



The Literary London Society

LLS Newsletter – Spring 2015

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1. [General News](#)

We are delighted to announce that this year's annual Literary London conference lecture will be delivered by **Imtiaz Dharker**, winner of the 2014 Queen's gold medal for poetry. The lecture will be held on **Wednesday 22 July 2015** at 6pm in Chancellor's Hall, Senate House. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to IESEvents@sas.ac.uk.

Other plenary speakers include Dr Gregory Dart (University College London) and Prof. Kate Flint (University of Southern California).

2. [Literary London Conference 2015](#)

The deadline for proposals for papers, panels and roundtables at this year's LLS conference, which will take place on **22-24 July 2015** and address the theme '**London in Love**', has now passed. The conference organizer received over 100 abstract submissions from around the world and the overall standard has been very high. The selection process is still ongoing but decisions will be communicated by the end of this month. Registration is due to open in May, and details regarding conference fees, programme, travel and accommodation will be posted [here](#) soon.

For further information please contact Peter Jones at conference@literarylondon.org

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

We welcome submissions to [The Literary London Journal](#). We 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'.



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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

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

4. [Reading Group](#)

The Literary London Reading Group is a Postgraduate initiative that meets at Senate House on an almost monthly basis to 'explore those processes that contribute to creation and destruction of an imagined city and its fictional territories'.

The next session will be held on **Tuesday 16 June, 6.00-7.30pm** in **Room G37**

Speaker: [Duncan Carson \(Nobody Ordered Wolves\)](#) — **Cinematic London and *The L-Shaped Room***

The group is public and open to anyone with an interest in Literary London. As it's a reading group, however, we encourage attendants to read the materials (available on the [blog](#)) in advance of the session — but otherwise there are no stipulations or requirements.

Visit [our website](#) for more details or [contact](#) the organisers, Peter Jones, Lisa Robertson and Eliza Cubitt.

5. [Publications of Interest to Members](#)

- [Nightwalking: A Nocturnal History of London](#) by Matthew Beaumont (London: Verso Books, 2015)
- [Rebel Footprints: A Guide to Uncovering London's Radical History](#) by David Rosenberg (Pluto Press, 2015)
- [Curious Kentish Town](#) by Martin Plaut and Andrew Whitehead (Five Leaves Publications, 2014)



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In addition, a new magazine has just launched called *Good Folks* which concerns oral history. Issue one focuses on London. Visit <http://magpile.com/good-folks/> for more details.

6. [Events of Interest to Members](#)

- **'Interpolar London: Between the Extremes of the Nineteenth-Century Metropolis'** 24 April 2015. Queen Mary, University of London

One Day Interdisciplinary Symposium

'Literature tends to sensationalise the interrelations of extremes in the city and often plays off the supposed ignorance of the one to the other, but in reality, mobility between the richest and the poorest parts of London was ubiquitous and was manifest in a host of highly varied forms. A huge range of diverse expressions of physical, cultural, intellectual, and social traffic from the rich west to the poor east and vice versa was in operation, much of which has not yet been fully mapped by scholars in any discipline. This one day symposium will seek to trace some of the different ways in the extremes of the unequal city interacted with one another materially, as well as thinking about how 'poles' or opposite sides of a 'gulf' were imagined or constructed in relation to each other, in cultural products such as novels. Drawing together scholars from English, Geography and History, Interpolar London will facilitate a conversation across and between the disciplines about the socio-spatial dialectic at the heart of nineteenth-century London, which will further an understanding of how urban inequality is practised and imagined'.

Convenors: Dr Matthew Ingleby (QMUL, English) at m.ingleby@qmul.ac.uk and Dr Alastair Owens (QMUL, Geography) at a.j.owens@qmul.ac.uk. More information can be found [here](#).

- **The Buddha of Suburbia: An Evening with Hanif Kureishi**
5 May 2015, The London Review Bookshop, Bury Place.

Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia*, still a bestseller 25 years after publication, has been given a smart new look this year, as well as an introduction by Zadie Smith ('this lovely, funny, honest novel' she calls it), in Faber's splendid Modern Classics series. Kureishi will be at the shop to talk about his book, its genesis and its afterlife, with arts project manager Steven Gale who first interviewed him in 1991, a year after Buddha's publication.



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More details can be found [here](#).

- **Adaptations and the Metropolis Conference**
24-25 September 2015, Senate House, London



'In the past century the expansion of industrialised cities has seen a significant increase in urbanisation and non-rural lifestyles. Whilst literature quickly sought to document these changes, substantial technological advancements in cinema also enabled the metropolis to be presented through a variety of visual spectacles. Visions of urban sprawl are present in a variety of media, but it is through their adaptations and remediations that we can trace society's ongoing relationship with the city, modernisation and globalisation. Through the presentation of the metropolis in past, present and speculative adaptations we are able to understand aspects of our changing lifestyles, the effects of urbanisation on literary and visual art, national identity, social inequalities, territorial displacement, environmental destruction, utopias and dystopias, and our social and psychological relationship with architecture and city development.

Papers are welcome on these themes or any others related to the metropolis and the city in all forms of remediated adaptation, including literature, theatre, film, television, digital media and other visual and literary arts. 200-word abstracts of suggested papers should be submitted by **31 May 2015** to both Prof. Deborah Cartmell (djc@dmu.ac.uk) and Prof. Jeremy Strong (Jeremy.strong@uwl.ac.uk).

Visit [here](#) for further details.