

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**

**Twitter: @LiteraryLondon #litlon**

**Administration:**

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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**

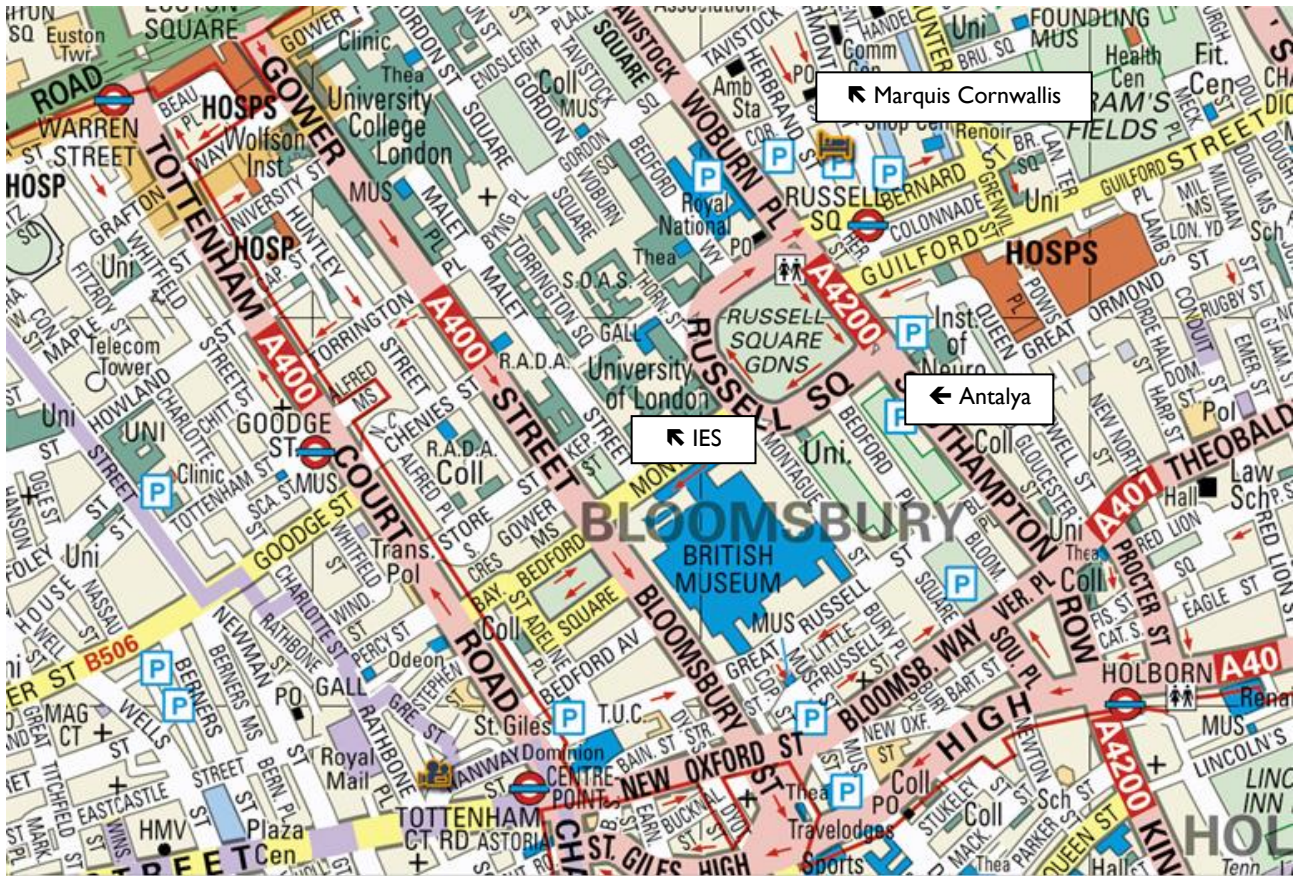
Toilets are located off Staircase 1 on the 1st floor and basement, and in the foyer of floors two and three.



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).





