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#ShowOff22

Hosted by the School of English at the University of Nottingham

THE ENGLISH SHOWCASE 2022

Wednesday 15
June 2022
10am-6pm

B63 Law & Social
Sciences Building

www.nottingham.ac.uk/English/Showcase



The English Showcase 2022

The English Showcase celebrates the research produced by final year Undergraduates, Master's and PGR students in the School of English at the University of Nottingham. Students from all disciplines in the School are invited to present any aspect of their work, ranging from dissertations to essays and creative writing.

We have built on the success of previous events and this year are pleased to host a full day conference both online and in person to showcase the brilliant work of our students, of whom we are very proud.

The variety of work here showcases a fabulous range of disciplines and working practices and will be an inspiring, informative and enjoyable event to celebrate our students and their hard work during this academic year.

The Organising Committee: Dr Christina Lee, Charlotte Crane, Dominic Bark, Emily Dawkes & Alex Duncan

Programme

10:00-10:30	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION (WITH COFFEE & PASTRIES)
10:30 – 10:45	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION WITH DR JOE JACKSON, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING, FOLLOWED BY PROFESSOR JIM MORAN, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH.
10:45 - 11:45	PANEL 1: CHAIR: ABIGAIL GREAVES
	NAAMA ALABOODI – ‘TEMPORAL PLACES AND PERMANENT SPACE IN JEAN RHYS’ ‘LET THEM CALL IT JAZZ’
	KHADIZA NAZNIN HUDA – ‘THE FORMATION OF IDENTITY THROUGH CLOTHING AND FASHION IN MULK RAJ ANAND’S ‘UNTOUCHABLE’ AND SUSANNA MOORE’S ‘ONE LAST LOOK.’
	YUN-SAN HSIEH – ‘FROM MIMICS TO SIMULACRA: POSTHUMAN PATHOS IN KAZUO ISHIGORO’S NEVER LET ME GO (2005) AND KLARA AND THE SUN (2021)’
	AMALIA COSTA – ‘VENUS AS A BOY: EMPLOYING THE ANDROGYNOUS GAZE IN ALI SMITH’S HOTEL WORLD, BOY MEETS GIRL AND HOW TO BE BOTH.’
11:45-12.45	PANEL 2: CHAIR: TOM FAIRFAX
	MARIE GEORGHIOU – ‘BRINGING OLD TEXTS TO LIFE: TRANSLATING A 1,000 YEAR-OLD RIDDLE’
	SAMUEL MASTERS – ‘THE DIVINE PARADOX: THE USE OF PARADOX IN ENGLISH DEVOTIONAL LYRICS FROM 1300-1600.’
	EM HORNE – ‘AN EXAMINATION OF THE VALUE OF PLACE-NAMES AS EVIDENCE FOR THE HISTORY, LANDSCAPE AND, ESPECIALLY, LANGUAGE(S) OF THE LANCASHIRE COAST.’
	JESSICA CORRIGAN – ‘RECONSTRUCTING PATRIARCHAL NORMS IN THE EARLY MODERN FOREST’
12:45-13:30	LUNCH

13:30-14:30	PANEL 3: CHAIR: DR CHRISTINA LEE
	KATY BAGUST-JONES – ‘CANNOT LAH: A COMPARISON OF THE MEANING AND USE OF CAN AND CANNOT IN SINGAPORE AND BRITISH ENGLISH’
	MINAEL SHAHZADI – ‘REPRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION IN MURIEL RUKEYSER AND ADRIENNE RICH'S EKPHRASTIC POETRY’
	EMILY JONES - ‘FOR WHAT COULD BEAUTY’S BUSINESS BE IN MURPHY’S VICINITY, IF NOT WITH MURPHY?’: FATE AND METAFICTION IN SAMUEL BECKETT’S MURPHY
	LAUREN WALKER – ‘EXPLORING MIDLANDS ATTITUDES TOWARDS REGIONAL LINGUISTIC VARIATION IN THE UK AND IRELAND’
14:30 - 15:30	PANEL 4: CHAIR: AMANDA KALE
	ABDULAZIZ ALHUSSAN – ‘THE INFLUENCE OF THE GAMIFIED-FLIPPED APPROACH ON IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING ACHIEVEMENTS.’
	JENNIFER LEA – ‘BEYOND THE ARCHETYPE: HOW ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ USES CODE-SWITCHING TO ENGAGE THE ELECTORATE AND DEFY EXPECTATIONS OF POWERFUL WOMEN’
	BEITING ZHENG – ‘ARE WE LEARNING “TEXTBOOK ENGLISH”? A CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF LEXICAL BUNDLES IN ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS USED IN CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS’
	XUEWU QIN – ‘DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY WITH CHINESE HIGH SCHOOL DEAF EFL LEARNERS -- A CASE STUDY WITH WUHAN No.1 DEAF SCHOOL’
15:30 – 15:45	COFFEE BREAK
15:45-16:45	PANEL 5: CHAIR: MOLLY WATSON
	DAISY TWIZELL – ‘THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONTEMPORARY "INSTAPOETS" AND SECOND-WAVE FEMINIST POETRY’
	JACOB WATKINS – “TO BUILD THE UNIVERSE STUPENDOUS’: WHAT LORD BYRON AND PERCY SHELLEY SEARCHED FOR IN STRAIN’
	ALEX TYNDALL – ‘A DISAPPOINTMENT TO MY PARENTS’
16:45 – 18:00	CONCLUDING REMARKS AND WINE RECEPTION

