

# 2026 BSLS Winter Symposium: Alternate Histories of the Body

30 January 2026, 9.15-18.15 GMT

Time		Zoom Room 1	Zoom Room 1	Zoom Room 2
09:15	Welcome			
09:30	Panel Session 1	<p><b>1.1 The Victorian Hand Project</b></p> <p>Helen Victoria Murray (University of Lancaster) Joanne Begiato (University of the Arts London) Ross Cameron (UAL) Michael Brown (Lancaster)</p>	<p><b>1.2 Disability</b></p> <p>Ioana Danielescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University): “The Scapegoat Child: Ideological Functions of the Disabled Child in the Southern Gothic Between Martyr and Avenger”</p> <p>Oana Marin (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu): “Peripheral Bodies: Disability, Space, and the Embodied Biopolitics in Early 20th-Century Romania”</p> <p>Poongavi A (Central University of Tamil Nadu): “Crippling Desirability, Disrupting Bodily Hierarchies: Re-configuring</p>	<p><b>1.3 Speculative Bodies</b></p> <p>Ishan Tripathi (Independent Scholar): “Bodies Without Caste: Posthumanism, Techno-Spirituality, and the Politics of Flesh”</p> <p>Ananya Roy (Chinese University of Hong Kong): “Viral Genealogies: Symbiotic Historicity and the Racial Body in Octavia Butler’s <i>Clay’s Ark</i>”</p> <p>Claire Cassidy (University of Wolverhampton): “Speculative Bodies: Flesh, Control, and Resistance in Burroughs’s <i>Naked Lunch</i>”</p> <p>Will Tattersdill (University of Glasgow): “Dale Russell’s Alternate Humanoid: Dinosaurs, Destiny, and Speculative Evolution”</p>

			Disability Embodiment in Skin Stories"	
11:00	Break			
11:15	Workshop	Francesca Young Kaufman: Experiencing Academia through the Body		
12:45	Lunch			
13:30	Panel Session 2	<p><b>2.1 The Body and/as Archive</b></p> <p>Maria Darmou (University College Cork): "Affective Bodies, Criminal Intimacies. Reimagining Embodied Histories through Sensory and Participatory Methodologies"</p> <p>Anna Loughran (Loughborough): "Re-writing the trans body"</p> <p>Jharna Choudhury (Dimoria College): "Embroidered Flesh: Assamese Folktales and Embodied Memories"</p>	<p><b>2.2 Body and Nation</b></p> <p>Amrita Shenoy (SNDT Women's University): "Adivasis and Embodied Resistance in Mahasweta Devi's "Little Ones"</p> <p>Anna Derksen (Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities): "Insular Bodies: Tracing Eugenics on Livø through Literature and Art"</p> <p>Jemima Raahaman (Aliah University): "Inscribed Flesh, Occupied Body: Histories of Racialization, Racism, and Embodied Resistance in Palestinian Literature"</p>	<p><b>3.3 Uterine Bodies</b></p> <p>Helena McBurney (King's College London): The City for Incurable Women</p> <p>Emily Johnston (Queen's University): [Title TBD]</p> <p>Madeline Dyer (University of Bristol): "The Monstrous Men Behind Demonic Pregnancies: Pregnancy Horror from 1953 to 2026"</p> <p>Amber Anseeuw (Ghent University): "'A Wild, Ear-Piercing Scream': Monstrous Motherhood and Uterine Extensions of the Body in Bram Stoker's Dracula"</p>

15:00	Keynote	<b>Aanchal Vij (University of Sussex):</b> “No able history, no able body”		
16:15	Break			
16:30	<b>Panel Session 3</b>	<p><b>3.1 Performing the Body</b></p> <p>Silke Vanhoof (Independent scholar): “Embodied Cripabilities: Crip/Mad/Sick Epistemologies”</p> <p>Raina Isabela (BRAC University): The Queer Body Between Machismo and Effeminacy</p> <p>Elle Zwinkels (Utrecht): “On The “Strange Loop” of Affective Passing”</p>	<p><b>3.2 Intertextual Bodies</b></p> <p>Lucia Battistel (LUMSA): “A ticket to the poetic pantheon: illness as a way for poetic recognition”</p> <p>Kristen Loutensock (SUNY Binghamton): “Seeing Difference: Disability and Spectacle in Recent Body Horror”</p> <p>Ugo Grimard (UCLouvain): “Tragic Bodies: On the Body Politics of Retelling in Colm Tóibín’s House of Names”</p>	<p><b>3.3 Alternate Paradigms</b></p> <p>Olivia Soileau (University of Montevallo): “Un-queering the Shrew: The Starving, Queer, Humoral Body in William Shakespeare’s The Taming of the Shrew”</p> <p>Mareike Peschl (Princeton): “Like String Instruments, Embodied Cognition requires Tuning and Practice: Remarks on Johan Tetens’ Critical Philosophy”</p> <p>Saara-Maija Kontturi (Helsinki) and Edna Huotari (Helsinki): “Medical Electricity for Disabled Bodies and Minds”</p>
18:00	Concluding remarks			