



# The Literary London Society

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## LLS Newsletter – Autumn 2014

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1. [CFP: 2015 LLS Conference](#)

**Call for Papers: The Literary London Society Annual Conference  
'London in Love'  
Hosted by the Institute of English Studies, University of London**

Proposals are invited for papers, comprised panels, and roundtable sessions, which consider any period or genre of literature about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures. While the main focus of the conference will be on literary texts, we actively encourage interdisciplinary contributions relating film, architecture, geography, theories of urban space, etc., to literary representations of London. Papers from postgraduate students are particularly welcome.

While papers on all areas of literary London are welcomed, the conference theme in 2015 will be '**London in Love**'. Topics that might be addressed include:

- Romance narratives: marriage and elopement plots, historical romances, the 'romance as quest', Dark Romanticism, confessional narratives, the Bildungsroman's objects of desire.
- London as seducer or muse: love on/off the map, desire lines and landscapes of infatuation.
- Literary decadence: deviance, perversion, prostitution, eroticism and clandestine love plots.
- The poetics of attachment and betrayal: sonnets, Aubades, literary and folk ballads, Ghazals, Landays, Laments and erotic verses.
- Alternatives to proscribed relationships: queer, GLBTQ, multicultural, sci-fi and posthuman love stories; non-romantic bonds of friendship and kinship.
- Romance drama: city comedies, exotic and supernatural heterocosms, masques, comedies of manners and family dramas.
- Inexplicability and impossibility of loving the city/of love in the city.
- Love and networks of power: courtly and chivalric romances, the court vs. the city, pornography.



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Please submit all proposals for 20-minute papers, comprised panels, and roundtable sessions through the Literary London Society website (<http://www.literarylondon.org/conference/cfp.html>)

Deadline for submissions: **28 February 2015**

For further information contact Dr Peter Jones at [petertajones@gmail.com](mailto:petertajones@gmail.com)

## 2. [CFP: Literary London Journal](#)

We welcome submissions to [The Literary London Journal](#) and will consider all submissions that meet the aims of the Literary London Society, which is to 'foster interdisciplinary and historically wide-ranging research into London literature in its historical, social, and cultural contexts, to include all periods and genres of writing and representation about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures'.

All submissions are blind peer-reviewed by experts in the field. This means that articles are published on the quality of the research rather than on the reputation of the author. We therefore welcome excellent articles from contributors at all stages of their career, from graduate student to emeritus professor. We also welcome proposals for edited special editions of the journal.

All submissions and proposals should be addressed to the Editor, Susan Fischer, using the following email address: [journal@literarylondon.org](mailto:journal@literarylondon.org)

Or, if you would like to write a review for the journal, please contact Susie Thomas: [reviews@literarylondon.org](mailto:reviews@literarylondon.org)

Please note the archive of back issues of the journal has been updated so that each article is now fully searchable. There is a cleaner new layout as well for back issues, but not a single letter of the text has been changed!

## 3. [Reading Group Schedule](#)

The Literary London Reading Group is a Postgraduate initiative that meets at Senate House in London to 'explore those processes that contribute to creation and destruction of an imagined city and its fictional territories'. The next session will take place on **Tuesday 28 October** when Dr Kate Houlden (LJMU) will introduce Sam Selvon's *The Lonely Londoners* (1956) in honour of Black History Month.

This will take place from 6 - 7.30pm in Senate House, Room G37. Please note that this room is different from the one we've used in previous years.



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**Title:** 'Galahad feel like a king living in London': Sam Selvon's *The Lonely Londoners* (1956)

**Abstract:** Sam Selvon arrived in London from Port of Spain, Trinidad in 1950, part of the wave of émigré writers from the Caribbean who first brought the region's Anglophone literature to the international stage. His best-known work, *The Lonely Londoners*, charts that moment when post-war London began to develop into the multicultural city celebrated today. Written in a beguiling approximation of Creole, it draws on realism, modernism and the formal structures of calypso music. *The Lonely Londoners* evokes the pleasures and the disillusionment of migration. With humour and pathos, Selvon's characters turn their gaze on the imperial city, offering an anthropological dissection of English life.

**Reading:** A selection of four extracts (from Longman Caribbean 2004) is available via dropbox at the links below. However the novel itself isn't very long, so we encourage you to read it in its entirety if possible.

- [Opening page \(23\) to p. 26 'why he feeling sort of lonely and miserable'](#)
- [Pp 73-77 from 'The place where Tolroy and the family living' to 'do come again'](#)
- [Pp 83-85 from 'when that first London summer' to 'like a king living in London'](#)
- [Pp 101-110 from 'oh what a time it is' to 'what it is all about'](#)

**Our Speaker:** Kate Houlden is a lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University. Her book *Sexuality, Gender and Nationalism in Caribbean Literature* is due out in 2015 and she is currently developing co-edited collections on *Popular Postcolonialisms* and on the Caribbean author, Andrew Salkey. She has published essays in *Memory Studies*, *Interventions*, the *Journal of West Indian Literature* and *English Studies in Africa* as well as a range of collections.

As ever, the Literary London Reading Group is free and open to the public - so please do spread the word! We'll look forward to seeing everyone, and celebrating the start of another new term, on 28 October.

