Motherhood in post-1968 European Women’s Writing
Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Dialogues

Thursday-Saturday 24-26 October 2013
Venue: Senate House, University of London

PROGRAMME

Thursday 24 October 2013

1-1.50 Registration and coffee
1.50 Welcome (Gill Rye)

2-3 **Keynote** (Chair: Claire Williams, Portuguese, St Peters, Cambridge)
Ana Luísa Amaral (Poet/Comparative Literature, Porto): Last Will and Testament: Potatoes and Poetry

3-3.30 Tea

3.30-5 **Parallel Sessions 1**

1a) **Maternal Subjectivities and Becomings** (Chair: Clare Hanson, English, Southampton)
Katarina Carlshamre (French, Stockholm): The Use of Non-mothers in the Reinvention of Mothering: Examples from Two Recent Swedish Mother-Narrative Novels
Alice Podkolinski (Comparative Literature, University College London): Becomings and Goings: Mapping Public and Maternal Spaces in Doris Lessing’s *Marriages Between Zones Three, Four and Five*
Emily Blewitt (English, Cardiff): From the Scaffold: Labouring Mothers in Contemporary Women’s Writing

1b) **Alternative Mothering: Nonbiological and Childless Mothers** (Chair: Adalgisa Giorgio, European Studies, Bath)
Alison Rice (French, Notre Dame): Childless Mothers: Personal Perspectives from Francophone Women Writers
Pamela Fox (English, Georgetown): The ‘Telling Part’: Mirrors, Mothers and Markings in Jackie Kay’s Autobiographical Writing
Orly Corem (Clinical Psychology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Maternal Identity in Raising (Non-Biological) Mothers in Israeli Lesbian Families

1c) **Motherhood as Resistance in a Reality of War** (Chair: Godela Weiss-Sussex, German, IMLR)
Tamar Hager (Education and Gender Studies, Tel Hai): Creating a Maternal Voice: Writing Autobiography as a Feminist Site of Resistance
Miri Rozmarin (Women’s and Gender Studies, Tel-Aviv): Too Close to See: Witnessing Silence and Maternal Subjectivity

5.15- 7.30 **Cassal Trust Author Reading Event** (Chair: Susan Sellers, English, St Andrews)
Eliette Abécassis, Helen Simpson and Birgit Vanderbeke

7.30 **Reception**
Friday 25 October 2013

9-9.45  Registration and coffee

9.45-10.45 **Keynote** (Chair: Alicia Kent, Comparative Literature, KCL)
Christine Battersby (Philosophy, Warwick): Natality, Materiality, Maternity: The Sublime and the Grotesque in Contemporary Sculpture

10.45-11.15 Coffee

11.15-12.45 **Parallel Sessions 2**

2a) **Epigenetics and New Perspectives of Inheritance** (Chair: Gill Rye, French, IMLR)
Clare Hanson (English, Southampton): Reconfiguring Inheritance: *Red Dust Road* as a Post-Genomic Text
Gabriele Griffin (Women’s Studies, York): Identity Matters: Donor Offsprings’ Narratives of Self and their Implications for Epigenetic Debates

2b) **Maternal Taboos and Transgressions** (Chair: Eva Kalivodova, Translation Studies, Prague)
Julie Rodgers (French, Maynooth): Maternal Counternarratives in Contemporary Women’s Writing in French
Antonija Primorac (English, Split): ‘I gave you your life; I can take it away’: Unveiling Motherhood Taboos in the Novels of Slavenka Drakulić
Jean Anderson (French, Victoria-Wellington): ‘The impossible crime?’ Incest, Mothers, Sons and MILFs

2c) **Motherhood, the Law and the State** (Chair: Roberta Guerrina, Politics, Surrey)
Jenny McKay (Independent scholar): Mother Figures and the GDR in the Novels of Julia Franck
Nicola Corkin (Politics & International Relations, Aston): ‘Lord Justice, May I Introduce My Mother’
Anna Smajdor (Ethics, East Anglia): Motherhood and the State

