



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 Kureishi’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”

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”

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”