Symposium
Illuminating Lives: The Biographical Impulse in Postcolonial Literatures
Liège, Belgium, 2–3 March 2017

Programme

Thursday, 2 March 2017

Venue: Salle des Professeurs (building A1, Place du XX-Août, 7, 4000 Liège)

9.00–9.30 Registration

9.30–10.00 Welcome

• Bénédicte Ledent (University of Liège, Belgium) and Daria Tunca (University of Liège, Belgium)

10.00–11.00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chair: Marc Delrez (University of Liège, Belgium)

• Michael Lackey (University of Minnesota, USA), “Irish Biofiction and the Political Project of Transatlantic Unslaving”

11.00–11.30 Coffee break

11.30–13.00 SESSION 1

Chair: Ranka Primorac (University of Southampton, UK)

• Elisabeth Bekers (Free University of Brussels VUB, Belgium), “The Literary Legacy of Olaudah Equiano: Chika Unigwe’s The Black Messiah (2013) as Postcolonial Biofiction”
• **Suzanne Scafe** (London South Bank University, UK), “Performing Ellen: Mojisola Adebayo’s *Moj of the Antarctic* (2006) and *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; or the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery* (1860)”

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–16.00 SESSION 2

Chair: Russell McDougall (University of New England, Australia)

• **Delphine Munos** (University of Liège, Belgium), “*Semper incertus*: Authorization through Uncertainty in Hanif Kureishí’s *My Ear at His Heart: Reading my Father*”

• **Marc Delrez** (University of Liège, Belgium), “From the Commandant to the Colonel: Representations of Authority in the Work of Richard Flanagan”

• **Marie Herbillon** (University of Liège, Belgium), “Rewriting Dostoevsky: J.M. Coetzee’s *The Master of Petersburg* and the Perverted Truths of Biographical Fiction”

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–17.30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS (public event)

Chair: Elisabeth Bekers (Free University of Brussels VUB, Belgium)

• **Chika Unigwe** (Brown University, USA), “*The Black Messiah*: Writing Equiano”

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**Friday, 3 March 2017**

Venue: Salle des Professeurs (building A1, Place du XX-Août, 7, 4000 Liège)

9.30–11.00 SESSION 3

Chair: Daria Tunca (University of Liège, Belgium)

• **Ranka Primorac** (University of Southampton, UK), “Zambian Lives and the Values for Our Times”

• **Madhu Krishnan** (University of Bristol, UK), “When is Biography Fiction? Life Writing, Epistemophilia and the Limits of Genre in Contemporary African Writing”

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11.00–11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 SESSION 4

Chair: Peter Marsden (RWTH Aachen, Germany)

- Rebecca Romdhani (University of Liège, Belgium), “Biofiction and Possession: Jeanne Duval and François Mackandal in Nalo Hopkinson’s The Salt Roads”

- Russell McDougall (University of New England, Australia), “Imperial and Postcolonial Fictions of Pauline Bonaparte”

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 SESSION 5

Chair: Suzanne Scafe (London South Bank University, UK)

- Maria Cristina Fumagalli (University of Essex, UK), “‘Not walled facts, their essence’: Derek Walcott’s Tiepolo’s Hound and Camille Pissarro”

- Louise Yelin (Purchase College, CUNY, USA), “Creolizing Lives: The Biographical Impulse in the Work of Isaac Julien”

15.30–16.00 Coffee Break

16.00–17.30 SESSION 6

Chair: Laura Gerday (University of Liège, Belgium)

- Giulia Mascoli (University of Liège, Belgium), “Musical(ized) Biographies: Jackie Kay’s Trumpet and Caryl Phillips’s Dancing in the Dark”

- Stephen Clingman (University of Massachusetts, USA), “Writing the Biofictive: Caryl Phillips and The Lost Child”

17.30–18.30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS (public event)

Chair: Bénédicte Ledent (University of Liège, Belgium)

- Caryl Phillips (Yale University, USA), “Biographical Fiction or Fictional Biography”