

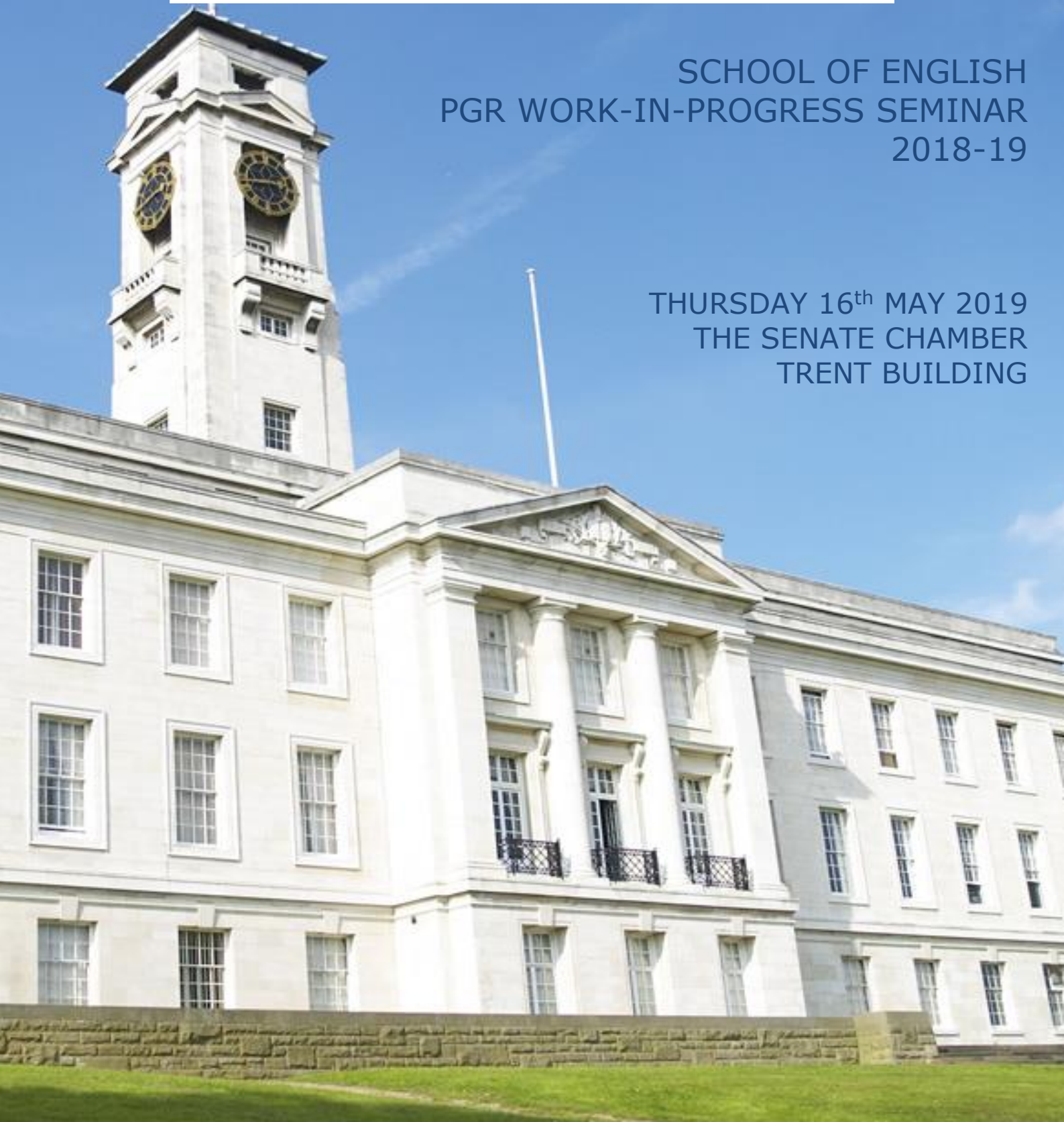


The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
PGR WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR
2018-19

THURSDAY 16th MAY 2019
THE SENATE CHAMBER
TRENT BUILDING



9.15 – 9.45: ARRIVAL & COFFEE

9.45: WELCOME

10.00: Session One – Social and Political Discourses Chair: Laura de Simoni

Lisa Benn

Title: James VI and Fulke Greville: Political Discourse and the Union of the Crowns

In the years preceding the Union of the Crowns in 1603, political theory and discourse took on a practical application in the debate over the succession. This paper will consider the impact of both position and audience on the articulation of ideas of Early Modern kingship in the later years of the reign of Elizabeth I. In particular, it will consider the differing approaches to kingship and to political discourse itself in James' printed 'pamphlet', *The True Lawe of Free Monarchies*, and in Greville's closet drama, *Mustapha*.

