



The British Society for LITERATURE and SCIENCE

*Prof. Jenni Halpin (Savannah State University), Chair; Dr Laura E. Ludtke (Independent Scholar), Treasurer;
Dr Jordan Kistler (University of Strathclyde), Communications Officer;
Dr Emily Alder (Edinburgh Napier University), Membership Secretary;
Prof. Sharon Ruston (Lancaster University), Book Reviews Editor.
Members at Large: Dr Chisomo Kalinga (University of Edinburgh); Sara Cole (Lancaster University);
Dr Louise Benson James (University of Ghent).
Overseas Representative, Europe: Dr Liliane Campos (Sorbonne Nouvelle University).*

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. (*Very, very happily.*)

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.

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

Winter 2024 Newsletter

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.

MEMBERS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE HARDSHIP FUND

Last 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](#).

BSLS FUNDING REPORTS PGR/ECR GRANT: SLSA: ‘ALIEN’

On October 26-29, 2023 the School of Arts, Media, and Engineering at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, hosted the annual conference for the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

The theme was “Alien,” and the meeting was the second SLSA I had attended in Arizona, allowing me the opportunity to reconvene with a network I had first met at the PostHuman Network conference run by postgraduates at the university in 2017. This theme invited theorisations within the critical and speculative discourses of 21st-century art, design, science, and theoretical humanities of that which is out of this world, in time and out of time, human and inhuman, with and without reference.

Delivering her keynote in the Walton Center for Planetary Health, Nnedi Okorafor offered an enthralling keynote titled ‘Africanfuturism Defined’, in which she took issue with the centering of African American narratives within Afrofuturism. Okorafor explained that she offered the term Africanfuturism as a means of regaining regain control of how she was being defined, having felt that the most prominent definition of the term Afrofuturism, which was often used to describe her work, didn’t capture what she was doing. Highlighting how her science fiction writing shares with Afrofuturism the appreciation that the Black Diaspora are all connected by blood, spirit, history, and future, in her keynote Okorafor went on to specify the way that Africanfuturism begins by being rooted in African culture, history, mythology and point-of-view, and in doing so repudiates the centering

of the West. Okorafor’s keynote elucidated a discomfort I had previously been unable to specify from my foray into Afrofuturism prompted by my interest in speculative fabulation, and I am excited to spend more time familiarising myself with her fiction.

I delivered a paper titled ‘From cosmic philosophy to planetary humanism- revisiting Leopardi’s critique of our alienation from ourselves and nature’, introducing some of the recurring themes that appeared in the final stages of writing up my doctoral research for a monograph. The panel my paper was selected for delivered papers with concerns that converged with my own, making for a very rewarding experience. In particular, I thoroughly enjoyed Jovana Isevski’s paper ‘Those Who Know but Are Unknown: Extractive Voyeurism of Francis Bacon’s Manthropocene’, which examined a topic that I believe requires more attention today by exploring the impact of the extractive philosophy of Bacon, which in many ways remains the prevailing narrative today, with recourse to the work of Carolyn Merchant.

I am incredibly grateful for the support of BSLS in providing me with this grant, without which I would have been unable to attend SLSA, and I am hopeful that the participation in the research community that this experience afforded me, as an independent researcher, will help improve my chance to obtain an academic position this year, and allow me to bring to fruition the ideas that the conference generated.

—Alice Gibson

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.

PGR/ECR GRANT: MICROSCOPIC IMAGINARIES

In November 2023, I received financial support from the BSLS Postgraduate and Early Career Conference Fund to present a paper at the ‘Microscopic Imaginaries in 20th- and 21st-Century Literature’ symposium at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University in Paris. My paper, entitled ‘Microscopic Modernism’, examined the way in which modernists like Marianne Moore and Hilda Doolittle (H.D.) used the microscope as an analogy for their capacity to perceive not only that which is celestial but also that which is cellular. While the microscope was a common motif among modernists seeking to perceive the imperceptible, my paper argued that Moore and H.D. resisted the reductionist tendencies of the microscopic imagination by oscillating between the micro and the macro.

As the symposium unfolded, proceeding from modern to contemporary literature, recurrent themes emerged into view: defamiliarisation (discussed by Patrick Armstrong and Rosalind Crocker), microbial kinship (discussed by Lisa Mullen and Shannon Lambert), and transcorporeality (discussed by Teun-Joshua Brandt and Marco Caracciolo). In addition to these papers, the symposium consisted of two roundtables—one on ‘Microscopic Imaginaries in

Popular Science’ and one on ‘Microbiology in Poetry’—as well as an exclusive curatorial tour of the ‘Glory to the Microbes’ exhibition at Le Consulat. The exhibition, complete with a microbial manifesto and artworks by twelve artists, was a brilliant accompaniment to the symposium.

