Literary London Society
Annual Conference 2017

Fantastic London:
Dream, Speculation and Nightmare

13-14 July 2017

Conference Programme

Hosted by: The Institute of English Studies, University of London

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Further Information:

The School of Advanced Study is part of the central University of London. The School takes its responsibility to visitors with special needs very seriously and will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to its facilities in order to accommodate the needs of such visitors. If you have a particular requirement, please feel free to discuss it confidentially with the Events Officer in advance of the event taking place.

Please look out for directional signs. We will be using the following rooms:

**Ground floor:** Woburn Room/G22, Montague Room/G26, Room G34, Room G35
**First floor:** Chancellor’s Hall, Grand Lobby

Toilets are located off Staircase 1 on the 1st floor and basement, and in the foyer of floors two and three.

WiFi is available throughout the building. The password changes each day and can be obtained from the main reception desk. Our network name is “UoL Conferences”. Alternatively please use Eduroam if you are enabled to do so.
Literary London 2017: Note on the Venue

All conference events are taking place in and around the Institute of English Studies, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU.

The nearest tube stations are Goodge Street (Northern Line) and Russell Square (Piccadilly Line). Warren Street, Tottenham Court Road, Holborn, Euston, and Euston Square tube stations are also just a few minutes’ walk away. Euston, St. Pancras, and Kings Cross mainline stations are also within 10-15 minutes’ walk.

Informal gatherings will be in the Marquis Cornwallis, 31 Marchmont Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1N 1AP

The venue for the conference dinner is Antalya (103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH).
Map 1 - How to find us
**Talking Orwell**

**TALKING ORWELL** is a new installation for the Literary London Conference 2017. This exhibit draws upon the conference venue of Senate House, that provided inspiration for the ‘Ministry of Truth’ in George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Explore the venue to discover 3D-printed, bluetooth-beacon enabled busts of Orwell, through which you can explore and converse with aspects of UCL’s Orwell Archive via your smartphone.

This playful installation offers a new and different way of engaging with archival material, touching on themes of surveillance and technology, and pointing to the relevance of Orwell’s work – and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in particular – to the present day.

Led by the Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis in partnership with UCL Library Special Collections, Institute of Historical Research, The Orwell Society, and Senate House Library. Hosted by the Institute of English Studies.
The Schedule

DAY 1: Thursday 13 July

9.00-10.00: Registration and Refreshments Outside Woburn/G22

10.00-10.30: Welcome address by organizers Woburn/G22

• Includes introduction to ‘Room 101’ exhibition from Leila Kassir and ‘Talking Orwell’ exhibition by Duncan Hay.

10.30-12.00: Parallel Sessions

‘Crossing the threshold of the unknown’: Light spaces and dark places in Richard Marsh’s The Beetle (1897) G34

Chair: Dr Hadas Elber-Aviram (UCL)

• Eliza Cubitt (UCL) – Stravaging men and savage women in The Beetle (1897) and Arthur Machen’s The Great God Pan (1890)

• Laura Ludke (Queen’s University, Canada) – Gothic Lights: The Electric Light as a Civilising Threat in Richard Marsh’s The Beetle

• Lisa Robertson (Warwick) – ‘So-Called Villas’ and ‘Dreadful Jerry-Built Houses’: The Nightmare of Speculative Building in Richard Marsh’s The Beetle

Streets of Pleasure: Counter-currents in the Formation of Contemporary Civic Identity G35

• Craig Melhoff (Concordia University) – “Like things that weren’t ever real”: The Hypothetical Worlds of Graham Swift’s Last Orders

• Rob Waters (Sussex) – Commerce, Cosmopolitanism, and Conviviality: Shopping for London’s Future


‘We Saw Them Not’: Exhuming Civilization’s End Times in Weird Fantasy G22

• Elena Tchougounova-Paulson (Independent) – On the problem of eschatological perception in the works of HP Lovecraft and Alexander Blok

• Angus Whitehead (Nanyang Technological University) – “The deserted and utterly extinct city of London was under his feet”: Suburban Apocalypse in Richard Jefferies’ After London

• Sam Wiseman (University of Erfurt) – ‘London Incognita’: Forgotten Spaces and the ‘Two Levels of Life’ in Arthur Machen’s The London Adventure

12.00-13.30: Lunch provided Montague/G26

12.30-13.30: Literary London Society AGM (all welcome) Woburn/G22
13.30-15.00: Parallel Sessions

