

Workshop 1 Participants

Maria-José Blanco's research interests lie in Contemporary Spanish writers, with a special focus on Women Writers and Life-Writing. Her PhD thesis (UCL) focused on the use of life-writing and writing as therapy in the work of Carmen Martín Gaité (1925-2000), her Cuadernos de todo, and her 1990s novels. Her thesis will be soon published by Tamesis. Maria-José edited a special issue of the *Journal of Romance Studies* on the theme of diaries written by women in the Luso-Hispanic world. She has organised, amongst others, a conference to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Carmen Martín Gaité's death in December 2010, one on perceptions of death in Europe and the Americas: 'The Carnival of Death' in February 2011, and one on 'Women's Life-Writing in the Luso-Hispanic World'. At the IGRS she has convened the Contemporary Women's Writing in Spanish seminars and Reading Group, and since July 2010 was the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Romance Studies*. Maria-José teaches twentieth century Spanish Literature at King's College London.

Ruth Cain is a Lecturer in Law at the University of Kent. She has a PhD in English Literature, has studied and taught both English Literature and Law, and takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law. Her particular interests are in legal and cultural definitions of maternity, and mental health law. She is currently working on two projects: a book on legal and cultural representations of maternal neglect and abuse in present-day neoliberal states, and an article on the overlapping of New Right and New Age philosophies in welfare reform policy, particularly as these impact on the mentally ill and those suffering from 'invisible' disabilities.

Deborah Cameron is Professor of Language and Communication in the English Faculty at Oxford. Previously, she has worked at Roehampton University in London, Strathclyde University in Glasgow, the Institute of Education in London and the College of William and Mary in Virginia, USA, has held visiting professorships at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and New York University, USA, and has been a visiting fellow at the University of Technology Sydney in Australia. In 2007 she published *The Myth of Mars and Venus*, a general-interest book about language and gender differences, parts of which were serialized in *The Guardian* newspaper. Deborah has contributed to numerous BBC radio programmes, including Woman's Hour, Word of Mouth, Thinking Allowed and Fry's English Delight, and reviews books about language for *The Guardian*. For many years, she was involved in producing and writing the feminist magazine *Trouble & Strife*, and in 2009 she co-edited (with Joan Scanlon) *The Trouble & Strife Reader*, a selection of classic articles from the magazine's twenty-year output. She continues to contribute to the *Trouble & Strife* website and blog, and to give talks about feminism to student and community groups. The professional groups Deborah has been invited to talk to or write for on language-related subjects include school teachers, architects, experts in health and social care, market researchers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and the cast of an RSC production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. She has also performed—though so far only once—a linguistic stand up comedy routine.

Elizabeth Challinor, associate researcher at the Centre for Research in Social Anthropology, University of Minho (CRIA/UM) in Portugal, is originally from a literary background (French and Spanish, BA Oxford 1988) and became interested in Anthropology after living in Angola (1988-1992) where she worked for a Portuguese NGO (1990-1992). She has an MA in Rural Social Development (University of Reading 1993), and in Applied Social Anthropology

(University of Sussex 1995), and a PhD (Sussex 2001) on the anthropology of development in Cape Verde. On a personal note, her experiences of home childbirth in Brighton and of motherhood in general, led to the publication of short stories on motherhood and maternity (Edições Temas, 1997) and of a birth narrative on her experience of hospitalized birth in Portugal (2012). The latter resulted in the development of new research interests, focusing, since 2008, on migrant Cape Verdean students' experiences of maternity and motherhood in Portugal, conducting interviews and examining their institutionalized encounters with health professionals and social workers addressing issues related to governmentality, gender and identity. She has published various articles, in books (Demeter Press, Carolina Academic Press) and journals (*Ellipsis*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Etnográfica*, *Saúde e Sociedade*, *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*).

Maria Luisa Coelho has recently submitted her PhD in Comparative Literature from Universidade do Minho, Portugal, and she has been a part-time Lecturer in the History of Art Department, University of Reading, where she teaches contemporary art and theory. Her PhD is entitled 'The Feminine in Contemporary Art: Representation and Contamination in the Work of Helen Chadwick, Michèle Roberts and Helena Almeida' and focuses on representations of the female body in literature and art produced by British and Portuguese women. She is particularly interested in the way the female body is articulated in self-representation, as well as with the grotesque and the sacred, and its ability to express hybridism and liminality. She also works on representations of maternal bodies and the relation between female corporeality and the domestic and private sphere. Publications include "'Gorgeously repulsive, exquisitely fun, dangerously beautiful": Dog Women, Monstrous Births and Contemporary Women's Art', in *Dark Reflections, Monstrous Reflections: Essays on the Monster in Culture* (2007), and 'Homeland, Mother-land and Imaginary Places: Michèle Roberts and Helen Chadwick's Interpretations', in *Interpreting, Representing and Recording: Papers of the post-graduate conference held at the University of Warwick 9-10 June 2006*.

