



The University of  
**Nottingham**

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# **PGR Symposium Programme 2014**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
9am to 5pm – Senate Chamber, Trent Building**

## **8.45am – ARRIVAL & COFFEE**

## **9.00am – WELCOME**

### **9.10am Session One – Chair: Rachael Stanley**

#### **Gavin Brookes**

**Title:** A Journey into the unknown: Early insights into what corpus linguistics and the internet can tell us about Diabulimia

**Abstract:** Diabulimia is a disorder whereby individuals with insulin-dependent diabetes deliberately restrict, or omit altogether, their insulin dose, for the purpose of achieving radical weight loss. At present we know very little about the underlying emotional, psychological and behavioural aspects of this condition; a lacuna which I aim to address in my research. Using a corpus linguistic approach, I explore how diabulimic individuals talk about their condition in online support groups. It is hoped that this research will have practical applications for health practitioners and charities responsible for the prevention, management and treatment of diabulimia, since it appeals to practitioners' need for data-driven research into how people communicate health issues, since health professionals and patients draw on different language and knowledge resources when communicating health-related problems.

#### **Zana Ibrahim**

**Title:** Sustained Motivation: How motivational currents enthuse second language learning

**Abstract:** Directed Motivational Currents are intense motivational surges that occur when a number of time, personal and contextual parameters come together to induce a momentum in which all one's energy is geared toward a goal/vision. They feature a different level of motivation, positive emotionality and a unique facilitative and self-propelling structure. Does DMC occur frequently? What makes a DMC to kick-start? What do people feel when experiencing a DMC? How can it energise second language acquisition?

#### **Mathieu Donner**

**Title:** 'What the hell is wrong with you?!': Embodied Subjectivity and the Excessive Corporeality of the Zombie

**Abstract:** Focusing on Robert Kirkman's *The Walking Dead*, and offering an approach which 'frames' the zombie in terms of its potential for infection, and thus a re-conceptualization of the latter's phenomenal mode of embodiment in terms of spatial and temporal taxonomy, this paper explores the ways in which, by emphasizing a body which consistently refuses to conform to normative conceptions of embodiment, by signalling an ever-excessive corporeality while simultaneously suggesting a powerful potential for agency, the zombie provides a fascinating opening into a culturally 'forbidden' and alternative mode of subjectivity, an unconscious dream of wholeness, precisely as it challenges the dominant narrative of selfhood and the foundations of the subject's privileged position.

## **10am Session Two – Chair: Makenzi Crouch**

### **Mélodie Garnier**

**Title:** Phrasal verbs and polysemy

**Abstract:** Phrasal verbs are word combinations consisting of a lexical verb and an adverbial particle (e.g. break up). They are very frequently used in informal spoken discourse, and yet have traditionally been given little attention in the language classroom. This is coupled with the fact that they are particularly difficult to master for a number of reasons, among which their high degree of polysemy. This paper will present results from my study about polysemy of the most frequent phrasal verbs in English.

### **Laura Vilkaite**

**Title:** Language of Fiction: Is It Really That Creative?

**Abstract:** It has been estimated that formulaic language can account for as much as 58% of the language we use (Erman & Warren, 2000). However, it seems that the percentage of formulaic sequences varies in different genres. This study aims to estimate the percentage of various categories of formulaic sequences in different genres. The part of the study presented in the Symposium looks at formulaic sequences in fiction. The results of the corpus study focusing on idiomatic phrases, lexical collocations, lexical bundles and phrasal verbs will be presented and the implications of the study will be discussed.

### **Hannah Manktelow**

**Title:** A six year old Macbeth and other extraordinary attractions: Examining provincial Shakespeare performance through playbills

**Abstract:** This paper will provide an introduction to my work on the collection of nineteenth century playbills at the British Library. Using the example of an extraordinary performance of Macbeth at the Nottingham Theatre, I will demonstrate the multi-dimensional readings that we can take from these documents, and the insights that they can provide on a range of issues, from regional theatrical culture to the changing nature of British identity in the long nineteenth century.

### **Jamie Williams (Engineering UNUK / English UNNC)**

**Title:** Modelling Behaviour: Insights from Linguistic Theory

**Abstract:** This talk outlines the aims of my PhD research, which aims to argue that modelling tools from linguistic theory can prove useful in developing a conceptual framework linking behavioural processes to neurobiological signals as recorded in neuronal systems.