2d) **Motherhood and Contexts of War** (Chair: Joanne Lee, Italian, Warwick)
Maria-José Blanco (Spanish, Kings College London): Motherhood at War: The Impossibility of the ‘Good-Enough Mother’
Owen Heathcote (French, Bradford): Mothers, Daughters and War: Jeanne Hyvrard and Chantal Chawaf
Jane Chelliah (Independent scholar): The Lived Experiences of Tamil Mothers Displaced due to the Sri Lanka War

12.45-2.15 Lunch

2.15-3.45 **Parallel Sessions 3**

3a) **Pregnancy, Labour and Birth** (Chair: Emily Blewitt, English, Cardiff)
Valerie Worth-Stylianou (French, Trinity, Oxford): The Collective Memory and the Appropriation of Birthing Tales from Earlier Centuries
Susannah Sweetman (Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin): Birth Fear and the Subjugation of Women’s Strength: Towards a Broader Conceptualisation of Femininity in Birth
Alison Assiter (Philosophy, West of England): Ontology, Freedom and the Body that can Birth
2.15-3.45  **Parallel Sessions 3 (continued)**

**3b) Motherhood in Television and Theatre** (Chair: Jean Anderson, French, Victoria-Wellington)
- Georgina Ellen O’Brien Hill (English, Chester): ‘Laughter is the Best Medicine’: The Mother in Pain in *One Born Every Minute*
- Elizabeth Lindley (French, Wolfson, Cambridge): Staging Motherhood in Loss and Exile: Maternal Figures in Hélène Cixous’s Theatre

**3c) Motherhood and Death** (Chair: Owen Heathcote, French, Bradford)
- Aureliana Di Rollo (Italian/Linguistics, Monash): Beyond Archetypes: Motherhood, Death and the Mother-Daughter Relationship in Michela Murgia’s *Accabadora*
- Jutta Fortin (French, Vienna): Camille Laurens: The Repetition of the Child’s Death and the ‘Dead Mother’

3.45-4.15  Tea

4.15-5.45  **Parallel sessions 4**

**4a) Motherhood and Disability** (Chair: Chrissie Rogers, Sociology, Aston)
- Sara Ryan (Primary Health Care, Oxford): Changing Mothering Spaces and a Forced Journey into Autoethnography
- Brian Sudlow (French, Aston): ‘Freaks!’: Hurler Syndrome and Other Disabilities in Claire Daudin’s *Le Sourire* (2009) [*The Smile*]
- Harriet Clarke (Social Policy, Birmingham): Gender and Disabled Parents: Reflecting on Social Policy Understandings of Disabled Mothers’ Experiences

**4b) Mothers and Daughters/Mothers and Sons** (Chair: Maria-José Blanco, Spanish, KCL)
- Claire Williams (Portuguese, St Peter’s, Oxford): Educating Rita: Ana Luisa Amaral’s Poems to her Daughter
- Simona Cutcan (French, Maynooth): The Mother/Son Bond in Agota Kristof’s Trilogy
- Mariangela Tartaglione (Gender Studies/Literature, Naples): The Mother-Daughter Bond as a Tragic Topos in Francesca Sanvitale’s and Elena Ferrante’s Narratives

**4c) Motherhood, Writing and the Creative Life** (Chair: Mohar Chaudhuri, French, Calcutta)
- Ozlem Berk Albachten (Translation Studies, Bogazici): Creativity and Motherhood in Elif Shafak’s *Black Milk*
- Melissa Gjellstad (Norwegian, North Dakota): Hard to Love: Mothers in Trude Marstein’s Novels
- Gillian Ni Cheallaigh (French, King’s College London): ‘The Maid Married with Death’: Linda Lé’s Antigonal Refusal of Motherhood

5.50-6.05  **Presentation**: Helen Sargeant: The Egg, the Womb, the Head and the Moon

6.05-6.30  **Performance**: Geneviève Guétemme and Elke Papp (Artists): Moving Mothers