Johnny Cammish

Title: Literary Philanthropy in the Romantic Period

Charitable literary works have yet to be factored into modern considerations of literary purpose in the Romantic Period. This paper will discuss three different forms of 'literary philanthropy': the editing of poetic anthologies to raise money for impoverished individual; the editing of collections of prose and poetry to further a social campaign, and the editing of unpublished remains of another poet for their family. These examples will demonstrate how prevalent literary philanthropy was in the Romantic Period and establish the concept as a purpose of literature within the modern understandings of the Romantic literary market (St. Clair, 2014)

Chloe Ashbridge

Title: 'We've had enough': Region and Nostalgia in the Brexit Novel

This paper takes Anthony Cartwright's *The Cut* (2017) as its central focus, a novel that was specifically commissioned by European publisher, Pierene, as a fictional response to the UK's Brexit Vote in 2016. I examine how this text represents with the ways structural geographic and political peripherality affected the working classes' experience of the Brexit Referendum. A major concern is the role of a defiant regional identity and the politicisation of nostalgia as a rejection of the British state's imperative to achieve a 'truly global Britain' (May, 2016). This is explored through a critique of nostalgia as a literary mode associated with regional parochiality that forecloses the prospect of political action and change. This paper seeks to place Cartwright's writing in relation to the emergent literary genre of 'BrexLit' (Shaw, 2018, p.16) and the working-class tradition of British social realism. Further, I analyse the significance of the novel's location in the de-industrial Midlands to prioritise voices that are marginalized within national debates and create a regional consciousness in opposition

to British state universalism. What role, if any, does the working-class regional novel have to play in a post-Brexit-vote context? Can it help reconfigure the relationship between region and nation and challenge the tenability of the British centralised state form in the twenty-first century?

Gemma Edwards

Title: From Voice to Place in Contemporary Theatre

This presentation explores the methodological framework underpinning my analysis of English rural environments in contemporary drama and performance. While recent theatre scholarship has been preoccupied with 'voice' – highlighted in the dominance of verbatim theatre in the early 2000s – I propose that recent changes in England's social landscape have necessitated a new way of writing and staging the political. Here, I propose that a focus on 'place' is a productive alternative to 'voice', suggesting that this approach offers a careful nuancing of contemporary populist discourses and in doing so, enables a thorough exploration into rural concerns.

Question and Answer opportunity

11.00 – 11.15: Coffee Break

11.15: Session Two – Claiming Language Chair: Meredith Cicerchia

Joao Bernardo Silva

Title: Stylistic experimentations with Interior Monologue post-Joyce

This paper offers a comparative analysis of different stylistic realisations of the technique of Interior Monologue primarily as enacted in fictional texts written by John Dos Passos. The findings are contrasted with those of similar analyses of other authors writing in the mid to late 1920s and 1930s. Adopting a historical stylistic approach, I argue, necessitates that the frameworks for the analysis of Interior Monologue currently available to stylisticians be revised so as to better capture the full range of semantic effects of the technique as it evolved.

Daniel Edmondson

Title: Taking Language Back: The Impact of Linguistic Reclamation on Taboo Language Processing

It is suggested that taboo language is processed more slowly than non-taboo language, yet is also better remembered. However, this research has not considered whether taboo words exhibit the same effects when they are reclaimed by members of marginalised communities. Using experimental methods, I am testing participant responses to a number of LGBTQ+ slurs that they may or may not reclaim themselves, with the aim of better understanding the ways that they are processed and the distinct effects they may have on the individuals that use and encounter them.

Jessica Treacher

Title: Hnutu in a nutshell: considering 'nut-tree' place-names in England

The Old English word hnutu 'nut' is recurrent in place-names that are first attested in the early medieval period. This paper will examine the various meanings hnutu could encapsulate in place-names: in particular, which species of nut-tree can be identified through the use of the word and how this contributes to our knowledge of the importance of nuts as a resource in early medieval England.

Question and Answer opportunity

12.00 – 12.15: Break

12.15: Session Three – Culture and Identity Chair: Morakot Pan-Iam

Abdulaziz Altamimi

Title: The acquisition and processing of multiword utterances by English native and non-native speakers.

Research into conventionalized multiword utterances (*fish and chips*) has shown a processing advantage for native speakers. However, whether this advantage extends to non-native speakers remains an open question, due to many factors involved in the process of learning a second language. In this study, using a self-paced reading task and a phrase judgement task, we address how proficiency levels and amount of exposure to multiword utterances can influence the learning process. We also investigated whether shared multiword utterances across languages may facilitate the learning process.

William Pidzamecky

Title: A Comparative Study of Viking Settlement in England, Ireland, Russia, and Ukraine between the 8th and 10th centuries

This project aims to re-examine the process of Viking migration by comparing their activities in Ireland, England, Ukraine, Russia, and Belorussia based around their settlements. The chronology of this study will range from the middle of the 8th to the beginning of the tenth century, during which a number of social, cultural, and political changes occurred. This study will argue that Viking migration was a global process that shared many common characteristics and that these settlement sites not only acted as important nodal points for military and commercial activities but also homes and places of inter-cultural contact.