Specifically, many theories in linguistics are based upon the idea that language is best understood as a complex system containing various levels of representation. It will be argued that a multi-levelled perspective is also needed to fully understand behavioural processes in neuronal systems, and that tools and heuristics from linguistic theory can aid the modelling behavioural and cognitive processes.

***Session Two will be followed by a Coffee Break***

## **11.20am Session Three – Chair: Yaxiao Cui**

### **Mathilda Branson**

**Title:** Bringing Punchdrunk to the village hall: Re-imagining the Rural Tour

**Abstract:** The rural touring sector is a thriving part of the UK theatre industry, but is often overlooked critically. In this paper I introduce my collaborative research with Nottingham-based rural touring company New Perspectives, highlighting the unique features of the rural touring model, and gaps in audience theory in relation to audiences for such work. I discuss the trend for interactivity in current UK urban-based theatre – for example in the work of companies like Punchdrunk, Secret Cinema, Coney and Look Left Look Right – and outline my forthcoming practical research into creating interactive theatre specifically for touring to rural audiences and venues.

### **Benjamin Kremmel**

**Title:** When tests don't pass the test: Illustrating the need for improved vocabulary knowledge measures

**Abstract:** Numerous vocabulary tests have been designed for and used in pedagogical or research settings. However, hardly any of these have been extensively validated. Vocabulary researchers are therefore still unclear as to what any particular test is or is not measuring. This potentially jeopardizes the legitimacy of any test's use. Also, it calls into question any claims that are based on these instruments, particularly in light of the complex multidimensional nature of vocabulary knowledge. This paper evaluates some of the most prominent vocabulary tests. In examining their strengths and weaknesses, it will illustrate the need for an improved vocabulary knowledge measure.

### **Xiaofan Xu**

**Title:** A Sentimental Agrarian's Rose-garden: T. S. Eliot's 'Burnt Norton' Revisited

**Abstract:** Exegeses have been made by critics of various persuasions on Eliot's enigmatic rose-garden image in 'Burnt Norton'. But only a few of them have paid any attention to the actual rose-garden in the Norton House in Coswolds, which Sir Guy Dawber restored in 1901 and Eliot visited in September 1934. The paper sets out to historicise the actual garden space as an Arts-and-Crafts palimpsest upon an eighteenth-century country house, and looks at how this context benefits the reading of the poem when combined with Eliot's writings on ruralism contemporaneous with his visit to Burnt Norton.

## **12.10pm Session Four – Chair: Louise Chamberlain**

### **Charlotte May**

**Title:** Byron and the Venerable Rogers

**Abstract:** Banker-poet Samuel Rogers (1763-1855) was the fifth bestselling poet of the Romantic period, despite his recognition as an eighteenth century Augustan poet. His literary and political networks were the most extensive of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and made him an important source of poetic and commercial advice for Byron when he arrived in London in 1811. I will discuss how Byron's initial admiration for the 'Venerable Rogers' eventually turned into one of loathing, as he realised that Rogers was a 'backbiter' and one of the most manipulative characters of the nineteenth century.

### **Abdulmalik Ofemile**

**Title:** The Communicative Contexts of Human Agent Collectives

**Abstract:** Research in discourse analysis and corpus linguistics has mostly focused on interaction between people. However, people are increasingly interacting with intelligent autonomous agents (like Satnav systems giving instructions to a driver, automated phone instructions, drones, and humanoid robots). This leads to emerging discourse contexts that are quite distinct from the norm, with new communication challenges as interactants collaborate to achieve set goals. This paper will describe contexts in which Human Agent Collectives will interact in a future that is perceived to be dystopian as a basis for understanding the nature of communication therein.

### **Shuo Sun**

**Title:** The Macartney Embassy to China in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*

**Abstract:** In *Mansfield Park*, when Edmund Bertram visits the East room to talk to Fanny Price, he notices a book about Lord Macartney's embassy to China on her writing-desk and refers to it as her 'great book'. This paper investigates how Austen uses Fanny's Macartney book to develop the novel's theme of authority, charity, and gratitude. In particular, I look at the significance of the East room and the book's relevance to the issue of slavery. I also consider the multiple perspectives exhibited in the various accounts of the Macartney embassy published between 1795 and 1813.