7.30  **Conference dinner** [optional]
Saturday 26 October 2013

9.00-9.45 Registration and coffee

9.45-10.45 **Keynote** (Chair: Gail Lewis, Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck)
Gayle Letherby (Sociology, Plymouth): ‘To Be or Not To Be’ (A Mother): Thinking about Mothers and Others through Literature and Social Science

10.45-11.15 Coffee

11.15-12.45 **Parallel Sessions 5**

**5a) Motherhood and Memory** (Chair: Alison Rice, French, Notre Dame)
Federica Kaufmann Clementi (Jewish Studies, South Carolina): Remember What Amalek Did to Her: Daughters Inscribing the (Forgotten) Mother into the Jewish Story
Nathalie Ségeral (French, Virginia Tech): Memory, Postmemory and Motherhood in Linda Lê’s *l’enfant que je n’aurai pas [To the Child I’ll Never Have]* and Cécile Wajsbrodt’s *Mémorial*

**5b) Motherhood and Violence** (Chair: Ruth Cain, Law, Kent)
Claudia Karagoz (Italian, Saint Louis): Motherhood and Violence in Contemporary Italian Women’s Writing
Helena Forsås-Scott (Swedish, University College London): Motherhood, Violence and Narration in Kerstin Ekman’s *City of Light and Blackwater*
Iris Brey (French, New York): An Incestuous Mother in Eva Ionesco’s Film *My Little Princess*

**5c) Narrative Strategies and Negotiations of Motherhood** (Chair: Susie Bainbrigge, French, Edinburgh)
Laura Lazzari (Italian, Franklin College): To Be a Mother at Any Cost in Contemporary Italian Society and Literature

12.45-2 **AHRC Network Collaboration Lunch**

2-3.30 **Parallel Sessions 6**

**6a) Maternal Temporalities** (Chair: Victoria Browne, Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes/IMLR)
Lisa Baraitser (Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck): Time and Again: Repetition, Persistence and the Return of the Life Drive
Gail Lewis (Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck): Out of Time: Undesiring and Desiring Maternal Subjectivity
Stella Sandford (Philosophy, Kingston): The Time of Maternal Labour

**6b) Public and Private Narratives of Motherhood and Mothering** (Chair: Ozlem Berk Albachten, Translation Studies, Istanbul)
Denisa-Adriana Oprea (French, Bucharest): Between the Heroine Mother and the Absent Woman
Elizabeth Challinor (Anthropology, Minho): Cape Verdean Mothering: Practices, Meanings and Moralities
Iren Annus (English & American Studies/Gender Studies, Szeged): ‘Money is best counted, women are best beaten’: Contemporary Political Discourses on Motherhood in Hungary
Saturday 26 October 2013 (continued)

2-3.30 Parallel Sessions 6

6c) Representation and Subverting Stereotypes (Chair: Abigail Lee Six, Hispanic Studies, QMUL)
Valerie Heffernan (German, Maynooth): Unfit Mothers? Teen Motherhood in Contemporary German-
language Literature
Walter Geerts (Italian & Comparative Literature, Antwerp): Simona Vinci's Mothers and Non-
Mothers
Susie Bainbrigge (French, Edinburgh): Motherhood and Mental Health in Lydia Salvayre’s La
Compagnie des spectres (2007) [The Company of Ghosts]

3.30-3.50 Short tea break

3.50-4.40 Round-Table (Chair: Lisa Baraitser, Psycho-Social Studies, Birkbeck)
Ana Luísa Amaral (Comparative Literature, Porto); Christine Battersby (Philosophy, Warwick);
Roberta Guerrina (Politics, Surrey); Gayle Letherby (Sociology, Plymouth)

CLOSE

The following exhibits will be on show in the Grand Lobby during the conference:

Representing Motherhood: Book Cover Artwork (Senate House Library/Centre for the Study of Contemporary
Women’s Writing)

No-Ma (Laura Cuch)

The Egg, the Womb, the Head and the Moon (Helen Sargeant and MeWe)

A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich (Shelley Rae)

21.10.13