



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
(USA) IN ENGLAND

The Literary London Society Annual Conference Programme

‘Neighbours of Ours’: Cities, Communities, Networks
11-12 July 2019

University of Notre Dame
(USA) in England



Supported by the Institute of English Studies

Organisers: Eliza Cubitt, Hadas Elber-Aviram, Lucie Glasheen, Nicolas Tredell
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Pre-Conference
10 July 2019

15:00-17:00 Margaret Harkness's Bloomsbury – a walking tour led by Dr Amara Thornton
18:00-21:00 Margaret Harkness: London and Beyond – panel discussion and book launch,
Margaret Harkness: Writing Social Engagement 1880–1921, ed. by Flore Janssen and Lisa C.
Robertson (Manchester University Press 2019). Birkbeck College, Bloomsbury



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11 July 2019

from 08.45 Registration

09.30 Welcome address *Eliza Cubitt and Charlotte Parkyn* (Trafalgar Hall)

10.00 Plenary Address: Professor Alison Blunt (Trafalgar Hall)

‘Tales from other people’s houses’:

home, (dis)connection and conviviality in an urban neighbourhood

Drawing on a series of home-city biographies developed as part of the Home-City-Street research and public engagement project with Casper Laing Ebbensgaard and Olivia Sheringham, this paper explores home as a site of connection and disconnection in the city. Rather than view ‘living together’ – a central focus of work on conviviality – primarily in relation to interactions and encounters in urban public space, the paper foregrounds the influence of homes and domestic life on residents’ connections with – and disconnections from – their neighbours and wider neighbourhood. Narratives from residents across three generations who live in flats or maisonettes on housing estates near Kingsland Road in Hackney, east London, reveal the ways in which they experience, practice and imagine home as a site of urban (dis)connection in different ways. The paper reflects on the ways in which hearing ‘tales from other people’s houses’ can make residents feel part of an urban neighbourhood that lies beyond, but is also present within, the walls of a dwelling, and can shape understandings of home on both domestic and urban scales.

Chair Lucie Glasheen

11.30 Refreshments (Senior Common Room)

12:00 Parallel Panels 1, 2, 3, 4

Panel 1. Rethinking Radicalism: New work on Margaret Harkness (G.07)

Chair Eliza Cubitt

Flore Janssen (Birkbeck), ‘Urban Networks Crossing Borders: Margaret Harkness in ‘Translation’
Chieko Ichikawa (Ibaraki), ‘The “Frankenstein-monster” Trope: Crowds and Women in the
Novels of Elizabeth Gaskell and Margaret Harkness’

Matthew Dunleavy (York), ‘Barmaids, Booze, Roses and Crucifixes: Harkness Rewrites the
Fallen Woman’

Panel 2. Seeing and Speaking the City (1.06)

Chair Hadas Elber-Aviram

Duncan Frost (Kent), ‘“One Neighbour will strive to wrong another”: The Dangers of London
Presented in Seventeenth-Century Broadside Ballads’

Patricia Rodrigues (Lisbon), ‘The History of a French Louse: neighbourly liaisons across the
Channel and across the Pond’

Peter Jones (IHR), ‘Synchronizing London’s Soul: *Fin De Siècle* Literary Culture, the Music Hall
and Popular Humour’



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Panel 3. Dwelling and Belonging (G.04)

Chair Martin Dines

Evelina Garay-Collcut (Independent), 'The Welcoming and Homely Effect of the tearoom in Bryher's wartime novel *Beowulf*'

Craig Melhoff (Uni. Regina), 'Architectural Phenomenology and the Genius Loci: On Dwelling in the London Underground'

Noreen O'Connor (King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA) 'Collecting, Preserving, and Representing Black Migration at Harlem's Schomburg Centre and Brixton's Black Cultural Archives'

Panel 4. Narrating the Square (1.04)

Chair Nicolas Tredell

Kristen Starkowski (Princeton), "'Suppose we had laid the scene in Grosvenor Square": Minor Characters and Multiple Realities in William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*'

Elena Nistor (Bucharest), "'My eye is pleased with all it meets": a poetic encounter with some Bloomsbury "locals" and "neighbours"'

Elizabeth Dearnley (UCL) and Michael Eades (SAS), 'A Year in Russell Square: the lore and language of Bloomsbury'

13:30 Lunch provided (Senior Common Room)

14:30 Parallel Panels 5, 6, 7

Panel 5: Zadie Smith and Class in Contemporary London (1.04)

Chair Lynn Wells

Matti Ron (East Anglia), 'Zadie Smith's and James Kelman's counter-narratives of working class (de)composition in globalised London'

Nick Bentley (Keele), "'Our people, our people": intersections of class and race in Zadie Smith's *NW* (2012) and *Swing Time* (2015)'

Panel 6: Connection, Mobility and Entanglement (G.04)

Chair Peter Jones

Adrian Tait (Independent), 'City and Community in Arthur Machen's Literary London: A New Materialist Reading'

Joseph Hankinson (Oxford), "'The living map of London": Collective Stylistics and Cognitive Mapping in John Sommerfield's *May Day* (1936)'

Ezechi Onyerionwu (Birkbeck) and Chima Igbokwe (Abia State Polytechnic), 'Deconstructing Urban Mythologies: *Osuofia in London* and Postcolonial Representations of the City of London in the Nigerian Film'

Panel 7: Gentrification, Regeneration and Homeliness (G.07)

Chair Lucie Glasheen

Martin Dines (Kingston), 'Literary engagements with gentrifying forces in 1970s London'