### University of London buildings

- 1 Senate House
- 2 Stewart House
- 3 Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (& Library)
- 4 University of London Union (ULU)
- 5 The Warburg Institute (& Library)

### University of London Colleges

- 6 Birkbeck University of London
- 7 Institute of Education University of London
- 8 The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- 9 The School of Oriental and African Studies
- 10 UCL

#### Colleges below not shown

- The Central School of Speech and Drama (NW3 3HY)
- Courtauld Institute of Art (WC2R 0RN)
- Goldsmiths University of London (SE14 6NW)
- Heythrop College (W8 5HN)
- The Institute of Cancer Research (SW7 3RP)
- King's College London (WC2R 2LS)
- London Business School (NW1 4SA)
- The London School of Economics & Political Science (WC2A 2AE)
- Queen Mary University of London (E1 4NS)
- Royal Academy of Music (NW1 5HT)
- Royal Holloway University of London (TW20 0EX)
- The Royal Veterinary College (NW1 0UT)
- St George's University of London (SW17 0RE)

### University student halls

- 11 Canterbury Hall
  - 12 College Hall
  - 13 Commonwealth Hall
  - 14 Connaught Hall
  - 15 Hughes Parry Hall
  - 16 International Hall
- Halls below not shown
- Lillian Penson Hall (W2 1TT)
  - Nuttall House (W1H 5UL)