PANEL 1: LITERATURE

Speaker: Naama Alaboodi

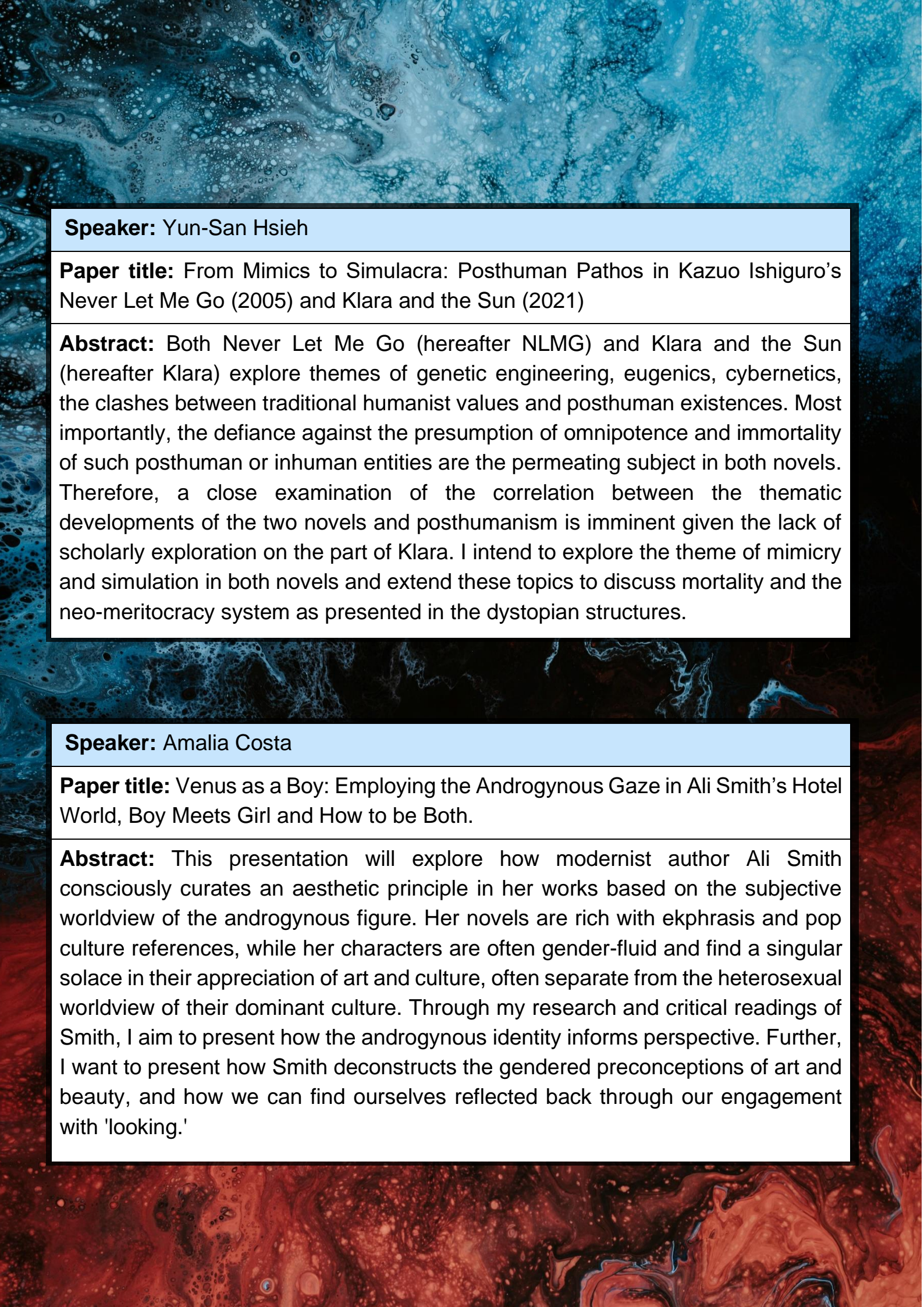
Paper title: Temporal Places and Permanent Space in Jean Rhys' 'Let Them Call It Jazz'

Abstract: This paper examines the different spaces in the short story 'Let Them Call It Jazz' by Jean Rhys. Rhys engages in the politics of space and place by continuously situating the protagonist, Selina, in temporary places as long as she retains her full identity. She only finds a permanent place when she assimilates into the host country's culture, and more specifically, when her speech and behavior mimic that of the dominant culture. Selina resorts to singing in order to cope with her displacement. Singing, in the context of space, is understood as a created mental space that Selina resorts to in order to manifest her identity. The paper argues that different temporal social places and Selina's abstract mental space reflect different power relations and different levels of her identity.