Thanks to the generosity of the BSLS and of the BioCriticism project, I was able to spend enough time in Paris to carry out archival research at the Jacques Doucet Literary Library. Here I consulted the Fonds Charles Du Bos, Fonds Natalie Barney, and Fonds Francis Picabia in an effort to learn more about early twentieth-century scientific and aesthetic culture in relation to Mina Loy, Hope Mirrlees, and Gertrude Stein—all of whom feature in my doctoral thesis, ‘The Aesthetics of Perception in Modernist Women’s Poetry’. While this was my first time doing research at a foreign-language archive, my visit was a success. Not only did I gain valuable insight into Mirrlees and Du Bos’ shared love of the medical aspects of Keats’ poetry, but I also learned more about the short-lived relationship between Loy and Arthur Cravan.

—Emma Felin
University of Oxford

PGR/ECR GRANT: MLA 2024 CONVENTION

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the BSLS for funding my registration fee for the annual convention of the Modern Language Association of the United States, ‘Celebration: Joy and Sorrow’, which took place in Philadelphia in a hybrid format between 4 – 7 January 2024. I was scheduled to attend the conference in person, but unfortunately, due to ill health, I had to opt for virtual participation. My experience of the event was nonetheless enjoyable and fruitful. Although not all sessions were accessible online, I still managed to listen to some top-quality talks.

My own paper entitled ‘The Dilemma of In-Betweenness – Sándor Márai’s Internal and External Exile’ focused on Hungarian literature analysed from a psychoanalytic perspective, covering an interdisciplinary (literature and psychology) approach. Twentieth-century Hungarian author, Sándor Márai, lived most of his life in exile in both Europe and the

United States. He documented the complications associated with daily life abroad, coupled with other looming personal issues, which drove him into periods of desolation. Expatriate depression is the fundamental message in his texts written especially in or about New York City. He repeats contemptuous feelings toward the United States in general, describing the country as a source of stress, and he voices his inability to develop a sense of belonging there. The narrative portrayal of trauma associated with immigration represents my main research interest. I was delighted that my topic was appreciated by the audience, and I received numerous comments as well as questions, resulting in two American academics showing interest in discussing my paper further in the near future.

As for the presentations of other attendees online, the two sessions that stood out for me were ‘Race and the Aesthetics of Refusal in Contemporary Latin America and Hemispheric Americas’ (held on 5

January) and 'Performing Joy and Sorrow: Gender, Race, and Dissidence' (held on 6 January). The former included a paper on the objectification of the Black body, the role of visual language, and futuristic aesthetics in music videos created by young Black people. Another presenter on this panel discussed the importance of the mural of Doña Patria whose character rewrites the meaning of 'patria' in the Dominican Republic by challenging the assumption that black femininity is stable and constant, therefore not requiring attention. The presenter argued that black femme identity is volatile and an incomplete product in transformation, which even Doña Patria's unruly hairstyle signifies. The other session that intrigued me also focused on identity studies. One of the presenters combined race and gender in her investigation of Brazilian cinema. Interpreting the message of the film *Paloma* (2022), which is based on true events, she argued that although the complex lives of transgender people are usually rendered invisible in society (as being trans is too difficult and painful to be discussed), Paloma, a young, trans, black woman manages to challenge the heteronormative cultural framework by having the courage to be happy openly. She finds joy in her relationship with a man, with whom she creates an intimate connection, and she also gains happiness in motherhood. The film displays how she experiences freedom, safety, and an ability to be herself by making an existential choice: she refuses to hide; instead, she insists on leading a decent life in the community.

All in all, the MLA convention proved to be an event that certainly added to my creativity and productivity. The sessions were all useful and thought-provoking, even if only remotely relevant to my field. The audiences varied in size, but the high quality of the scholarship and the conversations we had encouraged me to participate next year as well, hopefully in person this time..