**Textual Instruments of Speculation in Eighteenth-Century London**

- Christopher Ewers (KCL) – The City as a newspaper: Sir John Hill’s Inspector columns
- Patricia Rodrigues (University of Lisbon Centre for English Studies) – Fantastic narrators: the case of the “spying” Guinea
- Mita Choudhury (Purdue University) – Biographical Speculation: The Sightings of Specters in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Gough Square
- Sophie/Su Yu-Wen (National Chengchi University) – A Spatial Analysis of Coleridge’s ‘Frost at Midnight’

**Future Present: Deviations from Type in the Midst of Political Uncertainty**

- Nick Hubble (Brunel) – Post-Brexit London Futures and Other Science Fictions
- Nicole Schrag (University of Texas at Austin) – ‘Or Hierusalem…’: Maureen Duffy’s *Capital* and the Decline of the Postwar Consensus
- Carla Scura (Independent) – “Blast into the Future from the 1990s”: The novel *Robinson*, Chris Petit, and other London drifts

**‘Through other eyes’: Arriving at a Transnational Consciousness of London**

- Anthony Pennino (Stevens Institute of Technology) – London’s Imperial Geography: Caryl Churchill, Tom Stoppard, and the Distance from Colony to Capital
- Anna Tomczak (University of Białystok) – John Lanchester’s London in *Capital*: Where dreams and nightmares are propelled by speculation
- Adrian Wesołowski (University of Warsaw) – The Metropoly of Freedom and Benevolence: 18th-century London in the eyes of a Pole

**States of Gothic Transition: Infiltration in a Preternatural City**

- Alexandre Veloso de Abreu (Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais) – Unnatural London: The Metaphor and the Marvellous in China Miéville’s *Perdido Street Station*
- Eva Szekely (University of Oradea) – From Liminoid to Liminal: the London Zoo, Piccadilly, Hampstead Heath and the Lunatic Asylum in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*
- Dipsikha Thakur (University of Virginia) – ‘A Stranger in A Strange Land’: Estimacies of Immigration in Dracula’s London

15.00-16.00: Plenary Address

Professor Rohan McWilliam (Anglia Ruskin) – The Cultural Work of the Victorian West End of London

16.00-16.30: Refreshments
16.30-18.00: Parallel Sessions

**Amid Global Refugee Crises and the Specter of “Homeland” Security: Interrogating Fantasies of Identity and Conundrums of Migration**  
Chair: Mita Choudhury (Purdue University)

- Paula Zaja (Purdue University) – Deconstructing and Reclaiming Identity in Caryl Churchill’s *Cloud Nine*
- Deepika Bahri (Emory University) – Adventures in the Grotesque: Immigrant London from Rushdie to Warsan Shire
- Bettina Jannsen (Technische Universität Dresden) – Music for the Off-Key: Fantastic Renegotiations of London

**The Counterparts of Realism: Perplexities of Tone and Genre in Dickensian London**  

- Hadas Elber-Aviram (UCL) – An odd unlikeness of itself: Dickens’s Fantastical London in *The Chimes* and *The Haunted Man*
- Josie McQuail (Tennessee Technological University) – Gothic Gloom: Quilp and the London of Dickens’s *The Old Curiosity Shop*
- Tamara Wagner (Nanyang Technological University) – Victorian Kidnapping Stories: Charles Dickens and the London Childstealing Gangs

**Dystopian Acts: Disassembling the Fixities of Architectural Fantasy**

- Alex Evans (Artist in Residence, Tower Bridge) – The Dissolution and Coagulation of Tower Bridge

18:00-19.00: Annual Lecture  
*Chancellor’s Hall*

Darran Anderson (author of *Imaginary Cities*) – After London: What Apocalyptic Visions Tell Us about the City, from the Medieval to the Modern

Followed by a wine reception  
*Grand Lobby*

Dinner at Antalya, 20:00
DAY 2: Friday 14 July

09.00-9.30: Refreshments Montague/G26

09.30-11:00: Parallel sessions

Ecologies of Portent

- Michael Eades (School of Advanced Studies, University of London) – Bad Dreams in Bloomsbury
- Alex Fitch (Independent) – Adjusting to a flooded London
- Dariya Khokel (Ivan Ohienko Kamianets-Podilsky National University) – Vision of Victorian Ecological Disaster: *Gaslight Chronicles* by Cindy Spencer Pape

Looking Askance at London’s Colonial Heart

- Catalina Jaramillo (University of Edinburgh) – Gabriel García Márquez’s narrative: The Metalepsis of the Geopolitical Londoner
- Frances Molyneux (Stanford) – This Raw Story: Joseph Conrad’s Deictic Locations
- Lauren Santrou (Belmont University) – The Subaltern Comes to the Capital: Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Critique of London in *Our Old Home*