Speaker: Khadiza Naznin Huda

Paper title: The formation of identity through clothing and fashion in Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* and Susanna Moore's *One Last Look*.

Abstract: The notion of clothing and dress in British India is not limited to the concept of fashion but it is an article which constructs identity. In the novels *Untouchable* by Mulk Raj Anand and Susanna Moore's *One Last Look* the manner of clothing (including the ornamentation and jewelries) portrays this idea of identity in the representation of self and others. Mulk Raj Anand's writing highlights the character of Bakha trying to mimic the Tommies (British Soldiers) in the barracks in terms of dressing and fashion, desiring to be a sahib (British gentleman). This desire is fueled by his marginalized position in the society and ill treatment by others labeling him as the untouchable. All the characters including Bakha in this novel categorizes the identity of self and others based on their clothing. This similar theme can also be noticed in *One Last Look* where Moore depicts through the voice of Eleanor the significance of this item of clothing to construct identities of both British individuals and the natives in Indian Subcontinent. This paper traces and analyzes the formation of identities through lens critical lens in British India through clothing and fashion. It also slightly employs ideas of mimicry by Homi K. Bhabha and Ania Loomba.

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Speaker: Yun-San Hsieh

Paper title: From Mimics to Simulacra: Posthuman Pathos in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* (2005) and *Klara and the Sun* (2021)

Abstract: Both *Never Let Me Go* (hereafter NLMG) and *Klara and the Sun* (hereafter *Klara*) explore themes of genetic engineering, eugenics, cybernetics, the clashes between traditional humanist values and posthuman existences. Most importantly, the defiance against the presumption of omnipotence and immortality of such posthuman or inhuman entities are the permeating subject in both novels. Therefore, a close examination of the correlation between the thematic developments of the two novels and posthumanism is imminent given the lack of scholarly exploration on the part of *Klara*. I intend to explore the theme of mimicry and simulation in both novels and extend these topics to discuss mortality and the neo-meritocracy system as presented in the dystopian structures.

Speaker: Amalia Costa

Paper title: *Venus as a Boy: Employing the Androgynous Gaze in Ali Smith's Hotel World, Boy Meets Girl and How to be Both.*

Abstract: This presentation will explore how modernist author Ali Smith consciously curates an aesthetic principle in her works based on the subjective worldview of the androgynous figure. Her novels are rich with ekphrasis and pop culture references, while her characters are often gender-fluid and find a singular solace in their appreciation of art and culture, often separate from the heterosexual worldview of their dominant culture. Through my research and critical readings of Smith, I aim to present how the androgynous identity informs perspective. Further, I want to present how Smith deconstructs the gendered preconceptions of art and beauty, and how we can find ourselves reflected back through our engagement with 'looking.'

PANEL 2: MEDIEVAL

Speaker: Marie Georghiou

Paper title: Bringing old texts to life: translating a 1,000 year-old riddle

Abstract: From the enigmata of the Greek Anthology to today's brainteasers found in online repositories, riddles are an enduring form of both entertainment and transmission of knowledge. The Exeter Book, a 10th century compilation of texts from Anglo-Saxon England, contains all but one of the known Old English verse-riddles. To bring these texts to light, we will survey the historical and cultural context of the works, and consider the challenges posed in translating ancient texts. An original translation of Riddle 29 will be presented, along with a reflection on Old English poetic techniques and the artistic choices to be made depending on the translator's aim.

Speaker: Samuel Masters

Paper title: The Divine Paradox: The Use of Paradox in English Devotional Lyrics From 1300-1600.

Abstract: Paradox is a common stylistic feature to several poems from the Late-Medieval to Early-Modern period – both secular and religious. In earlier religious works, such as John of Grimestone's 'Love me brouthte', paradox is used to portray Christ's dual nature as both God and Man, and thereby educate the laity audience on such theological complexities. By 1600, poets were using paradox more explicitly. This is especially true of Donne. In his Holy Sonnet beginning 'Batter my heart', he draws extensively on Pauline imagery (and other images from the Old Testament) to depict the paradoxical freedom and purity found in being 'enthral[ed]' and 'ravis[ed]' into God's service. Through this, he emphasises to his readers their need to for Christ to set them free from their sins. Meanwhile Herbert, subtler in his paradoxical imagery than Donne, uses contradictory images to reflect on God's incomprehensibility and praiseworthiness – thereby proposing an alternative and more fitting sonnet subject than the conventional sonnets' secular amatory focus. Thus all three of these poems adapt the common secular lyric forms, subjects and paradoxes of their contemporaries in order to praise God or educate on the divine. They evidence that throughout this period, despite many other changes in poetic forms and conventions, paradox remained a favourite method for portraying the complexity of God's nature and His redeeming work in His sinful people.

Speaker: Em Horne

Paper title: An Examination of the value of place-names as evidence for the history, landscape and, especially, language(s) of the Lancashire Coast.