## **1 pm – Lunch, with Poster Session:**

### **Gareth Carrol**

**Title:** Summing the parts: representation of idioms in the mental lexicon

**Abstract:** Dual route theories of language processing suggest that formulaic expressions (idioms, collocations, binomials) might have their own entries in the mental lexicon. My research explores this idea by examining the links between the component words in idioms. So, for example, is there an associative link between “kick” and “bucket” because they co-exist in the idiom “kick the bucket”? I use eye-tracking to examine reading patterns for various configurations of formulaic language, and also examine the role of context (or lack thereof) in facilitating access to highly familiar phrases.

### **Nicola Thomas (English / CLAS)**

**Title:** Meridians: the poem as a place of encounter in the work of Paul Celan and J. H. Prynne

**Abstract:** This poster compares treatments of the motif of the poem as a place of encounter or ‘meridian’ in the work of the German poet Paul Celan and the British poet J. H. Prynne. Both frequently present the poetic text as a space of encounters between subjects, part of a network of (spatial) relations or ‘grid’, deliberately manipulating the connections and ruptures poetry affects. Both can be seen as seeking proximity through communication while also conceding the inevitability of distance. While the poetic traditions and individual contexts which inform their poems are vastly divergent, the ‘meridian’ works as a powerful and appropriate metaphor for both.

### **Erin Connelly**

**Title:** The *Lily of Medicine*: The Middle English Translation of Bernard of Gordon’s *Lilium Medicinae*

**Abstract:** My project is an edition of the Middle English translation of Bernard of Gordon’s *Lilium Medicinae*. Bernard was a medical doctor and lecturer in Montpellier, who completed the Latin text of the *Lilium Medicinae* in 1305. The *Lilium* is an extensive treatise on disease aetiology, diagnostics, personal case studies, and treatment recipes. There is only one extant translation into English, the *Lylie of Medicynes*, which survives in one manuscript Oxford Bodleian MS Ashmole 1505.

### **Ali Al-Hoorie**

**Title:** Implicit Attitudes in Language Learning

**Abstract:** The Ideal Self is the central concept in contemporary motivation theory in the language learning field. However, its measurement has always remained at the explicit level (i.e., self-report questionnaires). Advances in social cognition, however, have shown that such explicit measures do not always capture certain underlying, unconscious motives and consequently some implicit measures were devised. My research constitutes a first exploration of language learners’ implicit attitudes toward native speakers.

## **2:10pm –Session Five – Chair: Elizaveta Matveeva**

### **Shatha Qaiwer**

**Title:** Representations of the 'other' in Barack Obama's political discourse: a corpus Linguistic Approach

**Abstract:** The study examines the linguistics representation of the 'other' in the Political discourse of Barack Obama. The researcher applies a mixed approach of corpus linguistic tools and critical discourse analysis. The corpus under study consists of 20 speeches dated from January 2008 to June 2013. Keywords and concordance analyses are conducted to examine the construction of the 'other' groups in the corpus mainly Republicans, Immigrants and Al-Qaeda. It is argued that the representation of social groups can play a role in legitimating a proposed claim and in positive- self and negative- other presentation in political discourse.

### **Niloofar Rahimi**

**Title:** The contribution of phonological short-term memory on incidental vocabulary learning from reading

**Abstract:** This study was conducted to investigate the role of phonological working memory on the incidental acquisition of vocabulary from L1 and L2 reading. The study also examined readers' online processing of unknown words while reading. After assessing participants' phonological working memory, they read a short story containing unknown words while their reading times were recorded. Immediate and delayed post-reading vocabulary tests assessed readers' lexical gains. Analyses revealed that there was considerable learning of vocabulary from both L1 and L2 reading. Phonological short-term memory did not seem to influence incidental L1 vocabulary acquisition whereas it did have an effect on L2 vocabulary learning.

### **Louise Nuttall**

**Title:** Vampires, murderers and the manipulation of empathy in narrative

**Abstract:** This paper will explore the representation of fictional minds through language in literature, in an analysis of Richard Matheson's (1954) novel, *I am Legend*. In this text, the extent to which readers attribute thoughts and feelings to the vampires which plague its speculative world has significant consequences for their responses to its main protagonist. Drawing upon research into our real-world experiences of other minds in cognitive psychology, it will aim to demonstrate how cognitive scientific understandings of language and cognition can provide insights into our emotional and ethical relationships with fictional characters.