**Second Session:** Tuesday 18 November 2014- 6-7.30pm – Senate House, Room 104

Dr Benjamin Poore (York) — 'Phoney Phonetics: Henry Higgins, Dialect, and the London Cityscape in *Pygmalion* (1912)'



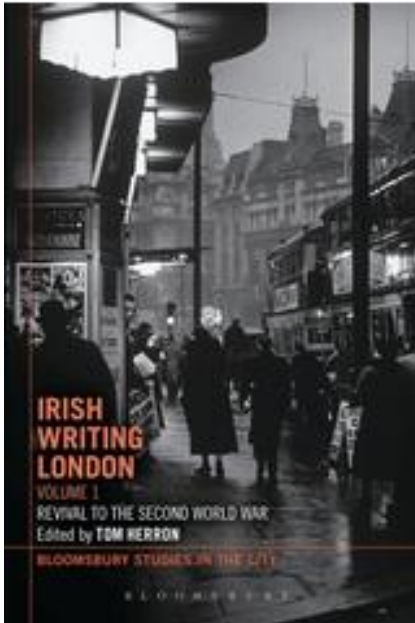
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**Third Session:** Tuesday 13 January 2015 6.00-7.30pm – Senate House, Room G34  
Dr Matthew Beaumont (UCL) — Night Walks

For more details visit the LLS Reading Group's [webpage](#).

#### 4. [Publications of Interest](#)

- ***Irish Writing London: Volume 2: Post-War to the Present (Bloomsbury Studies in the City)* edited by Tom Herron**



'The presence of Irish writers is almost invisible in literary studies of London. *Irish Writing London* redresses the critical deficit. A range of experts on particular Irish writers reflect on the diverse experiences and impact this immigrant group has had on the city. Such sustained attention to a location and concern of Irish writing, long passed over, opens up new terrain to not only reveal but create a history of Irish-London writing'.

ISBN 978-1472576637

- ***This Other London: Adventures in the Overlooked City* (HarperCollins) by John Rogers**

'Join John Rogers as he ventures out into an uncharted London like a redbrick Indiana Jones in search of the lost meaning of our metropolitan existence. Nursing two reluctant knees and a can of Stella, he perambulates through the seasons seeking adventure in our city's remote and forgotten reaches'.

ISBN 978-0007494279

- Institute of Race Relations documentaries:

<http://www.irr.org.uk/news/young-rebels-with-a-cause/> - on the history of the Southall Youth Movement (SYM)



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<http://www.irr.org.uk/events/premiere-of-new-film-burn> - on Mark Duggan and the 2011 riots.

- ***A London Trilogy: The Films of Saint Etienne 2003-2007* [DVD] Directed by Paul Kelly and Kieran Evans**



‘From a beautifully conceived film-poem and an imaginative exploration of the Lower Lea Valley to an uplifting documentary on a London landmark, the collaborations between electronic indie trio Saint Etienne and filmmaker Paul Kelly (Lawrence of Belgravia) document London’s ever-changing environment and landscapes with music by the band’.

## 5. [Events of Interest](#)

- **‘Bleeding London’, Friday 31 October @ Wetherby Preparatory School, Marylebone**

A chance to get a preview of one of Britain's largest ever photographic projects, this evening jointly organised by the Royal Photographic Society also features readings from Geoff Nicholson's 1997 Whitbread nominated novel *Bleeding London* in a building on one of Marylebone's best squares.

Find out more [here](#).

- **‘Hogarth's London’, The Cartoon Museum, 22 October 2014 - 18 January 2015**

‘This exhibition of fifty of the artist’s best-known London satirical prints marks the 250th anniversary of his death. Hogarth’s cautionary tales of eighteenth-century London’s “modern moral subjects” as he called them – include *A Harlot’s Progress*, *A Rake’s Progress*, *The Four Times of Day*, *Industry and Idleness* and, of course,





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*Gin Lane and Beer Street*. His dynamic narratives, full of incident and dense with topical references, tell stories of contemporary London types who would have been immediately recognisable to audiences of the time’.

[The exhibition](#) is supported by [The William Hogarth Trust](#).

- ***MIRRORCITY: London artists on fiction and reality*, Tue 14 Oct 2014–Sun 4 Jan 2015, Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre**

‘London is one of the world's centres for contemporary art. *MIRRORCITY* shows recent work and new commissions by key emerging and established artists working in the capital today, who seek to address the challenges, conditions and consequences of living in a digital age. Artists have always created alternative realities but recently they have been exploring where the digital and the physical space crossover and fold into each other. The exhibition considers questions specific to our time such as: ‘How can we navigate the space between the digital and the physical?’ and ‘What is the effect of advanced technologies on our lives?’

‘The engagement, innovation and complexity of the works selected for *MIRRORCITY* also directly or indirectly reflect the multi-faceted character of London itself’.

Visit the *MIRRORCITY* [website](#) for more information.

- **Prof. Brycchan Carey’s Inaugural Lecture, 12 November 2014 @ 7pm, Kingston University, London**

**Title:** ‘In pursuit of liberty and life: antislavery, environmentalism, and the language of change’

**Abstract:** ‘The eighteenth and nineteenth campaign to abolish first the slave trade and later slavery itself was a long, hard-fought process that demanded fundamental changes to culture, society, and the economy. It took more than a century to achieve, and involved writers, artists, and scientists, as well as politicians, religious leaders, and enslaved people themselves. Two centuries later, Brycchan Carey will argue, the political heirs of abolitionism are environmentalists, fighting a long battle against habitat loss and climate change. Many of the challenges they face are similar to those encountered by abolitionists, but so are the opportunities—as well as the potential for unintended consequences. Looking in particular at abolitionist and environmentalist literature, Carey will ask what the modern campaign to save life on Earth can learn from eighteenth and nineteenth-century struggles for liberty.’

Book your (free) ticket(s) [here](#).