James Peacock (Keele), 'Gentrification in the House! John Lanchester's *Capital*, Brian Platzer's *Bed-Stuy is Burning*, and the House as Nexus of Glocal Forces'

Anne E Cooper (Independent), 'Voices, Power and Space'



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16.00 Refreshments

16.30 Annual Lecture: Dame Marina Warner,

‘Words on the Move: Making Stories in Times of Unmaking’ (Trafalgar Hall)

Drawing on contemporary fiction and poetry, retelling of old stories, myths and legends, Marina Warner will think about stories in relation to place and displacement, to building home after it has been lost. *Chair: Nicolas Tredell*

18.00 Wine reception (Senior Common Room)

19.00 Close

19.30 Conference dinner (Côte Brasserie, St Martins Lane)



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12 July

from 09.00 Registration

10:00 Parallel Panels 8, 9, 10

Panel 8: Gissing, Clerkenwell and Coustillas (1.04)

Chair Hadas Elber-Aviram

Jason Finch (Åbo Akademi) “‘The postmark? Yes, it was London E.C.’: Clerkenwell Borders and Boarders in Gissing’s *Demos*’

Andrew Whitehead (Nottingham) ‘Clerkenwell - Gissing’s “Nether World”’

Akemi Yoshida (Kindai University), ‘Textual Resonance in the Novelistic Worlds of Gissing and Hardy’

Panel 9: Coffee and Conviviality? Bohemian and Literary Networks in London and Paris (G.07)

Chair Flore Janssen

Eilidh Innes (Anglia Ruskin), “‘The men of letters, whose shadows walk the London streets with us’: the influence of Charles Lamb on John Hollingshead’s journalism in the 1850s and 1860s’

Jian Choe (Kyung Hee University), ‘Writing Neighbourhood: Jean Rhys’s Left Bank’

Nicolas Tredell (Independent), ‘Soho and West Eleven: Singularity and Networking in Laura Del-Rivo’s Fiction’

Panel 10: Regional Relations, Rural Revelations (G.04)

Chair Martin Dines

Adam Borch (Åbo Akademi), “‘Undoubtedly the Second City of England’: Literary Representations of the Relationship between London and Bristol in the Eighteenth Century’

Aaron Housholder (Taylor), ‘The *Hound* and the City: Literary Revelations of Parallel Contested Spaces in Holmes’s London and Stapleton’s Dartmoor’

Colton Valentine (Oxford), “‘It might be London’: Spectral Neighbours in the Novels of E.M. Forster’

11.30 Refreshments

12.00 Annual General Meeting chair: Martin Dines (G.04)

13:00 Lunch provided

14:00 Parallel Panels 11, 12, 13.

Panel 11: Riot, Resistance and Escape (G.04)

Chair Nicolas Tredell

Simon Goulding (Independent), ‘London, Bristol and the Idea of Escape in Christopher Petit’s film *Radio On* (1979)’

Samanta Bellotta (QMUL), ‘Postcolonial Identities and Black Diasporic Spaces in the Literature of Post WWII London’

Peter Ely (Kingston), ‘Idle Community? Writing the Riots in Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen*’



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Panel 12: Constructing Neighbourhood Boundaries (G.07)

Chair Lucie Glasheen

Jason Finch (Åbo Akademi), 'The Prison House: West Kensington and the Boundaries of Slumminess in Compton Mackenzie's *Sinister Street*'

Nick Hubble (Brunel), "'In London it was different": Class, Gender and Metropolitan Values in Harold Heslop's Proletarian Autobiografiction'

Anna Viola Sborgi (KCL), 'Haggerston: the cultural construction of the neighbourhood'

Panel 13: Power, Exclusion and Survival in Contemporary London (1.04)

Chair Jenny Baridge

Lynn Wells (MacEwan), 'All Eyes on London: Surveillance and Power in Ian McEwan's *Saturday* and *Sweet Tooth*'

Jennifer Gustar (University of British Columbia Okanagan), 'Burning Down the House: Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*'

Yun-Hua Hsiao (National Changhua University), 'The Chinese Neighbour: Second/Third-Generation British Chinese Children in the Catering Trade'

Rajeswari Mohan (Haverford College) 'Economies of Nostalgia in Fictions linking Calcutta, Bombay, Colombo and London'

15.30 Refreshments

16.00 Plenary panel: The Baron Six - 'So We Live' (Trafalgar Hall)

The Hackney-born novelist, Alexander Baron (1917-1999), wrote about life-and-death issues of the mid-twentieth century: ordinary men and women in the war; communism; the Holocaust; and the dilemma of making a home and community in postwar London. He did so with a compassion and humour that won him huge renown. His reputation is now enjoying a renaissance, with eight of his novels once again in print. Antony Beevor has described Baron's novel, *From the City, From the Plough*, as 'undoubtedly one of the very greatest British novels of the Second World War'. Iain Sinclair has long championed the cult 1960's novel, *The Lowlife*, set in Hackney and Soho. It is timely, therefore, to present his work to a new generation, and to this end a group of his admirers formed The Baron Six to produce a critical evaluation of his work, *So We Live: The Novels of Alexander Baron*, edited by Susie Thomas, Andrew Whitehead and Ken Worpole (Five Leaves, 2019).

The Baron Six are: Anthony Cartwright, Sean Longden, Susie Thomas, Nadia Valman, Andrew Whitehead, Ken Worpole.

Chair: Nicolas Tredell

17.30 Closing remarks and thanks: *Eliza Cubitt, Martin Dines*

18.00 Close (followed by informal drinks)



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Contact information

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For information about the pre-conference events, please contact
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