### **Emma Zimmerman**

**Title:** 'Always the same stairs, always the same room': The Uncanny Architecture of Jean Rhys's *Good Morning Midnight*

**Abstract:** This paper introduces the main focus of my research by providing a brief overview of the intersections between the disciplines of literature and architecture. I argue that a spatial approach to modernist fiction provides insight into the crisis of belonging and fragmentation of daily life so central to articulations of modernity. Drawing on examples from my chapter on Jean Rhys and the Architectural Uncanny I show how combining spatial theory with close formal analysis—i.e. of style and structure—helps extend understanding of literary representations of architectural space, whilst also evidencing the sophistication and often curious nature of modernist innovation.

### **3:10pm – Session Six – Chair: Davide Castiglione**

#### **Graham Collis**

**Title:** Looking for Angles and Saxons in Lumbres Canton

**Abstract:** Lumbres Canton in northern France lies between Boulogne and St Omer. I will be presenting place-name evidence for the settlement of Angles, Saxons and Anglo-Saxons in the canton in the Early Middle Ages.

#### **Arwa Hasan**

**Title:** Text-worlds of 'Unideal' Readers

**Abstract:** This paper discusses the use of personal interviews as a method of gathering qualitative data of real reader responses, providing the basis for a socio-psychological perspective of the readers as individuals who bring their own emotions, beliefs, world views to the building of worlds in Text World Theory (Werth 1999). Presenting a sample of responses to the dystopian short story 'Harrison Bergeron' illustrates there are 'unideal' readings (usually ignored by cognitive stylistic approaches) that are worthy of investigation due to these readings arising from the same text.

#### **Marijana Macis**

**Title:** Second language learners' knowledge of polysemous collocations

**Abstract:** This study looks at knowledge of Type 2 Phrasemes, i.e. collocations that have both literal and figurative meanings (e.g. top drawer can have both "top shelf of cabinet" and "best quality" meaning senses. The aim is to find out what second language learners know in terms of polysemous collocations and if they know the literal meaning sense better than the figurative one. Some ideas on how the study will be conducted will be presented.

***Session Six will be followed by a short break***



## **4:15pm – Session Seven – Chair: Eric Rundquist**

### **Emma Wilde**

**Title:** Offensive masculinity in *Edward Scissorhands*

**Abstract:** Hegemonic masculinity is contested and in crisis in Tim Burton's *Edward Scissorhands*. Within the supposedly patriarchal heartland of 1950's suburban America, the construct is failing and, in every sense of the word, offensive. This paper considers disability as a site of such contestation, and the ways in which the commodification of the individual alongside capitalist market forces ultimately dictate what is perceived as an ideal masculine identity. The response of traditional masculinity is shocking, and depicts the monstrosity that lurks within many banal daily rituals and apparently socially acceptable practices and institutions.

### **Eleni Ponirakis**

**Title:** Thought and Action in *The Battle of Maldon*

**Abstract:** *The Battle of Maldon* is structured with a distinctive series of patterns where right thinking is shown as a necessary prelude to successful action and furthermore a balance between thought and action appears to be important. The Hero who has to control his thoughts in order to act correctly, however, does not fit into the *sapienta et fortitudo* model that Kaske applied to Beowulf. We might therefore wonder if the heroes of *Maldon* are a newer type of hero, moulded on a more Christian framework which allows for weakness and admires the overcoming of weakness rather than its absence

### **Christine Muir**

**Title:** Directed Motivational Currents in the Language Classroom

**Abstract:** Directed Motivational Currents (DMCs) are extended periods of highly focused motivation, and can be found naturally occurring in diverse contexts and all walks of life – including in students in the language classroom. As a teacher, it is wonderful to watch students in a DMC race towards a goal brimming with energy, but it is not enough simply to 'cross my fingers' and hope that all students will achieve this exceptional level of motivation on their own. In my presentation, I will discuss our current understanding of the practical foundations of DMCs, and how we might generate and sustain them in the language classroom.

***Session Seven will be followed by a Conclusion and Refreshments***

***The Byron Lecture will commence at 6pm***