—*Teodora Domotor*
Karoli Gaspar University, Budapest, Hungary

SEEKING MENTORSHIP: PRINCETON MATH MAJOR INTERESTED IN HUMANITIES

My name is Laney Gold-Rappe and I am finishing my third year in the math department at Princeton, minoring in English and Gender Studies. I am interested in History/Philosophy of Math and Science, Literature and Math, and Digital Humanities. I am seeking a project to help with over the 2024 Summer or as soon as needed, remotely or in person. Previous interdisciplinary projects of mine include utopian writing as a formal thought experiment, infinity as faith, and internet radicalization. If you are searching for a math person or research assistant, please contact me at lgoldrappe@princeton.edu.

SURVEY ON SHAPE

Do you have a degree in one of social sciences, humanities or arts disciplines and are you engaging in or conducting research in your current role? Please consider responding to a survey investigating careers in these disciplines.

As part of a major project investigating research careers in SHAPE disciplines (Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy), the British Academy has commissioned the Careers and Research Advisory Centre (CRAC) to explore researcher identity and mobility across these disciplines in higher education and other sectors. The findings will enable the Academy to build and convey a clearer picture to government and other policy makers of what those in research-related careers really look like, for those within and from SHAPE disciplines, and how they can be supported better.

For more information about the project and to access the survey, please use this link [SHAPE research careers survey — Vitae Website](#)

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).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

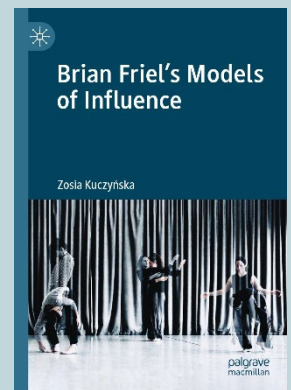
Adele Guyton. 'Marvellous Conquests: The Adventures of Christianity and Astronomy in the *Boy's Own Paper* (1889–1900)'. *Victorian Popular Fictions* vol. 5, no. 2 (58-72) (<https://victorianpopularfiction.org/victorian-popular-fictions-5-2-5-guyton/>)

This article argues two things about astronomy in the fiction of the *Boy's Own Paper* (*BOP*) in the long 1890s: that astronomy is used to inspire muscular Christian moral improvement, broadly understood, and that we should understand this representation as enabled by the state of contemporary astronomy. At the close of the century, astronomy was an extremely popular science, and the locus of astronomical authority was unclear, permitting a wide variety of ideological positions within popularisation. This article first employs close readings of astronomical passages in the *BOP* from the 1890s to show that writers link adventure and heroism in frontier spaces to astronomy by using its most popular and engaging features alongside uncontested facts. Second, a discussion of *A Marvellous Conquest: A Story of the Bayou* (1889), a serialised scientific romance by André Laurie, further demonstrates that the most important aspect of the use of astronomy within the *BOP*'s didactic project is its resonances with muscular Christianity rather than its scientific accuracy for educational purposes.

Zosia Kuczyńska. *Brian Friel's Models of Influence*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.

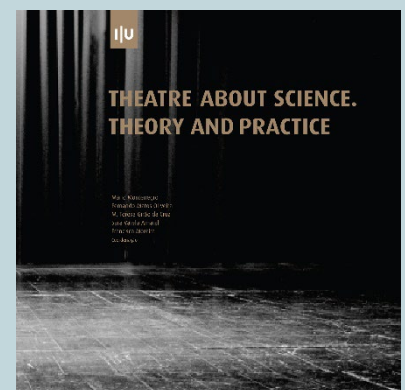
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-17905-1>

The Brian Friel Papers at the National Library of Ireland are a record of a life's work in progress. They represent a way of working and of making art over a period spanning more than fifty years. This book is the first of its kind in its attempt to interrogate the role of the Brian Friel Papers in Friel's legacy as a working artist with a richly developed creative practice. By means of an unprecedented focus on Friel's artistic process, Kuczyńska asks not only how and *by whom* Friel was being influenced and inspired, but also how and *for whom* Friel's praxis might come to be an inspiration. Combining forensic archival scholarship with original, collaborative practice-based research, this study remains focused on the 'how' of influence, showcasing an approach to literary archives that foregrounds live practices of access in the spirit of creative encounter. Whether uncovering forgotten source materials for Friel's plays or working with current practitioners in the arts, Kuczyńska reveals how an approach to literary archives grounded in artistic practice might provide the tools for setting a major creative legacy not in stone but rather in motion.



Mário Montenegro, et al., Eds. *Theatre About Science: Theory and Practice*. Coimbra UP, November 2023.

