

## 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*  
Ruth Cain (Law, Kent): *Risk, Choice and the Toxic Womb: 'Obesogenic' Maternal Behaviour and the Rhetoric of the New Degeneration*

**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*

Friday 25 October 2013(continued)

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*

Victoria Browne (Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes/IGRS): Maternal Subjectivity and Prenatal Death: Perspectives from Feminist Philosophy

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 Luísa 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 Lê'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

9-9.45 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  
Katie Stone (German, Cambridge): History, Memory and Making Sense of Motherhood in Twenty-First-Century Germany: Tanja Dücker's *Himmelskörper* [*Celestial Bodies*] (2003)  
Nathalie Ségeral (French, Virginia Tech): Memory, Postmemory and Motherhood in Linda Lê's *À l'enfant que je n'aurai pas* [*To the Child I'll Never Have*] and Cécile Wajsbrot'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)  
Marie-Noëlle Huet (Literature, Québec-Montreal): Filling the Void: Motherhood and Writing in Christine Angot's *Léonore, toujours* [*Léonore, always*] (1993) and Karine Reyssset's *L'Inattendue* [*The Unexpected*] (2003)  
Laura Lazzari (Italian, Franklin College): To Be a Mother at Any Cost in Contemporary Italian Society and Literature  
Gill Rye (French, IMLR) : Who's the 'Real' Mother? Surrogacy in France – Valérie Gans's *L'Enfant des nuages* (2009) [*Child from the Clouds*]

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 Luisa 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