symptoms of psychological disorders in the literature of the long twentieth century. This book shows that literature can, in its questioning of commonly accepted views of this lived experience of psychic symptoms, help engender new theories about the functioning of subjective cases. Modernism emerged at about the same time as Freudian psychoanalysis did and the aim of this book is to also show that to a certain extent, Woolf preceded Freud in her exploration of the symptom and contributed to fashioning another approach that is now more common, especially in writers from the 1990s-onwards.



CALLS FOR REVIEWERS

BSLS REVIEWS

We have the following books for review, some in hard copy and others in pdf. Please contact Sharon Ruston, BSLS Reviews Editor, at bslsreviews@gmail.com if you would like to review one of these books or any other book.

- Auyoung, Elaine, *When Fiction Feels Real: Representation and the Reading Mind*, OUP
- Bailiot, Anne, *From Handwriting to Footprinting: Text and Heritage in the Age of Climate Crisis* (2023)
- Bauer, Heike, *The Hirschfeld Archives: Violence, Death, and Modern Queer Culture*, Temple UP
- Bellamy, Brent Ryan, *Remainders of the American Century: Post-Apocalyptic Novels in the Age of US Decline*, Wesleyan UP
- Berque, Augustin, *Poetics of the Earth: Natural History and Human History* (Routledge, 2019)
- Blok, Vincent, *Ernst Jünger's Philosophy of Technology: Heidegger and the Poetics of the Anthropocene*, Routledge
- Brodsky, G. W. Stephen, *Joseph Conrad's Polish Soul: Realms of Memory and Self*, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press.
- Choksey, Lara, *Narrative in the Age of the Genome: Genetic Worlds* (Bloomsbury, 2021)
- Comins, Neil F., *The Traveler's Guide to Space: For One-Way Settlers and Round-Trip Tourists*, Columbia University Press
- Edelman, Diane, *Embryology and the Rise of the Gothic Novel* (Palgrave, 2021)
- Epstein, Hugh, *Hardy, Conrad and the Senses* (Edinburgh University Press, 2020)
- Fletcher, Angus, *Storythinking: The New Science of Narrative Intelligence* (Columbia University Press, June 2023)
- Fuller, Matthew, *How to be a Geek: Essays on the Culture of Software*, Polity
- Fyfe, Aileen, and Colin C Kidd, eds. *Beyond the Enlightenment: Scottish Intellectual Life, 1790-1922* (Blackwells, 2023)
- Game, David, *D.H. Lawrence's Australia: Anxiety at the Edge of Empire*, Routledge
- Giblett, Rod, *Environmental Humanities and the Uncanny: Ecoculture, Literature and Religion*, Routledge
- Graham, George, *The Abraham Dilemma: A Divine Delusion*, OUP,
- Habinek Lianne, *The Subtle Knot: Early Modern English Literature and the Birth of Neuroscience*, McGill-Queen's University Press,
- Halpern, Nicole Yunger, *Quantum Steampunk: The Physics of Yesterday's Tomorrow* (Johns Hopkins, 2022)
- Herring, Emily, Kevin Jones, Konstantin Kiptriyanov, Laura Sellers (eds), *The Past, Present, and Future of Integrated History and Philosophy of Science*, Routledge
- Holyoak, Keith J., *The Spider's Thread: Metaphor in Mind, Brain, and Poetry*, MIT
- Jackson, Michael, *The Work of Art: Rethinking the Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, Columbia University Press
- King, Amy, *The Divine in the Commonplace: Reverent Natural History and the Novel in Britain* (CUP, 2019)
- Kiryushina, Galina, Einat Adar and Mark Nixon, eds. *Samuel Beckett and Technology* (EUP, 2021) Sarkar, Debapriya, *Possible Knowledge: The Literary Forms of Early Modern Science* (Penn Press, 2023)
- Klaeger, Florian, *Reading into the Stars: Cosmopoetics in the Contemporary Novel*, Universitätsverlag Winter
- Kneidel, Gregory, *John Donne and Early Modern Legal Culture*, Penn State UP
- Kremmel, Laura, *Romantic Medicine and the Gothic Imagination* (University of Wales Press, 2022)
- Krukowski, Damon, *Ways of Hearing*, MIT
- Lansley, Charles Morris, *Charles Darwin's Debt to the Romantics: How Alexander von Humboldt, Goethe and Wordsworth Helped Shape Darwin's View of Nature*, Peter Lang,
- Lehmann, Olga V. and Oddgeir Synnes, eds. *A Poetic Language of Ageing* (Bloomsbury, 2023)
- Lemons, Don S., *Thermodynamic Weirdness: From Fahrenheit to Clausius*, MIT
- Lynall, Gregory, *Imagining Solar Energy: The Power of the Sun in Literature, Science and Culture*, Bloomsbury
- Lynch, Tom, Susan Naramore Maher, Drucilla Wall, and O. Alan Weltzien (eds.) *Thinking Continental*, University of Nebraska Press
- Maring, Heather, *Signs that Sing: Hybrid poetics in old English verse*, University Press of Florida
- Mondschein, Ken, *On Time: A History of Western Timekeeping*, John Hopkins
- Murray, Stuart, *Medical Humanities and Disability Studies* (Bloomsbury, 2023)
- Olsen, Trenton B., *Wordsworth and Evolution in Victorian Literature: Entangled Influence*, Routledge
- Orr, Mary, *Sarah Bowdich Lee (1791-1856) and Pioneering Perspectives on Natural History* (Anthem 2023)
- Parham, John, ed. *The Literature and Politics of the Environment* (Boydell and Brewer, 2023)
- Passey, Joan, *Cornish Gothic, 1830-1913* (University of Wales Press, 2023)
- Petro, Anthony M., *After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality, and American Religion*, OUP
- Powell, Rosalind, *Perception and Analogy: Poetry, Science, and Religion in the Eighteenth Century* (Manchester 2021)
- Prendergast, Thomas A., *Poetical Dust: Poets' Corner and the Making of Britain*, University of Pennsylvania Press
- Rampley, Matthew, *The Seductions of Darwin: Art, Evolution, Neuroscience*, Penn State University Press
- Regaignon, Dara Rossman, *Writing Maternity: Medicine, Anxiety, Rhetoric, and Genre*, Ohio State UP
- Reno, Seth T., *Amorous Aesthetics: Intellectual Love in Romantic Poetry and Poetics, 1788-1853*, Liverpool UP
- Reperant, Leslie, *Fatal Jump: Tracking the Origins of Pandemics* (Johns Hopkins, 2023)
- Robinson, Benedict, *Passion's Fictions from Shakespeare to Richardson: Literature and the Sciences of Soul and Mind* (OUP, 2021)
- Rosenberg, Anat, *Liberalizing Contracts: Nineteenth-Century Promises Through Literature, Law and History*, Routledge
- Sankaran, Neeraja, *A Tale of Two Viruses: Parallels in the Research Trajectories of Tumor and Bacterial Viruses* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021)