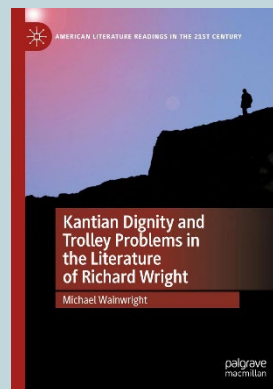
This volume reflects the great diversity and different perspectives related to the connections between theatre and the sciences, both regarding the performative practice and the academic thought upon that practice. It also gathers contributions from literary studies, theatre and performance studies, and science communication. It reveals a diverse group of practices, varied stages, different formats, different sized productions and diverse target audiences, that suggest a common quality or characteristic in these intersections that can be activated in varied contexts and with different levels of production. The diversity of voices and experiences present in this volume also carries with it a strong geographical perspective, with reports of practices in different regions of the globe, sketching a wider panorama of theatre and sciences intersections.



Available in open access through the following link: <http://books.uc.pt/book?book=1318>

Michael Wainwright. *Kantian Dignity and Trolley Problems in the Literature of Richard Wright*. Palgrave Macmillan (28 October 2023). ISBN: 978-3031402159.

Part of Palgrave's series of *American Literature Readings in the Twenty-First Century*, this volume provides an interdisciplinary confluence of philosophy, science, and literature that is at once new, significant, and mutually engaging. On the one hand, this offering appeals to the scientifically inflected philosophy of Derek Parfit to substantiate Immanuel Kant's description of unconditional dignity, a process that helps to promote trolley problems as an interpretive tool for literary scholars. On the other hand, this offering appeals to the literature of African-American author Richard Wright to defend trolley problems from the criticism that some philosophers level against them, a defense that helps to promote ethics as a vital interpretive concern for literary studies. Starting with the pertinent interventions in the field of literary theory by philosopher Martha C. Nussbaum, *Richard Wright's Lifeboat* draws on the relatable philosophical thoughts of her contemporaries, especially those of Philippa Foot, John Rawls, Judith Jarvis Thomson, and Parfit, and focuses on an example of hospitable (or readerly) literature in Wright's *Uncle Tom's Children*. This approach enables the reciprocal development of each disciplinary course toward a mutual understanding that is both provocative and enlightening. 'In these challenging times', writes Barbara Foley, 'it is all the more important that we bear in mind the mediations enabling Wright to connect "black lives" to "all lives"'; the proposed book brings this importance to the fore.



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.

- Abbott, Stephen, *The Proof Stage: How Theater Reveals the Human Truth of Mathematics* (Princeton UP, 2023)
- Berque, Augustin, *Poetics of the Earth: Natural History and Human History* (Routledge, 2019)
- Epstein, Hugh, *Hardy, Conrad and the Senses* (Edinburgh UP, 2020)
- Fyfe, Aileen, and Colin C. Kidd, eds., *Beyond the Enlightenment: Scottish Intellectual Life, 1790-1922* (Edinburgh UP, 2023)
- Gupta, Suman, and Peter H. Tu, *The Practical Philosophy of AI Assistants: An Engineering-Humanities Conversation* (World Scientific, 2024)
- 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* (Edinburgh UP, 2021)
- Lehmann, Olga V., and Oddgeir Synnes, eds., *A Poetic Language of Ageing* (Bloomsbury, 2023)
- Nüsslein-Volhard, Christiane, *Animal Beauty* (MIT Press, 2019)
- Powell, Rosalind, *Perception and Analogy: Poetry, Science, and Religion in the Eighteenth Century* (Manchester UP, 2021)
- Sankaran, Neeraja, *A Tale of Two Viruses: Parallels in the Research Trajectories of Tumor and Bacterial Viruses* (U of Pittsburgh P, 2021)
- Sarkar, Debapriya, *Possible Knowledge: The Literary Forms of Early Modern Science* (U of Pennsylvania P, 2023)
- Small, Douglas, *Cocaine, Literature and Culture, 1876 – 1930* (Bloomsbury, 2024)
- Sutton-Mattocks, Julia, *Cures for Modernity: Medicine in Interwar Russian and Czech Literature and Cinema* (Peter Lang, 2023)
- Taylor, Michael A., and Ralph O'Connor, eds., *The Old Red Sandstone or New Walks in an Old Field* by Hugh Miller (National Museums Scotland, 2022)
- Wong, Amy, *Refiguring Speech* (Stanford UP, 2023)
- Yunger-Halpern, Nicole, *Quantum Steampunk: The Physics of Yesterday's Tomorrow* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2022)