Helena Forsås-Scott is Professor of Swedish and Gender Studies at University College London (retired 2010), and researches chiefly on twentieth-century Swedish texts by women with an emphasis on narrative, subjectivity, intermediality and ecocriticism. She is the author of *Swedish Women's Writing 1850-1995* (1997), and *Re-Writing the Script: Gender and Community in Elin Wägner* (2009), and her edited volumes include *Textual Liberation: European Feminist Writing in the Twentieth Century* (1991) and *Gender - Power - Text: Nordic Culture in the Twentieth Century* (2004). She is currently co-editor of *Re-Mapping Lagerlöf: Performance, Intermediality and European Transmission* and of *The Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Nordic Culture* and co-ordinator of 'Selma Lagerlöf in English' (Norvik Press, London, 2011).

Amber Jacobs is a Lecturer in Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London. Her book *On Matricide: Myth, Psychoanalysis and the Law of the Mother* (Columbia University Press, 2008) is a feminist intervention into psychoanalysis via the theorisation of a 'maternal law'. Her current work in feminist philosophy addresses visual culture and cinema with particular reference to Luce Irigaray's work on alternative imaginaries. She is also involved in radio broadcasting and public film screening events.

Eva Kalivodová PhD. is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Translation Studies of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Charles University, Prague. She combines her research interest in the history of Czech translation with her ongoing work in gender literary history, with particular

attention to the gender dynamic of original works and their contexts, and its possible changes in the translation and its reception. In 2010, she published results of this kind of research in Czech, in *Browningová nebo Klášterský? Krásnohorská nebo Byron? O rodu v životě literatury* (*Barrett Browning or Klášterský? Krásnohorská or Byron? On Gender in the Life of Literature*). Among other published projects, she has co-authored and co-edited a Czech anthology focusing on motherhood as a social and cultural phenomenon, theme and metaphor: *V bludném kruhu. Mateřství a vychovatelství jak paradoxy modernity* (*In the Vicious Circle: Motherhood and Education as the Paradoxes of Modernity*, 2006). In 1994-2006, she edited *Jedním okem* (*One Eye Open*), a bilingual Czech-English journal for a dialogue on women, men and society. She also works as a translator. She is a member of The Association of Czech Translators, and she is on the international editorial board of *The European Journal of Women's Studies*.

Máire Ní Annracháin was appointed Professor of Modern Irish in University College Dublin, having lectured for many years at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. Her academic interests are modern Irish and Scottish Gaelic literature and the development of literary theory for the analysis of Gaelic literature. Her particular focus is on the figurative language of Gaelic poetry in the post-bardic period, and the recuperation of tradition in modernist and postmodernist Gaelic literature. Most of her publications have been in Irish. Recent articles have analysed the work of Brian Merriman, Sorley Maclean, Biddy Jenkinson, Máirtín Ó Cadhain and Seán Ó Ríordáin, as well as the recently renewed connections between Irish and Scottish Gaelic literature. Her most recent article in English is 'Affinities in Time and Space: Reading the Gaelic Poetry of Ireland and Scotland' in *Modern Irish and Scottish Poetry* (Cambridge UP, 2011). Her doctoral dissertation was on the poetry of the twentieth-century Scottish Gaelic poet Sorley Maclean, published as *Aisling agus Tóir: an slánú i bhfilíocht Shomhairle MhicGill-Eain* (Má Nuad: An Sagart 1992). An early article, 'Ait liom bean a bheith ina file', published in 1983, is acknowledged as having introduced feminist criticism into Gaelic literature. She sits on the Irish Language committee of the Royal Irish Academy and is a director of the Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Awards include a senior fellowship from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, two Royal Irish Academy travel awards, and most recently a Caledonian Foundation European Visiting Research Fellowship from the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Mazal Oaknin was born in Almeria, Spain, but she soon grew tired of greenhouses and set off to discover new places while gaining university degrees. After an unforgettable voyage around Malaga, Birmingham, upstate New York and Paris, Mazal established herself in London in 2007. Amongst her luggage she had a BA in Translation, an MA in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language and a good deal of experience (and patience) as a Spanish teacher. Since then, Mazal has gained an MA in Hispanic Studies (UCL), and besides teaching Spanish language and literature at UCL and Birkbeck, she has published and presented various papers at Especulo, ALEPH, WISPS e IGRS, among others. Mazal still lives in London, where she works, studies and enjoys herself. She cannot wait to finish her doctoral thesis 'Women's Literature and Public Reception' (UCL).

Cláudia Pazos-Alonso is a Lecturer in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, University of Oxford and a Fellow of Wadham College. Her main expertise lies in the field of nineteenth and twentieth century Lusophone literary and gender studies. Research interests include: prose and poetry;

genre and gender; canon-formation; the role of literature in post-colonial representations of the nation. Her publications include the monograph *Imagens do Eu na Poesia de Florbela Espanca* (1997); the co-edited volumes *Closer to the Wild Heart. Essays of Clarice Lispector* (with Claire Williams, 2002); *A Companion to Portuguese Literature* (2009 with Stephen Parkinson and T.F.Earle). Her most recent book, jointly authored with Hilary Owen, is entitled *Antigone's Daughters?* (2011) and examines twentieth century Portuguese women's writing. Her next research project, provisionally entitled 'Between Portugal and Paris: modernity and negotiations of identity in Portuguese literature (1890-1915)', investigates the crises of masculinity in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Portugal, in the broader context of European *fin de siècle* and modernist aesthetics.

