

**HISTORICAL FICTION IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 2000:
CONTEMPORARY RESPONSES TO THE PAST**

A one-day symposium on 21st-century American historical fiction

University of Nottingham

Saturday 18 March 2017

Provisional programme

8.45-9.15 – Registration/Tea and coffee (Highfield House)

9.15-10.45 – **SESSION 1**

Re-conceptualising American slavery (Highfield House A01)

Chair: Helen Oakley (The Open University)

Christopher Lloyd (University of Hertfordshire), “Memories of Slavery in the
Twenty-First-Century: Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*”

Katie Myerscough (University of Manchester), “Unhomely Plantations and Uncanny
Slaves: Re-Reading American Slavery in Valerie Martin’s *Property*”

Michael Docherty (University of Kent), “To ‘Refract Time’: The Magical History of
Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*”

10.45-11.15 – Tea and coffee (Highfield House)

11.15-12.45 – **SESSION 2: Counterhistory, satire, postapocalypse (HIGH A01)**

Chair: Michelle Green (University of Nottingham)

Diletta De Cristofaro (De Montfort University), “Alternate History and the Sense of an Ending: David Means’ *Hystopia*”

Evelyn Lockett (Université de Montréal) and Trevor Gibbs (ESJ Paris), “Historical Fiction in *The Boondocks*: Re-exploring African-American History through Satire”

Corina Lopes (Central Connecticut State University), “The Sacred Idiom” of our Past: Life-evolving History in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*”

12.45-1.30 – Lunch (Highfield House)

1.30-3.00 – SESSION 3: Re-imagining the long 1960s (HIGH A01)

Chair: Judie Newman (University of Nottingham)

Debra Shostak (The College of Wooster), “Bastard Out of Saigon: Paternity, History, and Misrepresentation in Viet Thanh Nguyen’s *The Sympathizer*”

Mark West (University of Glasgow), “The 21st Century Sixties: American Fiction, History, and Post-postmodernism”

Rebecca Martin (Ryerson University), “Queering the Lost Year: Transcription and the Lesbian Continuum in Susan Choi’s *American Woman*”

3.00-4.00 – SESSION 4: Representing the city (HIGH A01)

Chair: Sam Cooper (University of Nottingham)

James Peacock (University of Keele), “Growing up Too Quickly: Lyndsay Faye’s *Gods of Gotham* and the Representation of Children”

Brian Kennedy (Independent scholar), “Re-imagining Red Summer: Dennis Lehane’s *The Given Day*”

4.00-4.30 – Tea and coffee

4.30-6.00 – **SESSION 5: E.L. Doctorow (HIGH A01)**

Chair: TBC

Chris Gair (University of Glasgow), “‘Bringing it all Back Home’: Emersonian Transcendentalism in a World of Things”

Villy Karagouni (University of Glasgow), “‘Key Clacks and Bell Dings and Slamming Platens’: Historiography and the Narratological Value of Music in *Homer and Langley*”

Sophie Vlacos (University of Glasgow), “The Problem of Other Minds in Doctorow's *Homer and Langley*”

8.00 – Symposium dinner (details TBC)

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