BSLS REVIEWS

NEWLY PUBLISHED REVIEWS

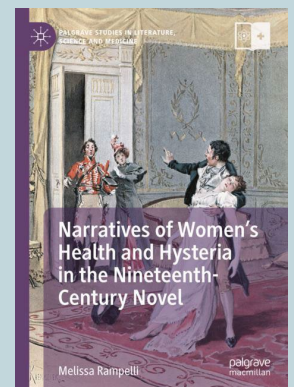
- AlShammari, Wansah reviewed Leah Sidi, *Sarah Kane's Theatre of Psychic Life: Theatre, Thought and Mental Suffering*, (Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, London, 2023)
- Banbury, Thomas reviewed Curtis Runstedler, *Alchemy and Exemplary Poetry in Middle English Literature* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023)
- Campbell, Rebecca reviewed Alan Gordon, *Time Travel: Tourism and the Rise of the Living History Museum in Mid-Twentieth-Century Canada* (UBC Press, 2016)
- Hathout, Shahira A. reviewed Alice Hall (ed.), *Contemporary Literature and the Body: A Critical Introduction* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023)
- Leaf, Janette reviewed Lafcadio Hearn, *Insect Literature* (Swan River Press, 2023)
- White, Rachel reviewed Martina Zamparo, *Alchemy, Paracelsianism, and Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022)

PALGRAVE STUDIES IN LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND MEDICINE

RECENT TITLE

Melissa Rampelli, *Narratives of Women's Health and Hysteria in the Nineteenth-Century Novel*

This book looks extensively at hysteria discourse through medical and sociological texts and examines how this body of work intersects with important cultural debates to define women's social, physical, and mental health. The book sketches out prominent shifts in cultural reactions to the idea of diffused agency and the prized model of the interiorized, individual person capable of self will and governance. Melissa Rampelli takes up the work of Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy, showing how the authors play with and manipulate stock literary figures to contribute to this dialogue about the causes and cures of women's hysterical distress.



CALLS FOR PAPERS

ASLE-UKI BIENNIAL POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE

The 2024 Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, UK and Ireland (ASLE-UKI) Biennial Postgraduate Conference will be hosted by the Edinburgh Environmental Network (University of Edinburgh) between 5-6 September 2024.

ASLE-UKI welcomes participation from postgraduate and early career scholars, readers, and creative practitioners interested in the relationships between literatures, arts, environments and cultures – past, present, or future from anywhere in the world.

The themes of the 2024 conference are 'Attention' and 'Noticing'. We welcome proposals for 15 minute papers. Please find the Call for Papers on: <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/environmental-humanities/2024/01/26/eehn-to-host->

[2024-asle-uki-biennial-postgraduate-conference/](https://forms.office.com/e/Rv7nga7xuj) . Please do share this with anyone who may be interested too.

To propose a paper, please submit an abstract of around 250 words and a brief speaker biography by 23 February 2024 using this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/Rv7nga7xuj>

Edinburgh Environmental Humanities Network
<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/environmental-humanities/>

WRITING THE WORLD: EARLY MODERN WOMEN, NATURAL PHILOSOPHY AND MEDICINE

We are pleased to announce the Call for Papers for our conference Writing the World: Early Modern Women, Natural Philosophy and Medicine, on Thursday 11 July and Friday 12 July 2024 at the University of York.

How do early modern women writers think with, through and about natural philosophy and medicine in their writing? How do the genres and forms they choose to write in affect their scientific thoughts, ideas and conclusions? What is the value of fiction or literature to natural philosophy and medicine? What role does gender play in natural philosophical or medical discourse and debates? This two-day conference seeks to explore the rich connections and interactions between natural philosophy and medicine, and early modern women's writing across a range of genres and forms. Keynote speakers include Professor Danielle Clarke (UCD) and Dr Julia Martins (Independent). The conference is kindly supported by the University of York's Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies (CREMS) and the British Society for Literature and Science (BSLS).

We invite proposals for 20-minute papers on women's writing, natural philosophy, and medicine in the early modern period (broadly conceived). Topics may include but aren't limited to:

- How women engaged with natural philosophy/medicine across a range of forms or genres e.g. receipt/recipe books, poetry, diaries, letters, drama, prose etc.
- Alchemy and the occult.
- Natural history, including botany, geology and mineralogy.
- Natural theology.
- Acoustics, music, and sound.
- Interconnections between women's writing, natural philosophy and the wider intellectual culture.