Abstract: Place-names are an extremely valuable source of information which can provide interdisciplinary evidence of personal names, landscape, human activities, and language use. This study examines a corpus of forty parish names which form a contiguous line along the Lancashire coast in the North West of England. Due to its position along the Irish Sea and relative close proximity to the Welsh border, Lancashire reflects a variety of linguistic influences including Brittonic and Old Scandinavian, less common across the country as a whole, in contexts which indicate some degree of cohabitation between speakers of these languages and the Anglo-Saxons. Beyond this linguistic evidence, place-names also indicate key aspects of the landscape as it was during the medieval period. This can be used to find these features within the modern landscape, such as hills used for lookout posts, or contrastingly be used to indicate changes in the landscape over time. This is especially useful when tracking the flood patterns of modern-day settlements, as while some flora and fauna related names directly match modern flooding, others indicate that this is a distinctly modern issue most likely due to the vast urbanisation of previously wooded areas. Overall, this analysis highlights the historical, linguistic, and topographic importance of place-names as an academic resource and discipline, providing valuable insights into the peoples, communities, and landscapes of Medieval England, as well as providing vital information which can be used for modern environmental conservation and hazard reduction.

Speaker: Jessica Corrigan

Paper title: Reconstructing Patriarchal Norms in the Early Modern Forest

Abstract: My dissertation project explores and questions the common assumption of the liberating nature of the forest as a setting in Early Modern drama. I carry out a historical and literary contextual exploration of the assumptions and tropes of the forest from the Medieval to Early Modern period, before arguing that, rather than providing a subversive liberating space, the forest actually serves to reassert patriarchal notions and reconcile the court. I use four Early Modern plays to exemplify this: Mucedorus, A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. The body of my argument is divided into three main sections. First I examine the portrayal of the forest's natural state, before the intervention of members of the court. Then, I explore the emergence of hierarchies reminiscent of that of the norms of patriarchal society in the forest. Finally, I analyse the illusive presentation of feminine power within the transgressive forest spaces.



PANEL 3: LITERATURE/LANGUAGE

Speaker: Katy Bagust-Jones

Paper title: Cannot lah: A comparison of the meaning and use of can and cannot in Singapore and British English

Abstract: In Singapore, language policy dictates that English is the language of education, trade and politics, while the 'mother tongue' languages; Mandarin, Malay and Tamil are intended to maintain cultural values and traditions. Singapore English's proximity to these contact languages are argued to have resulted in an English that differs greatly from other varieties. Differences can be seen in Singapore English's syntax and morphology and also in its lexical and discoursal features. These features include the use of pragmatic particles such as lah for emphasis, and optionality of tense marking on verbs. The modal auxiliaries can and cannot convey a wider range of meanings in Singapore English than in British English and their use in the bare modal form is considered a ubiquitous feature of Singapore English. This paper will use corpus linguistics techniques to analyse and compare the meaning and use of can and cannot in the two varieties of English and use these modal auxiliaries to exemplify the fact that features of Singapore English co-occur with one another.