Laura Rorato is Senior Lecturer in Italian at Bangor University. Her research areas are: the perception of space and the representation of the city in contemporary fiction, cultural memory and questions of identity representations of childhood, and the relationship between word and image. Publications include: *The Essence of the Margin: National Identities and Collective Memories in Contemporary European Culture* (co-edited with Anna Saunders, Rodopi, 2009); *Letteratura come fantastizzazione: in conversazione con Gianni Celati* (co-edited with Marina Spunta, Edwin Mellen Press, 2009); 'Dalla fabbrica al call centre: la smaterializzazione della metropoli contemporanea', (co-authored with Claudio Brancaleoni, *Narrativa*, 31-32, 2010); 'Tra fantastizzazione e realtà: l'impegno di Luciano Boccardini', in *Boccardini a tutto tondo* (Aguaplano, 2010); 'Per una poetica dell'infanzia nell'era della globalizzazione: Se entri nel cerchio sei libero di Antonella Ossorio e Adama Zoungrana e Il catalogo dei giocattoli di Sandra Petrigiani', in *Identità italiana e civiltà globale all'inizio del ventunesimo secolo* (Kar, 2011).

Claudia Sechi earned a degree in Italian Literature from the University of Sassari in Italy in 2008. Her thesis was entitled 'Irene Brin, an eccentric writer of the twentieth century'. Following this, she published the article 'Irene Brin tra invenzione del sé e scritture letterarie' (*DWF*, 2: 82). She is currently doing an MPhil/PhD in Politics, Languages & International Studies at the University of Bath. Her academic research interests concern Contemporary Italian Women's Writing, Women's Studies, Post-colonial Studies, Balkan Studies, Ancient Literature and Languages.

Eija Sevón is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Education at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The focus of her dissertation was to study how first-time mothers narrate and make sense of their new motherhood (Sevón, 2009). The study was longitudinal and consisted of four interview sessions each with seven Finnish first-time mothers. By taking a narrative approach it was possible to study how new mothers make sense of the beginning of their motherhood. In addition to maternal responsibility and the morality of maternal narratives, her dissertation discusses women's choices in becoming mothers, problematic female family ties, and the gendering of parenthood at the beginning of motherhood. Her present research project is focused on young children's daily family life, family relationships, well-being and parenting. Publications include: "My life has changed, but his life hasn't": Making sense of the gendering of parenthood during the transition to motherhood', (in *Feminism & Psychology* 22 :1, 2012); *Maternal responsibility and changing relationality at the beginning of motherhood*, (Jyväskylä Studies in Education, Psychology and Social Research, 2009); 'Narrating ambivalence of maternal responsibility', in (*Sociological Research Online* 12:2, 2007); 'Problematic woman-to-woman family relations', (with Notko, M. in *European Journal of*

Women's Studies 13:2, 2006); 'Timing motherhood: Experiencing and narrating the choice to become a mother' (in *Feminism & Psychology* 15:4, 2005).

Mariangela Tartaglione completed an MA degree with distinction at the University of Naples 'Federico II', with a thesis in Italian Contemporary Literature entitled 'Attraversando Lalla Romano: il materno in *Le parole tra noi leggere* e *L'ospite*', which focused on the representation of motherhood in Romano's narratives. Currently, she is enrolled in the second year of the PhD program in Gender Studies (literary path) at the University of Naples 'Federico II'. Her research focuses on the forms of representation of motherhood in the Italian literary tradition, with particular reference to the crucial topic of the mother-daughter bond in women's narratives of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Her PhD research is carried out in light of a multidisciplinary methodological approach, which combines different analytic paradigms emerging from post-1968 philosophical and psychoanalytical debates, and through the instruments for a narratological analysis. Forthcoming publications include: 'La tragedia del materno: Lalla Romano e *Le parole tra noi leggere*'; 'La penombra della memoria: un archivio di parole e immagini nella narrativa di Lalla Romano'; 'La città «molesta» di Elena Ferrante', (forthcoming in XII MOD International Conference_Modern Literature Studies).

Pat Thane is Research Professor in Contemporary History at Kings College, London. Her publications include: *Maternity and Gender Policies. Women and the Rise of the European Welfare States, 1880s-1950s* (co-edited with Gisela Bock, Routledge, 1991); *Old Age in English History. Past Experiences, Present Issues* (Oxford University Press, 2000); *Women and Ageing in Britain since 1500* (co-edited with Lynne Botelho, Longman, 2001); *Unequal Britain. Equalities in Britain since 1945* (Continuum, 2010); *Women and Citizenship in Britain and Ireland in the Twentieth Century. What Difference did the Vote Make?* (co-edited with Esther Breitenbach, Continuum, 2010).