Yang Zhao

Title: Challenges and Possibilities: Haitian Immigrants and Vernacular Cosmopolitanism in Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*

This study examines the feasibility of 'vernacular cosmopolitanism' - a critical vision and practice of cosmopolitanism thriving on the periphery - by looking at the representation of Haitian immigrants in Zadie Smith's *On Beauty* (2005). I focus on three main aspects - racial and class stratification, uneven global capitalism, and cultural transmission - that affect Haitian's cosmopolitan mentality in the novel. It is found out that *On Beauty* presents an ambiguous view of vernacular cosmopolitanism in a time of global cohabitation: dispossessed immigrants' difficulty in establishing cross-boundary connections brings concrete historical and economic disparities to light, yet their advantages in destructing power structure and disrupting homogeneous world culture contribute to a positive cosmopolitan outlook.

Question and Answer opportunity

1.00 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00: Session Four – Living the Past Chair: Amy Van Kesteren

James Aitcheson

Title: Writing the Middle Ages: testing the boundaries of historical fiction

What is the role of historical fiction? How should we consider its relationship to history? These are some of the questions I am considering in relation to my novel *Flight*, a work of historical fiction set in late Anglo-Saxon England that incorporates several marvellous and supernatural themes, and which forms the heart of my Creative Writing thesis. In this paper I will ask whether accuracy and authenticity are necessarily the best measures of a historical novel's success or worth, and suggest some more useful frameworks for considering the genre and its relationship with the past.

Joshua Neal

Title: Scandinavian place-names in England: Old Norse *bý* in context

The distribution of Scandinavian place-names in England has been accepted as a guide to the areas of Scandinavian settlement in the early medieval period. They are prevalent in the former 'Danelaw', a large area of north-eastern England that came under Scandinavian rule following an Anglo-Scandinavian peace treaty in c. AD 886. Old Norse *bý* 'farmstead, village' - found in names such as Derby, Grimsby, etc. - has, in particular, been taken to indicate the presence of Scandinavian-speakers. This paper is an

overview of my case-study of this element: its geographical distribution; its compound patterns; and its impact on my research.

Jodie Marley

Title: 'To a public which hates the unusual and the obscure...': esotericism in W. B. Yeats's William Blake criticism of the 1890s.

Following *The Works of William Blake* (1893), Yeats established his reputation as a Blake critic. Yeats's work challenged nineteenth-century preconceptions of Blake as a 'madman', urging readers to examine the spiritual basis of Blake's work. While altering the course of Blake criticism, Yeats's work, with its cryptic references to mystics like Swedenborg, alienated less erudite audiences. Its claims for Blake's Irish ancestry and Blake's supposed membership to a forerunner of the Golden Dawn society (to which Yeats belonged) seemed self-serving. In this paper, I will discuss Yeats's Blake criticism, and illuminate his motives for writing about Blake as he did.

Question and Answer opportunity

14.45 – 15.00: Break

15.00: Session Five – Women, Identity, Literature Chair: Victoria Howard

Jessie Yusek

Title: Shapeshifting Brides in Middle English and Medieval Icelandic Romance

My research compares the relationship between shapeshifting women and agency in fourteenth- and fifteenth-century English and Icelandic romance. These women find agency in Otherness using their changed forms and identities to transcend cultural norms. While audience and manuscript ownership is difficult to determine in this period, there is evidence to suggest that these narratives were popular with women. This raises new questions about women's agency and construction of cultural memory that I continue to explore. In this presentation I will provide an overview of my research focusing on themes of women's knowledge, women's relationships, and the implications of social class.

Colette Davies

Title: 'Trembling authors': the varying portrayals of female authorship by Minerva Press female authors.

The Minerva Press produced one third of all new novel titles in London in the 1790s. In 1799, 68% of its named writers were women. The sheer numbers and productivity of the Minerva women writers attest that the Romantic concept of the author underwent significant reconsideration and transformation.

Analysing the multifarious authorial ascriptions on Minerva Press title-pages reveals the author-figure to be an extra-textual construct used for marketing purposes. Their in-text allusions to authorship further demonstrate female power with the pen. This paper explores how the Minerva Press novels interacted with and challenged Romantic-era constructions of the author of fiction.

Matthew Holliday

Title: Woolf, Wordsworth, and the Victorians'

From the age of thirteen to her death in 1941, Virginia Woolf was a dedicated reader of William Wordsworth. Her letters, diaries, novels and essays demonstrate this. At the same time, Woolf's notion of Wordsworth, as the 'philosopher poet', as a medicinal influence, betray her particular Wordsworthian inheritance as the daughter of Leslie Stephen, and, more broadly, as a daughter of the nineteenth century. In this presentation, I outline the principal focus of my thesis and provide a short example taken from my first chapter, looking specifically at three key figures: Walter Pater, Matthew Arnold, and Leslie Stephen.

Question and Answer opportunity

15.45 – 16.45:

Closing remarks followed by a final session when academic staff will share their thoughts on some aspects of REF and TEF, with time for questions and discussion:

Dr. Máire Ní Fhlathúin, Director of Research Impact, will speak about 'Impact': what is it, why is it so important to the current research exercise, how significant might it be in the future?

Dr. Joe Jackson, Director of Teaching, will speak about the Teaching Excellence Framework: what is it, and what role might it have in the future?

16.45: Drinks reception