Speaker: Minael Shahzadi

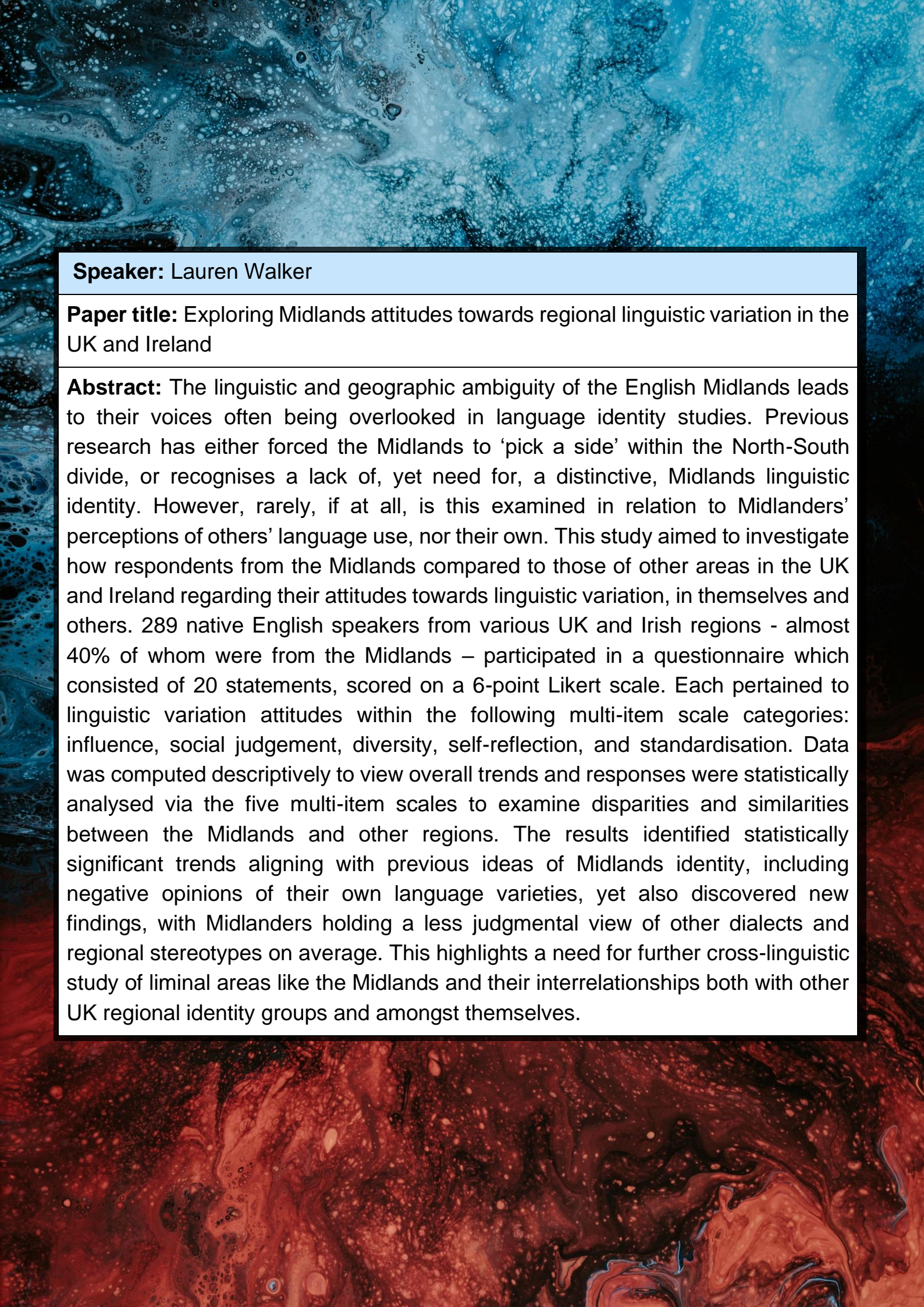
Paper title: Representation and Interpretation in Muriel Rukeyser and Adrienne Rich's Ekphrastic Poetry

Abstract: James Heffernan, a central figure in ekphrastic criticism, defines ekphrasis as the 'verbal representation of visual representation' (Heffernan, 1993: 3), but the implications towards ekphrastic works' purpose and value that this definition rouses have not been fully explored. 'Representation' is itself defined as 'something which stands for or denotes another symbolically' (OED, 2021), highlighting that its meaning can only be accessed through interpretation. Both sides of the ekphrastic process being 'representations' results in an inherent instability of meaning, leaving a space between the two works of art where they can never fully inhabit each other. Arguably, ekphrasis resides intentionally in this space; it is a dialogue of meaning-making through constant interpretation which wields difference as a tool to understand the impenetrable other. Explored through Muriel Rukeyser's 'Kathe Kollwitz' (Rukeyser, 1968) and Adrienne Rich's 'Cartographies of Silence' (Rich, 1978), this understanding of ekphrasis illuminates its inextricably political dimension, and how the act of communicating across difference is central to what it means to build human connection. I conclude that the act of speaking across difference, and the knowledge that meaning will never be stable in this act of communication, is central to the message of both these poets' ekphrastic work but also in ekphrasis more broadly. This encourages democratic pluralism and understanding across all lines of difference.

Speaker: Emily Jones

Paper title: 'For what could beauty's business be in Murphy's vicinity, if not with Murphy?': Fate and metafiction in Samuel Beckett's Murphy

Abstract: This essay explores the presentation of astrology and insanity in Samuel Beckett's novel, Murphy, and how it examines the themes of fate and agency and the novel's proto-metafictional style. In it, I argue that both astrology and insanity seem to validate Murphy's status as protagonist, but they actually reveal Beckett's presence as an author who is growing increasingly frustrated with his own creation. This includes my own fieldwork where I analyse Murphy's natal chart, an analysis of the asylum that Murphy eventually works at, and close readings to establish the novel's distinct narratorial presence.



Speaker: Lauren Walker

Paper title: Exploring Midlands attitudes towards regional linguistic variation in the UK and Ireland

Abstract: The linguistic and geographic ambiguity of the English Midlands leads to their voices often being overlooked in language identity studies. Previous research has either forced the Midlands to 'pick a side' within the North-South divide, or recognises a lack of, yet need for, a distinctive, Midlands linguistic identity. However, rarely, if at all, is this examined in relation to Midlands' perceptions of others' language use, nor their own. This study aimed to investigate how respondents from the Midlands compared to those of other areas in the UK and Ireland regarding their attitudes towards linguistic variation, in themselves and others. 289 native English speakers from various UK and Irish regions - almost 40% of whom were from the Midlands – participated in a questionnaire which consisted of 20 statements, scored on a 6-point Likert scale. Each pertained to linguistic variation attitudes within the following multi-item scale categories: influence, social judgement, diversity, self-reflection, and standardisation. Data was computed descriptively to view overall trends and responses were statistically analysed via the five multi-item scales to examine disparities and similarities between the Midlands and other regions. The results identified statistically significant trends aligning with previous ideas of Midlands identity, including negative opinions of their own language varieties, yet also discovered new findings, with Midlands holding a less judgmental view of other dialects and regional stereotypes on average. This highlights a need for further cross-linguistic study of liminal areas like the Midlands and their interrelationships both with other UK regional identity groups and amongst themselves.