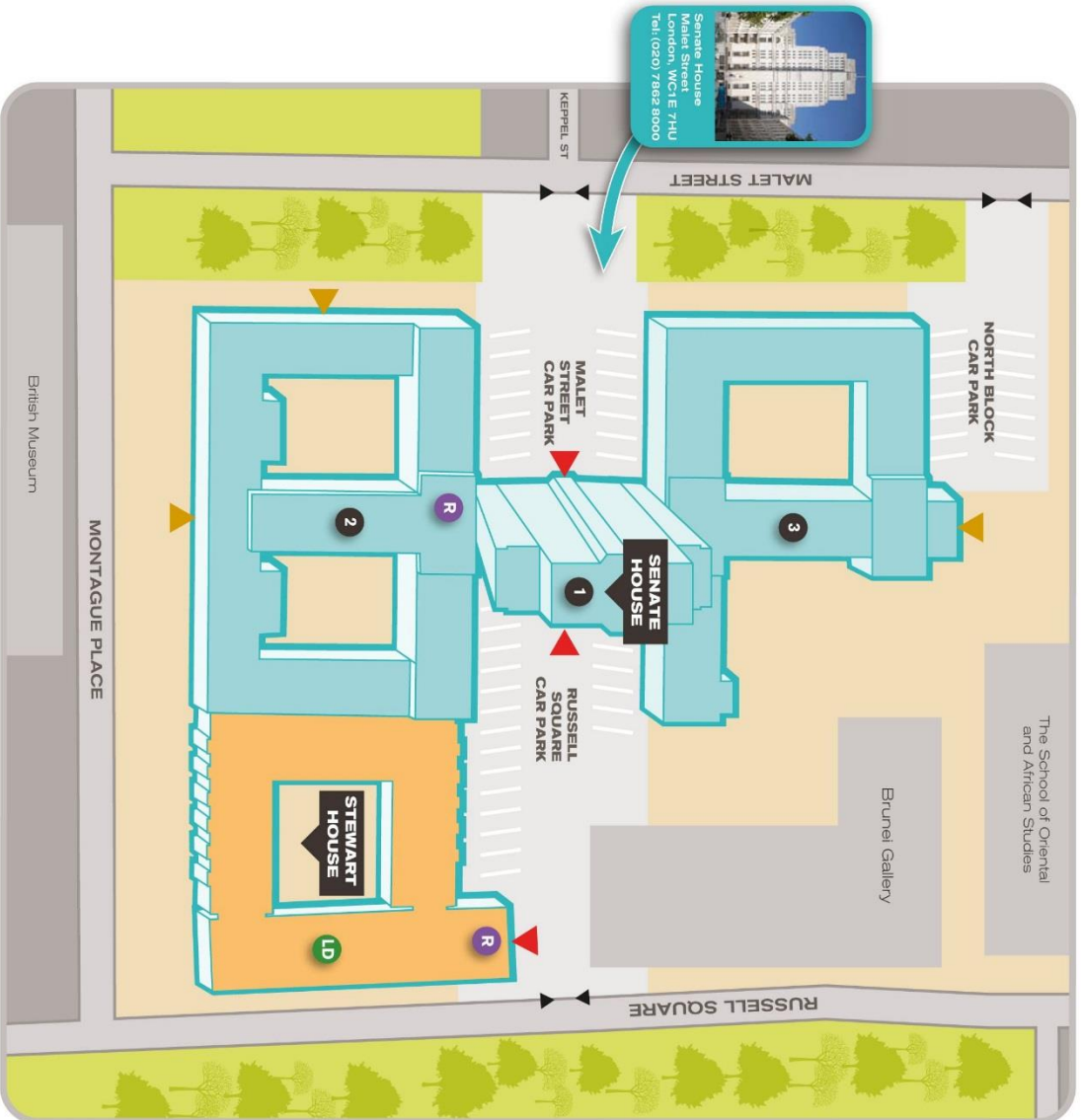
### University garden squares

- 17 Gordon Square
- 18 Malet Street Gardens
- 19 Torrington Square
- 20 Woburn Square



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Map 1 - How to find us



**Senate House** (opened in 1936 as the first permanent home of the University of London) and **Stewart House** (opened in 1982 on the adjoining site originally intended for the University's unrealised Great Hall) house many of the University of London's central academic bodies and activities including:

• **School of Advanced Study**

- Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (see map 1)
- Institute of Classical Studies
- Institute of Commonwealth Studies
- Institute of English Studies
- Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies
- Institute of Historical Research
- Institute of Musical Research
- Institute of Philosophy
- Institute for the Study of the Americas
- The Warburg Institute (see map 1)

• **Senate House Libraries**

- Institute for the Study of the Americas Library
- Institute of Classical Studies Library
- Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library
- Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies Library
- Institute of Historical Research Library
- Senate House Library

• **The Careers Group, University of London**

• **University of London Computer Centre**

• **University of London International Academy**

- 1 Tower & main entrance
- 2 South Block
- 3 North Block (closed for redevelopment)
- R Reception desks
- LD London Deanery
- Entrance
- Entrance, restricted access
- Main gates



**UNIVERSITY  
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## Map 2 - Senate House & Stewart House

# *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

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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
- Jingan Young (KCL) – Soho Nights, 'Warm-hearted Tarts', and the year 'old England died': *The World Ten Times Over / Pusycat Alley* (Wolf Rilla, 1963)

**'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**

G34

- 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**

G35

- 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**

G22

- 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 Metropolis of Freedom and Benevolence: 18th-century London in the eyes of a Pole

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

G26

- Alexandre Veloso de Abreu (Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais) – Unnatural London: The Metaphor and the Marvellous in China Mieville’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’: Extimacies of Immigration in *Dracula*’s London

### **15.00-16.00: Plenary Address**

TBC

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

16.00-16.30: Refreshments

Montague/G26



16.30-18.00: Parallel Sessions

**Amid Global Refugee Crises and the Specter of “Homeland” Security: Interrogating Fantasies of Identity and Conundrums of Migration**

G34

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**

G35

- 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**

G22

- Alex Evans (Artist in Residence, Tower Bridge) – The Dissolution and Coagulation of Tower Bridge
- Simon Goulding (Independent) – Senate House: Utopia, Dystopia and Phallic Verticality. Charles Holden’s Architecture and its Place as London Literary and Visual Landmark
- Anna Sborgi (KCL) – London, Estates and Tower-blocks in film and literature: the Dystopian Urban Everyday

**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

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09.00-9.30: Refreshments

Montague/G26

09.30-11:00: Parallel sessions

### Ecologies of Portent

G34

- 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

G35

- Catalina Jaramillo (University of Edinburgh) – Gabriel Garcia Marquez'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

G22

- 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

G26

- 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 Rhyasian 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*

G34

- 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

G35

- 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

G22

- 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

G34

- 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 Benjaminian Perspective of Blake’s Londons

### **The Indispensable Rite: Crime and the City**

G35

- Marco Castagna (Università di Napoli) – The “Essence of All Crimes”: The Dark Side of Knowledge in Poe’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**

G22

- 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

Woburn/G22

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