Please send a title, 250-word abstract and 100-word biography to natphilwomenyorkconference@gmail.com by 21st March 2024. Papers by PGR and ECR are encouraged. We will let participants know if travel bursaries are available in the future. For more information see www.natphilwomen.wordpress.com.

FORUM:

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE JOURNAL OF CULTURE & THE ARTS, ISSUE 35, EMOTION AND AFFECT

Affect theory reorients our attention towards contextualisations of emotional and affective experiences within past and contemporary constructions of race, gender and sexuality. The study of emotionality questions the medical construction of taxonomies and pathologies of feeling, offering new interdisciplinary methodologies. It also interrogates the boundary between human and non-human, with contemporary research in ecological feeling playing with the border between humans and other species, nature and geological formations. This issue is interested in how these contemporary and modern affective debates have impacted, and continue to impact, the ways in which we think about feeling.

Critical studies into emotionality explore the materiality and the somatics of emotion, offering new perspectives in the ways in which artistic forms have engaged with and responded to affective dimensions. Recent publications such as Xine Yao's *Disaffected* (2021) and Lauren Berlant's *On the Inconvenience of Other People* (2022) examined attachment both interdisciplinarily and intersectionally, considering the ways in which sentimental paradigms are universalised, engaged with and criticised through literary and artistic media. In the same vein, we are interested in discussions of the limits and boundaries of feeling, and in new interdisciplinary, intersectional and contextual understandings of feeling, affect and emotionality.

bsls.ac.uk

The 35th issue of FORUM invites contributions from across the arts and humanities that engage with the concepts of emotionality and affect. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Portrayal of emotions in art and emotional responses to art; Emotions and the creation of art; readerly and writerly affect
- Interdisciplinary attitudes to affect
- Ecocriticism and nonhuman affect
- Limits to emotionality: ugly feelings; unemotionality and emotional manipulation
- Contextual perceptions of affect: historical attitudes to emotions; medical feelings and pathology
- Rationality and emotion: the place of emotionality in the age of artificial intelligence; criticism and emotionality
- Affect theories: phenomenology; terminology and language of feeling; aesthetics and poetics of feeling
- The role of emotionality in the construction of racial, gender, sex and/or class identity; racial and transgressive feeling
- Mind vs body: modes of perception, sensation and the senses
- Affective networks; communities of feeling

Send the full article by 5 April 2023 at <http://journals.ed.ac.uk/forum/about/submissions>. Suitable submissions will be subject to double-blind peer-review. For questions email Forum.Journal@ed.ac.uk.

N.B. We are usually only able to accept submissions from postgraduate students or from early career researchers within three years of having finished a postgraduate qualification.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIOCRITICISM WEBINAR, 2024: 'THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE'

The BioCriticism webinar explores relations between the life sciences, critical thought and artistic work. All are welcome. Please contact the organizer liliane.campos@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr or visit the website for abstracts and zoom links: <https://biocriticism.hypotheses.org/>.

2 February 2024, 2 pm CET: 'Microbiology in the Twentieth-Century Novel'

Speaker: Dr. Patrick Armstrong (Cambridge University)

Respondent: Dr. Sarah Bouttier (Ecole Polytechnique)

8 March 2024, 2 pm CET: 'Tiny New World: French Visual Culture and the Microbial Imaginary since the Early Twentieth Century'

Speaker: Dr. Fleur Hopkins-Loféron (CNRS and Sorbonne Nouvelle University)

Respondent: Prof. Kirsten Shepherd-Barr (University of Oxford)

26 April 2024, 2 pm CET: 'The Biomolecularisation of the Archive'

Speaker: Prof. Jerome de Groot (University of Manchester)

Respondent: Prof. François-Joseph Lapointe (Université de Montréal)

24 May 2024, 2 pm CET: 'Books of Life in the Age of the Genome'

Speaker: Dr. Paul Hamann-Rose (University of Passau)

Respondent: Dr. Rūta Šlapkauskaitė (Vilnius University)

GILBERT WHITE AND HIS CONTEXTS

'Gilbert White and his Contexts' is an international conference at Selborne, Hampshire, UK, 3 – 5 June 2025. Keynote speakers include Stephen Moss, Anne Secord, and Jenny Uglow. For further information see <https://www.gilbertwhite.org.uk/>.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

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. 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, please see the [conference website](#).

Registration is now open.

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

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Editor: Jenni Halpin

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