PANEL 4: LINGUISTICS

Speaker: Abdulaziz Alhussan

Paper title: The influence of the gamified-flipped approach on improving engagement and learning achievements.

Abstract: This study aims to explore the perceptions and attitudes of military cadets toward incorporating technology and teaching strategies under the umbrella of a blended learning approach to deliver an English course. The context of the study is unique because cadets (students) live at the Academy's campus for five days a week experiencing a regimented learning environment without internet access or use of their phones. Moreover, the Academy specifies for cadets when and where to study after school according to a strict daily schedule full of military training and different activities. Consequently, this study aims to investigate the impact of such a challenging environment on learners' achievement and engagement and to what extent the gamified-flipped approach can enhance their learning experience. The main problem that motivates me to conduct the current study is that the English proficiency of the naval officers graduating from the Naval Academy is noticeably weak and there is an observed problem in students' knowledge retention. Thus, the researcher will try to find solutions for these challenges by conducting mixed-method research, starting by investigating the perceptions and attitudes of 100 cadets and 10 instructors towards the current use of the BL approach at the Academy. The findings of this descriptive study will be expanded and further investigated through an experimental study with two groups (control and experimental) to explore how could teaching vocabulary through a web-based platform using the gamification method enhance in-class interactions and cadets' vocabulary achievement in comparison to the control group who are studying the same book through the traditional flipped-teaching approach without gamification.

Speaker: Jennifer Lea

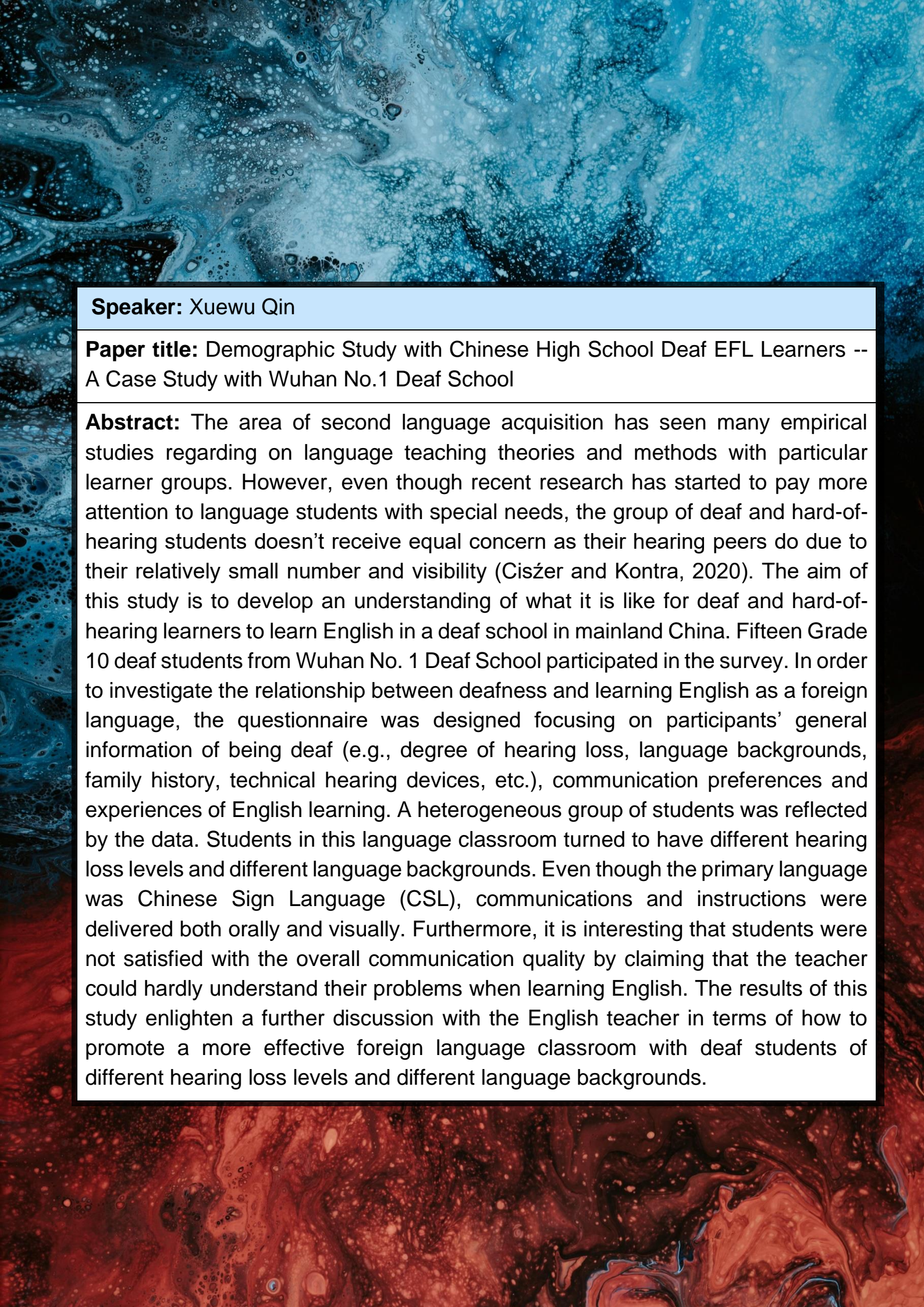
Paper title: Beyond the Archetype: How Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez uses code-switching to engage the electorate and defy expectations of powerful women