Sha, Richard C., *Imagination and Science in Romanticism*, John Hopkins
 Shonkwiler, Alison, *The Financial Imaginary: Economic Mystification and the Limits of Realist Fiction*, University of Minnesota Press
 Skuse, Alanna, *Surgery and Selfhood in Early Modern England* (CUP, 2021)
 Sloten, Hugh R., *Beyond Sputnik and the Space Race: The Origins of Global Satellite Communications*, Johns Hopkins
 Smith, Pamela H., *The Business of Alchemy: Science and Culture in the Holy Roman Empire*, Princeton UP
 Stalder, Felix, *The Digital Condition*, Polity
 Thompson, Helen, *Fictional Matter: Empiricism, Corpuscles, and the Novel*, University of Penn Press

JLS REVIEWS

The *Journal of Literature and Science* (<http://www.literatureandscience.org>) is looking for reviewers to review various articles published in the last year to 18 months in the field of literature and science.

Please find below a number of articles that we would like to offer for review. It's largely first come, first served, so do get in touch with an offer to review a specific article by emailing Michelle (m.geric@westminster.ac.uk).

The list is certainly not definitive, and I would be very happy to receive suggestions for other relevant articles for review that aren't listed below—please do let me know.

Reviews should be 750 words long. For more details, please follow the link: <https://www.literatureandscience.org/> or contact me at gericm@westminster.ac.uk to register your interest.

—Michelle Geric
Journal of Literature and Science

SUGGESTED ARTICLES:

From *Configurations*:

- Jordan Kistler, "I Cannot Tell You All the Story: Narrative, Historical Knowledge, and the Museum in H. G. Wells's *The Time Machine*."
- Grace Anne Paizen, "The Digitized Museum and the Troubling Reliance on Technology to Manage Knowledge in E. M. Forster's *The Machine Stops*."
- Graham Matthews, "Science, Scientists, and Prehistories of SSK in Mid-Twentieth-Century British Literature."
- Lauren A. Mitchell, "Erotic Surgery: J. G. Ballard's *Crash*, Octavia Butler's 'Bloodchild,' and the Visual Legacy of the Medical Museum."
- Verity Burke and Will Tattersdill, "Science Fiction Worldbuilding in Museum Displays of Extinct Life."
- Diana Leong, "A Hundred Tiny Hands: Slavery, Nanotechnology, and the Anthropocene in *Midnight Robber*."
- Leah Henrickson and Albert Meroño-Peñuela, "The Hermeneutics of Computer-Generated Texts."
- Hannes Bajohr, "Algorithmic Empathy: Toward a Critique of Aesthetic AI."
- Marco Caracciolo and Gry Ulstein, "The Weird and the Meta in Jeff VanderMeer's *Dead Astronauts*."
- Emily York, "Interspecies Ethics and the Limits of Epistemic Authority in Karen Joy Fowler's *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*."
- Victor Monnin, "Reading Omens in the Escape of Genetically Engineered Dinosaurs, 1970s-1990s."