The Domestication and Dissonances of Migrancy in London

- Siraj Ahmed (Kuvempu University) – Rushdie’s Representation of London: of Locations and Dislocations
- Winnie Chan (Virginia Commonwealth University) – Saving the White Saviour in *Small Island*
- Martin Kindermann (Free University Berlin) – Nights of Bleeding: Urban Nightmares and Memory as Narrative in Linton Kwesi Johnson’s Poems

Out of the Dark: Writing in the Spirit of the Urban Gothic

- Patten Fuqua (Belmont University) – “There are Two Londons”: Abjection in Neil Gaiman’s *Neverwhere*
- Nihad Laouar (Canterbury Christ Church University) – “It was as if a curtain had fallen”: Revising the Terrors of the Rhysian City in *Voyage in the Dark*
- Matt Wincherauk (University of Regina) – The Fantastical Urban Gothic: Challenging Heroism in Neil Gaiman’s *Neverwhere*

11.00-12:30: Parallel sessions

Gissing’s *Born in Exile and the fin de siècle*

- Constance Harsh (Colgate) – The London Frame of Mind in *Born in Exile*: Attractions and Repulsions of the Metropolis
- Jeremy Tambling (University of Hong Kong and at the University of Manchester) – Gissing and Natural History
- Tom Ue (University of Toronto) – Class, Capital, and Consumerism in Gissing’s *Born in Exile* and Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*
Aesthetic Antidotes to Modern Maladies in the 1920s and 30s  

- Matthew Gannon (Boston College) – An Apocalypse of Meaning: Language, Trauma, and Geography in the Londons of Woolf and Eliot  
- Douglas Murray (Belmont University) – “And draw her home with music”: Vaughan Williams’ Vision of a Democratic London  
- Mary (Yi-huei) Wang (National Taiwan Normal University) – A Temporality of One’s Own: Queerness in Mrs. Dalloway

Dislocated Yearnings and Mythological Counterparts in the London Underworld  

- Alex Grafen (UCL) – Mythologies of the Jewish East End in the early work of David Bomberg and John Rodker  
- Alistair Robinson (UCL) – East-end Morlocks: Hidden Slums and Slummers in H.G. Wells’s The Time Machine  
- Susan (Rong Su) Jung Su (National Taiwan Normal University) – Other London, Other Taipei: Migrant Workers’ “Other-worlds” in Dirty Pretty Things and Pinoy Sunday

12.30-13.30: Lunch provided  Montague/G26

13.30-14.30 Authors’ panel  TBC

(Re)Writing Fantastic London: The author’s perspective

Chair: Kristina Perez – author of the forthcoming Sweet Black Waves, holds a PhD in medieval literature from Cambridge University

- VE Schwab – New York Times bestselling author of A Darker Shade of Magic  
- Samantha Shannon – New York Times bestselling author of the ongoing The Bone Season series  
- Vic James – her debut novel Gilded Cage is published in January, and the London-centred sequel, Tarnished City, appears in September

14.30-15.30: Plenary Address  Chancellor’s Hall

Dr Caroline Edwards (Birkbeck) – Armchair Apocalypse, or, Why Destroying London in Speculative Literature is So Enjoyable

15.30-16.00: Refreshments  Grand Lobby

16.00-17.30: Parallel Sessions

The Weight of Metaphor and Memory in the Urban Landscape  

- Joan Chang (National Taiwan Normal University) – The Cruel Ideal of Literary Life: A Case Study of Henry James and David Lodge
• Elena Nistor (University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest) – Metaphors and Metamorphoses of the London Underground in British Women’s Poetry
• Francis Gene-Rowe (Royal Holloway) – “If space it may be call’d”: The Benjaminitan Perspective of Blake’s Londons

The Indispensable Rite: Crime and the City

• Marco Castagna (Università di Napoli) – The “Essence of All Crimes”: The Dark Side of Knowledge in Poc’s The Man of the Crowd
• Jian Choe (Kyung Hee University) – Detective Fiction and the Question of Urban Modernity
• Aleksandra Kędzierska (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University) – London as the Theatre of Crime in Ben Aaronovitch’s Rivers of London

‘Doctored Maps, Speculative Alignments’: Iain Sinclair and Alan Moore in London

• David Anderson (UCL) – Speculative Topography: The Fantastical Overdetermination of Space in Iain Sinclair’s Early Writing
• Chih-Sheng Ni (Nanfang College of Sun Yat-Sen University) – Writing between the Worlds: the Speculation of an Urban Shaman
• Anjumon Sahin (University of Delhi) – “You’d think there’d never been a Whitechapel woman cut up before!” The Body, the City and History in Alan Moore’s From Hell

17.30-18.00: Closing address

18.00: Informal gathering at Marquis Cornwallis, 31 Marchmont Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1N 1AP