Abstract: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) challenges many expectations of American female politicians. She is the youngest woman to become a member of Congress and she comes from a working class background. My study is a Critical Discourse Analysis of the language AOC uses in one of her livestreams, through which I demonstrate that because she does not try to conform to the formal, masculine self-presentation strategies other women politicians have subscribed to, she has avoided the traditional stereotypes of women in power. I also discuss how her use of code-switching enables her to relate to the electorate in a way most politicians do not, and suggest that this marks a shift in the way women in politics are expected to behave and communicate.

Speaker: Beiting Zheng

Paper title: Are we Learning “Textbook English”? A corpus-based study of lexical bundles in English textbooks used in Chinese Secondary Schools

Abstract: This study reports on the analysis of three corpora derived from two of the most widely used sets of textbooks in Chinese secondary schools: the text-only corpus (the minimum required learning goal), the text plus excises corpus and the general text corpus that includes all the model answers for the classroom learning tasks. Lexical bundles (2-, 3- and 4-grams) in those corpora were compared and contrasted with those found in the British National Corpus (BNC). The results show that, although the textbooks only share part of the high frequency lexical bundles with the BNC reference corpus, they carry unique discourse functions in the textbook corpora. This trend is reinforced in the textbook exercises, thus leading to an even greater discrepancy between English in the textbooks and English as found in language corpora. This finding has significant implications for language learners, especially when it comes to using English as a lingua franca in different real world contexts and outside the purely educational setting.



Speaker: Xuewu Qin

Paper title: Demographic Study with Chinese High School Deaf EFL Learners -- A Case Study with Wuhan No.1 Deaf School

Abstract: The area of second language acquisition has seen many empirical studies regarding on language teaching theories and methods with particular learner groups. However, even though recent research has started to pay more attention to language students with special needs, the group of deaf and hard-of-hearing students doesn't receive equal concern as their hearing peers do due to their relatively small number and visibility (Ciszer and Kontra, 2020). The aim of this study is to develop an understanding of what it is like for deaf and hard-of-hearing learners to learn English in a deaf school in mainland China. Fifteen Grade 10 deaf students from Wuhan No. 1 Deaf School participated in the survey. In order to investigate the relationship between deafness and learning English as a foreign language, the questionnaire was designed focusing on participants' general information of being deaf (e.g., degree of hearing loss, language backgrounds, family history, technical hearing devices, etc.), communication preferences and experiences of English learning. A heterogeneous group of students was reflected by the data. Students in this language classroom turned to have different hearing loss levels and different language backgrounds. Even though the primary language was Chinese Sign Language (CSL), communications and instructions were delivered both orally and visually. Furthermore, it is interesting that students were not satisfied with the overall communication quality by claiming that the teacher could hardly understand their problems when learning English. The results of this study enlighten a further discussion with the English teacher in terms of how to promote a more effective foreign language classroom with deaf students of different hearing loss levels and different language backgrounds.

