**The British Society for Literature and Science (BSLS)**

**20th Anniversary Online Conference**

# Day 1. Thursday 8th May 2025. On Microsoft Teams

**10:45 – 11:00 - Introduction**

**11:00 – 12:30 – Parallel Session 1**

**Panel 1.1: Digital, Genetic, Scientific Engineering**

**Chair: Jerome de Groot**

* Twinkle Kumar, ‘“They said it was safe...they were wrong”: Genetic Engineering and Individual Identity in S. E. Meyer's *The Dystopian Gene* (2021)’
* Celia Brightwell, ‘Biotechnological Luxury and the Aging Body: Neuralink and “Forever”’
* Jade Arbo, ‘Science-Fictional Ethical Inquiries: Exploring the Boundaries of Scientific Ambition in *Frankenstein* (1818) and *To Be Taught If Fortunate* (2019)’

**Panel 1.2: Altered Animals in Speculative Literature, Film and Videogames**

**Chair: Jerika Sanderson**

* Jerika Sanderson ,’ Speculative Futures of Xenotransplantation: Altered Animals, Experimental Medicine, and Transplant Tourism in *Chromosome 6* (1997)’
* Samantha Hind, ‘Virtual Reality and Farmed Animals in *Upload* (2023) and *Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget* (2023)’
* Ryan Walsh, ‘Terraforming Aesthetics: Biomimetic Machines and Planetary Rejuvenation in *Horizon: Zero Dawn* and *Horizon: Forbidden West*’
* Raul Martin IV, ‘*Absolution*: The Posthuman Animal and I’

**Panel 1.3: Ghosts and Monsters**

**Chair: Melissa Dickson**

* Rachel Cairns, ‘Subtextually Fat: Reading Fat Embodiment into the Hungry Monster’
* Madeline Dyer Statham, ‘Monster, Mage, Medicine Man, or Myth? Neanderthal Representations in Popular Culture From 1865 to the Present’
* Emily Vincent, ‘“[T]he ‘table-talking’ epidemic”: Spiritualism, Influenza, and the Language of Infection’

12:30 - 13:15 - Lunch

**13:15 - 14:45 – Parallel Session 2**

**Panel 2.1: Relationships and Historical Contexts**

**Chair: Olivia Krauze**

* Inga Peters, ‘Decentering Heterosexuality in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Cranford* ’
* Renata Miller, ‘Religion, Science, Nature, and Industrialization: Rereading the Flood in George Eliot’s *The Mill On the Floss* through the Intertextuality of Barbara Kingsolver’s *Flight Behavior*’
* Anne-Marie Millim, ‘“The last new novel”: Valuation Strategies in Reviews of Fiction Published in the Athenaeum (1828-1921) and the Saturday Review (1855-1938), 1850-59.

**Panel 2.2: Maps, Digital, Data**

**Chair: Alice Jenkins**

* Stacey Dowswell, ‘You Are Here: Locating the Present in *Birnam Wood’*
* Dong Xia, ‘What Does Google Maps Have to Do with Literary Realism?: Informational Imaging from Virginia Woolf to Zadie Smith’
* Samridhi Aggarwal, ‘“It’s your own house spying on you now”: exploring information as economics and the surveillance of public life in Samit Basu’s *The City Inside*’

**Panel 2.3: Children’s Literature and Nature**

**Chair: Rebekah Musk**

* Elizabeth Massa Hoiem, ‘The Origins of Big History in US Progressive Education and Early 20thC Children's Books about Prehistoric Times’
* Angelaki Rosy- Triantafyllia,‘Children’s Literature, Planetarity and Literary Atmospherics in the Anthropocene’

# 15:00 - 16:30 – Plenary 1

**Debapriya Sarkar** (University of Connecticut, Avery Point), ‘Physical Poetics: Margaret Cavendish’s Possible Worlds’

**Chair: Barri Gold**

16:30 – 16:45 - Break

**16:45 – 18:15 - Parallel Session 3**

**Panel 3.1: Biology, Maths and Physics in Literature, Film and Theatre**

**Chair: Jenni Halpin**

* Rachele Cinerari, ‘Mathematics as Modernist Form of Epistemology? The example of Virginia Woolf’s *Night and Day* and Hermann Broch’s "Die unbekannte Größe"’
* Maria Terdimou, ‘Science-Theater, Cinema: an interesting connection’

**Panel 3.2: Ecocriticism and Pandemics**

**Chair: Jade Arbo**

* Dion Dobrzynski, ‘Vegetable Humanities': Becoming Tree with Olaf Stapledon’ [Immersive audio version](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsoundcloud.com%2Fannie-mahtani%2Fbecomingtree%2Fs-QqbPuo4Xpth%3Fsi%3Dabb2332144684f5083a9d5b614fd18e4%26utm_source%3Dclipboard%26utm_medium%3Dtext%26utm_campaign%3Dsocial_sharing&data=05%7C02%7Cbsls2025%40lancaster.ac.uk%7C6f31b08628e2426c4e6808dd8d7c36c2%7C9c9bcd11977a4e9ca9a0bc734090164a%7C0%7C0%7C638822286823391176%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6KgRKBCTuQyNL%2F7QaYppOiE6DhKUzu05rxfjfuse0a8%3D&reserved=0)
* Kaya Purchase, ‘Walls of Snow and Crystal: How Richard Jefferies’ Post-Apocalyptic London Condemns the Industrial Pollution of English Rivers’
* Archana J. ‘Active Social Forgetting and the Trauma of Uncertainty: Insights on Collective Cognitive Opacity from Pandemic Fiction

