

The Essay: Present Histories, Present Futures

Programme

University of Malta Valletta Campus

11-13 April 2019

Thursday 11 April 2019

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Mario Aquilina, Welcome Address and Introduction

09:30-10:30 **Panel 1: The Essay in the Nineteenth Century (Stevenson)**

R. L. Abrahamson, “‘Just R. L. S. talking’”: Robert Louis Stevenson as Familiar Essayist’ (University of Maryland)

Richard Dury, ‘The Essays of Robert Louis Stevenson: The Author’s Special Relationship with the Reader’ (Università degli studi di Bergamo)

Panel 2: The Essay: Between Empathy and Ideas

Jurrit Daalder, ‘First Person: Authority, Voice and the Personal Essay’ (Trinity College Dublin)

Rachel Baldacchino, ‘Beyond the Essay as Mind-flanerie: Vernon Lee and the Anesthetics of Roaming’ (University of Leuven)

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break #1

11:00-12:00 **Plenary 1**

Uttara Natarajan, ‘The Essay in Romanticism’ (Goldsmiths, University of London)

12:00-13:15 Lunch Break

13:15-14:15 **Panel 3: The Essay and Place**

Kevin Grace, ‘The Urban Life Essay, Global Commonalities, and the Memoir Response’ (University of Cincinnati)

Stefan Lindinger and Evi Petropoulou, ‘Travelling in Greece: Jakob Philipp Fallmerayer, *Der Berg Athos*, and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, *Augenblicke in Griechenland*’ (University of Athens)

Panel 4: The Essay and Modernism

Eric Tiffin, ‘The Essay as Aphorism as Doubt, 1880-1920’ (University of Cambridge)

Elisa Fortunato, ‘Aldous Huxley and the Art of the Essay’ (Università di Bari)

14:15-16:15 **Panel 5: Theory and Poetics of the Essay 1**

Erin Plunkett, ‘The Essay, Scepticism and Phenomenology’ (Hertfordshire University)

Thomas Karshan, 'What is an Essay? Some Answers from Virginia Woolf's "Street-Haunting"' (University of East Anglia)

Andrea Milanko, 'The Essay: A History of Challenges to Reality' (University of Zagreb)

Panel 6: Comparative Approaches to the Essay 1

Patrick Madden, 'Lessons from the Essay's Past and Surprising Connections to the Present' (Brigham Young University)

Cristina Consiglio, "'The first poet of the world": Ralph Waldo Emerson reads Shakespeare' (Università di Bari)

Keegan O'Connor, 'The Poetics of Abandonment: Sir Thomas Browne in the Essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson' (University of Melbourne)

Amira Aloui, "'No Sovereignty": The Essay(s) Onstage and Shakespeare's Montaigne' (University of Szeged)

16:15-16:45 Coffee Break #2

16:45-17:45 **Panel 7: Crossing Over in the Essay: An Experiment in Joined Composition**

Mary Cappello (University of Rhode Island)

Melina Harvey (Monash University)

Maria Tumarkin (University of Melbourne)

Jean Walton (University of Rhode Island)

Friday 12 April 2019

09:00-11:00 **Panel 8: The Essay Beyond Words**

Maria Frendo, 'On Transgression as Transcendence: Essayistic Poetics in selected works by Dmitri Shostakovich and Joseph Vella' (University of Malta)

Aija Laura Zivitere, 'Diffractive Cinema and the Essay Film: The Case of Ai Weiwei's "Human Flow"' (Information Systems Management Institute)

Jasper Delbecke, 'Tracing the Essay in Contemporary Theatre and Performance' (Ghent University)

Hal Sundt, 'Giving Up the Ghost – The role of the Essay in Literary Journalism' (Oberlin College)

Panel 9: The Essay and Cultural Context

Kristin Rozzell Murray, 'Native American Women's Essays: Speaking to the Reader Privately and Communally'

Albert Göschl, 'The Bitter Essay: Influences of English Studies on the Italian Essay' (University of Graz)

Zeng Ying, 'The Essay and Creative Nonfiction in China' (Shandong University, Weihai)

Rima Bertasaviciute, 'Constructing a Literature-Specific Theory of the Essay: The Case of Lithuania' (University of Vilnius)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break #3

11:30-12:30 **Plenary 2**

Neil Badmington, 'Barthes and the Essay' (Cardiff University)

12:30-13:45 Lunch Break

13:45-15:15 **Panel 10: Theory and Poetics of the Essay 2**

Robin Hemley, 'The Speculative Essay and Fact Irrelevance' (University of Iowa)

Leila Philip, 'The Necessity of Speculative Nonfiction' (Ashland University)

Mark Miscovich, 'How Much Fiction can Creative Nonfiction Handle? Exploring the Limits of the Essay' (Freelance Translator)

Panel 11: Queering the Essay

Allen Durgin, 'Wallace Stevens and the Queer Performativity of the Essay' (Columbia University)

Glenn Michael Gordon, 'The Essay as Trans* Body' (Columbia University)

Aaron Aquilina, 'The Queer Essay: Margins and Marginality in Jean Genet' (Lancaster University)

15:15-15:45 Coffee Break # 4

15:45-17:15 **Panel 12: Pedagogies of the Essay**

Nicole Wallack, 'Making the case for an Essay-Centred Curriculum in the 21st Century' (Columbia University)

Aaron Ritzenberg, 'Teaching the Essay, Teaching Citizenship' (Columbia University)

Eric Dean Rasmussen, 'Ecological thinking via the Literary Essay, or, Writing for the Environmental Humanities' (University of Stavanger)

Panel 13: The Essay and the Contemporary 1

James Corby, 'An Essay on the Post-Literary' (University of Malta)

Jason Childs, 'The Post-Fictional Essay' (University of Technology, Sydney)

Michael Askew, "'The Lyric I': The Position of the Self in the Essays of Eliot Weinberger' (LDC - Postgraduate Researcher)

Evening

Conference Dinner

Saturday 13 April 2019**09:00-10:00 Panel 14: The Essay and the Contemporary 2**

Krista Bonello Rutter Giappone and Lasse Olavi Ulven, “‘We stumble and blunder for better results’: Punk Essays and the Language of Authenticity’ (University of Malta)

Nóra Máthé, ‘Understanding Tragedy: The American Essay and its Attempts to Discuss 9/11’ (Babes-Bolyai University)

Panel 15: The Essay and Romanticism

Paolo Bugliani, ‘A Poetics of the Familiar: Hazlitt, Hogarth and the Essay as a Genre’ (Università di Pisa)

Daniel Lago Monteiro, ‘Memory and Literary Persona in Machado de Assis’ Chronicles and in Charles Lamb’s Essays’ (State University of Sao Paolo)

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break #5

10:30-11:30 Plenary 3

Ivan Callus, ‘Tone and the Essay’ (University of Malta)

11:30-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-15:00 Panel 16: Contemporary Debates About the Essay

David Lazar and Patrick Madden, ‘Essays in the Time of Late Capitalism: Is the Essay Oversold?’ (Columbia College, Chicago and Brigham Young University)

Barrie Jean Borich, ‘Radical Surprise: On the Art of Uncertainty’ (DePaul University)

Ned Stuckey-French, ‘Lyricism and the Future of the Essay’ (Florida State University)

Bob Cowser Jr., ‘When Creative Nonfiction Isn’t Essayistic: John Hersey’s Hiroshima and Emplotting Experience’ (St. Lawrence University)

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break #6

15:30-16:00 Open Floor for Concluding Observations

16:00-16:40 Publishing Your Research about the Essay

16:40-16:50 Conclusion

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