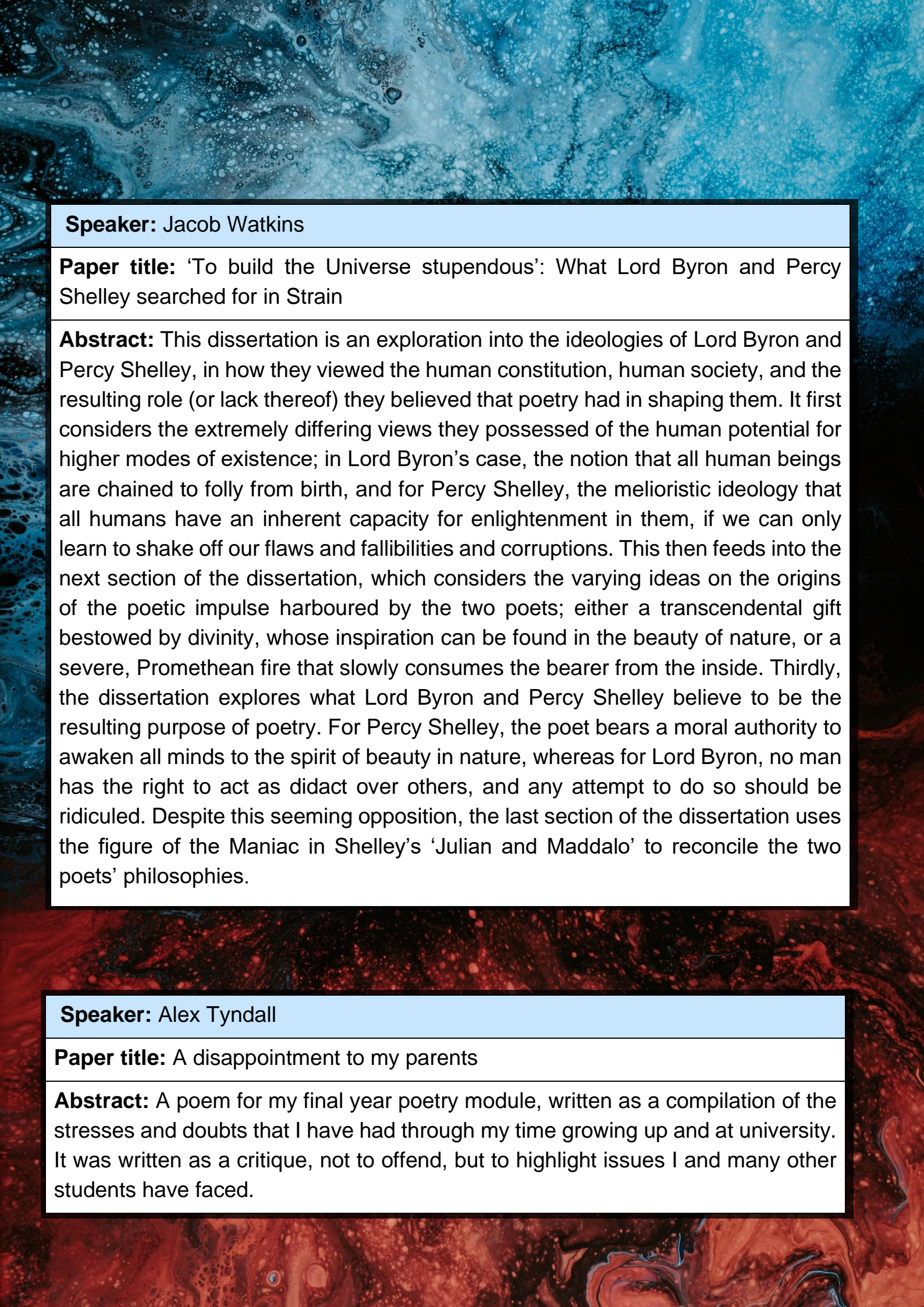


PANEL 5: CREATIVE WRITING

Speaker: Daisy Twizell

Paper title: The relationship between contemporary "Instapoets" and second-wave feminist poetry

Abstract: Critical attention to the "Instapoetry" movement has primarily focused on justifying why it should or should not be considered as genuine poetry, in definitions that tend to be both elitist and sexist. This essay is focused instead on whether the poetic technique in this movement is good, and how it echoes back to specifically second-wave feminist works. I focus on comparing Rupi Kaur's collection 'milk & honey' to Muriel Rukeyser's poem 'The Speed of Darkness'. I analyse recurring themes across the work, including the female body and female silence, and argue that Kaur's entire collection forms an extended poem similar to the sections within Rukeyser's. The essay argues that they belong in the same critical sphere, but does not claim Kaur was directly inspired by Rukeyser.

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Speaker: Jacob Watkins

Paper title: 'To build the Universe stupendous': What Lord Byron and Percy Shelley searched for in Strain

Abstract: This dissertation is an exploration into the ideologies of Lord Byron and Percy Shelley, in how they viewed the human constitution, human society, and the resulting role (or lack thereof) they believed that poetry had in shaping them. It first considers the extremely differing views they possessed of the human potential for higher modes of existence; in Lord Byron's case, the notion that all human beings are chained to folly from birth, and for Percy Shelley, the melioristic ideology that all humans have an inherent capacity for enlightenment in them, if we can only learn to shake off our flaws and fallibilities and corruptions. This then feeds into the next section of the dissertation, which considers the varying ideas on the origins of the poetic impulse harboured by the two poets; either a transcendental gift bestowed by divinity, whose inspiration can be found in the beauty of nature, or a severe, Promethean fire that slowly consumes the bearer from the inside. Thirdly, the dissertation explores what Lord Byron and Percy Shelley believe to be the resulting purpose of poetry. For Percy Shelley, the poet bears a moral authority to awaken all minds to the spirit of beauty in nature, whereas for Lord Byron, no man has the right to act as didact over others, and any attempt to do so should be ridiculed. Despite this seeming opposition, the last section of the dissertation uses the figure of the Maniac in Shelley's 'Julian and Maddalo' to reconcile the two poets' philosophies.

Speaker: Alex Tyndall

Paper title: A disappointment to my parents

Abstract: A poem for my final year poetry module, written as a compilation of the stresses and doubts that I have had through my time growing up and at university. It was written as a critique, not to offend, but to highlight issues I and many other students have faced.