From *Journal of Modern Literature*:

- Aaron McCullough, "Sheaths, Molds, and Shards: The Formation of an Anthropological Aesthetics in Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark*."

From *Modernist Cultures*:

- Emma Felin, "A Peculiar Kind of Particularity: Plants and Animals in Marianne Moore's Early Poetry."

From *Nineteenth-Century Literature*:

- Stephanie Kinzinger, "Embodied Cognition in Edgar Allan Poe: *Eureka*'s Cosmology, Dupin's Intuition."
- Christiane Schwab, "Sailors, Book Hawkers, and Bricklayer's Laborers: Social Types and the Production of Social Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century Periodical Literature."

From *Romanticisms*:

- Jennifer Wallace, "*Beachy Head*, Ancient Barrows and the 'Alembic' of Romantic Archaeological Poetics."
- Tim Fulford, "Mont Blanc Imagined: Poetry, Science and the Prospect-View in Davy and Coleridge."
- Philip Lindholm, "'Mountains, glowing hot': The Radical Volcanic Aesthetics of Wordsworth's Early Poetry."

From *Victorian Literature and Cultures*:

- Christopher Harrington, "Cut it, woman": Masculinity, Nectar, and the Orgasm in Charlotte Brontë's *Shirley* (1849)."
- Rebecca Spence, "A Sigh of Sympathy": Thomas Hardy's Paralinguistic Aesthetics and Evolutionary Sympathy."
- Cara Murray, "Cultivating Chaos: Entropy, Information, and the Making of the Dictionary of National Biography."

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THREE SOCIETIES ON LITERATURE AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM 10 – 12 APRIL 2024

For 2024, the annual conferences of the British Society for Literature and Science and the European Society for Literature, Science and the Arts ([SLSAeu](#)), together with the biennial conference of the Commission on Science and Literature (CoSciLit), will be combined into a single meeting. This will be the first time that these three societies have joined together to share research at the many intersections of literature and science.

The conference will be held at the University of Birmingham, UK, over 10-12 April 2024. Confirmed plenary speakers include Brian Hurwitz, Emeritus Professor of Medicine and the Arts at King's College London; Isabel Jaen Portillo, Professor of Spanish at Portland State University; Rhona Trauvitch, Director of the Science & Fiction Lab at Florida International University; and the Directors of the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research, the Birmingham Institute for Sustainability and Climate Action and the Institute for STEMM in Culture and Society at the University of Birmingham.

In addition to the main programme, there will be tours available of the Lapworth Museum of Geology, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Winterbourne House and Garden and the National Buried Infrastructure Facility, with an additional optional visit to the BIFoR FACE forest research facility and the Ruskin Land forest site on 13 April. The conference will be semi-hybrid, with differential pricing for attendance in person and online and for waged and unwaged participants. Papers may be presented in person or online, and online delegates will be able to watch the plenary sessions live and recordings of papers from other panels. There will also be a follow-up session online (date to be confirmed) for all delegates, including a panel for postgraduate students specifically. For more details of the conference as planning develops, please see the [conference website](#). For other enquiries about the conference, please email the conference organiser, Prof John Holmes (j.holmes.1@bham.ac.uk), directly.

Call for Papers

We would like to hear about as wide a range of research on literature and science as possible, so there will be no set theme for this conference. We welcome proposals for papers of 20 minutes and for panels of 90 minutes including three or more speakers and time for questions from the audience. Individual papers may be delivered in person or online, and panels may be in person, online or combine presentations in both formats. We especially welcome panels and presentations reporting on collaborations between literature scholars or writers and natural scientists; showcasing the work of research institutes and networks; or taking stock of the state of the field in specific regions or countries. We encourage participation by scientists and creative writers as well as scholars, and we are happy to consider papers on creative writing, teaching practice and public engagement as well as research. While papers should be presented in English, we are keen to hear about literary and scientific texts and encounters in any language, from any period and from anywhere in the world.

Please send proposals to litsciconf@contacts.bham.ac.uk by 18:00 (UK time) on Friday 1 December 2023. Proposals should be up to 250 words for individual papers or up to 750 words for a panel. Please include a biography of up to 50 words per speaker and specify whether you hope to attend the conference in person or online. Proposals will be evaluated by a panel drawn from all three societies.

The conference fee will be waived for two graduate students in exchange for written reports on the conference, to be published in the BSLS newsletter. If you are interested in being selected for one of these awards, please mention this when sending in your proposal. To qualify you will need to be registered for a postgraduate degree at the time of the conference.

John Holmes, Professor of Victorian Literature and Culture, University of Birmingham, UK
President, Commission on Science and Literature

Jenni Halpin, Professor of English, Savannah State University, Georgia, USA
Chair, British Society for Literature and Science

Aura Heydenreich, Chair of Modern German Literature, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
President, European Society for Literature, Science and the Arts