**Panel 3.3: Romanticism and Interdisciplinarity**

**Chair: John Holmes**

* Steve Denison, ‘Poetry and Science in the Science Fiction/Time Travel Novel, “Settlers”’
* Annalisa Volpone, ‘Englobing Life: Blake’s Generation Myth, Contemporary Embryology and Deleuze’
* Dr. Shoshannah Bryn Jones Square, ‘Synesthesia, Aphantasia, and Consciousness: Exploring the

Spectrum of Inner Experience Through Romantic-Era Literature’

# Day 2. Friday 9th May 2025. On Microsoft Teams

**9:00 - 10:30 – Parallel Session 4**

**Panel 4.1: Representations of the Language and Politics of Science**

**Chair: Lucy Davies**

* Melissa Dickson, ‘“The Nineteenth Century up-to-date with a Vengeance”: Spreading Vampirism and Russian Influenza across Bram Stoker’s Britain’
* Sumin Kim, ‘The Political Impact of Jules Verne’s Science Fiction in Early Twentieth-Century Korea’
* MD Monaem Hossain, ‘Register Shift in Indian English: Moving beyond a Monolingual Western Model’

**Panel 4.2: Ethics, AI and the Female Mind**

**Chair: Olivia Krauze**

* Jenna Xinyi NIU, ‘Technology and Loneliness: Ethics of Artificial Friends in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Klara and the Sun*’
* Jessica McLennan, ‘The Divided Mind: Animal Desire in Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market"’
* Kala Hirtle**,** ‘"Carmilla": Cultural Anxieties, Nervous Health, and Simulation**’**

**Panel 4.3: Literary Explorations in Space and Time**

**Chair: Sara Cole**

* Peter Robinson, ‘Prehistoric Fiction and the Control of Knowledge: J.-H. Rosny's *La Guerre du Feu* (1911)’
* Jasmine Tan Hui Jun, ‘Expanding Universes and Space-Time Warps: Astronomy and the (Non)-Existence of Limits in Rebecca Elson’s Poetry’
* Steven McLean, ‘Science and Satire: Literature and Aeronautics at the Turn of the Century’

10:30 – 11:00 - Break

**11:00 – 12:30 – Parallel Session 5**

**Panel 5.1: Medicine and the Body in the Romantic Period**

**Chair: Louise Benson James**

* Ros Powell, ‘A Risky Business: Narratives of Self-Dosing in Pharmaceutical Trials, 1715-1770’
* Chloe Wilcox, ‘Shock, stigma, and sympathy: functions and representations of self-injury in British Romantic literature’

**Panel 5.2: Empowerment and Identity**

**Chair: Jerome de Groot**

* Jubby Kumar, ‘Reinventing the Fairytale: Technology, Empowerment and Identity in *Mechanica* by Betsy Cornwell’
* Boróka Andl-Beck, ‘Infiltrating the Unknowable: Ethnography and the imagined Gypsy in George Borrow’s *Romany Rye*’
* Tré Ventour-Griffiths, 'Ragnarök: God-Power Microaggressions and Cosmic Body Horror' [Tré Ventour website](https://treventour.com/)

**Panel 5.3: Richer Discourses Through Literary Form**

**Chair: Emily Vincent**

* Unable to attend due to illness: Bosudha Bandyopadhyay, ‘Medical Humanities in South Asian Literature: Exploring Health, Trauma, and Society through the Works of Perumal Murugan, Kamila Shamsie, and Akhil Sharma’
* Encarnacion Trinidad Barrantes, ‘Medico-literary Interventions: US Periodicals and the Popularisation of Animal Magnetism in the Nineteenth Century’
* Michele Brugnetti, ‘The portrait of the Aesthete as a Young Woman: Ouida’s Princess Napraxine as an Image of Cosmopolitan Aestheticism’

12:30 - 13:30 - Lunch

**13:30 - 15.00 – Parallel Session 6**

**Panel 6.1: Robots, Genes and Prosthetics**

**Chair: Samridhi Aggarwal**

* Kelli Knox, ‘DNA (Determining Natural Anxieties): Representations of Biocapitalism, Genetic Science, and the Posthuman in Canadian Fiction’
* Matthew L. Reznicek, ‘With Dignity—Yet with Difficulty: Prosthesis, Dependency, and Bodily Norms in

*The Wild Irish Girl* (1806)’

**Panel 6.2: Puzzles**

**Chair: Lucy Davies**

* Barbara Bienias, ‘Poetic Forms in Seventeenth-Century English Astrological Writings’
* Brittany Anne Carlson, ‘Puzzling, Affect, and Ephemera in “The Gold Bug” and “The Man of the Crowd”’

**Panel 6.3: Poetry, Science and Miracles**

**Chair: Sara Cole**

* Victor Monnin, ‘“I intend to write as long as I wish”: Earl Douglass, the Fossil Hunter Who Wanted To Be a Writer’
* Nicola Angeli, ‘Inventing Poetry and Writing Inventions: The Case of Charles Cros’
* Sophio Guliashvili, ‘Evolving Narratives: The Transformation of Main Characters from Old Georgian Hagiographic Texts (5th-8th Century) to Contemporary Literature’

**15:00 - 16:30 – Plenary 2, and announcement of the BSLS Book Prize!**

**Martin Willis** (Cardiff University), ‘Literature and Science in the Age of the “---- Humanities”’ **Chair: Sharon Ruston**

