

# *Transgressive Textualities*

International Postgraduate Symposium  
Intercontinental Hotel, St. Julian's, Malta  
20-21 May 2016

Organised by  
The Department of English  
University of Malta

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## **Friday 20 May**

**9.00 – Welcome Coffee & Registration**

**9.15 – Welcome Address by Dr James Corby (Head of Department, University of Malta)**

**9.30 – 11.00 - Panels 1 & 2**

### **Panel 1 – Locating the Transgressive through Philosophy (9.30 – 11.00)**

Chair: Haythem Bastawy

Kurt Borg (Staffordshire University) – Vulnerability as Transgression: Judith Butler, Self-Narration and Trauma

James Farrugia (University of Malta) – Children's Corner: (Anti-) Natalist Transgressions

Megumi Chou (Durham University) – 'Jesus Christ is Free Trade': Irony, Anxiety, and Freedom in Amitav Ghosh's *Sea of Poppies*

### **Panel 2 – Transgressive Exiles (9.30 – 11.00)**

Chair: Lydia Hope Ricards

Francesco Frendo (University of Malta) – Transgressing the Periphery: Rights, Refugees and the Limits of the Nation-state

Kayleigh Sacco (University of Malta) – Textualities of Exile

**11.00 – 11.30 – Coffee Break**

## **Academic Panel on Transgressive Textualities (11.30 – 13.00)**

Chair: Dr Giuliana Fenech

Participants:

Prof. Clare Vassallo (Department of Translation Studies, University of Malta)

Dr Adrian Grima (Department of Maltese, University of Malta)

Prof. Frank Camilleri (Department of Theatre Studies, University of Malta)

Dr Kathrin Schoedel (Department of German, University of Malta)

### **13.00 – 14.00 Break for Lunch**

## **14.00 – 15.00 – Keynote Address – Prof. Avra Sidiropoulou (Open University of Cyprus) – Dramaturgy in Action: Texts *in* and *as* Performance**

Chair: Maria Theuma

### **15.00 – 16.30 - Panels 3 & 4**

## **Panel 3 – Gender Associations with Transgression (15.00 – 16.30)**

Chair: Geraldine Sammut

Lara Cortis (University of Malta) – “Mn”: Transgressive 'Penelope'

Maria Theuma & Luke Azzopardi (University of Malta) – ‘If U Seek Amy’: Deciphering Britney Spears and Understanding the Virtual Consumption of Female Pop Stardom

## **Panel 4 – Form and Transgression (15.00 – 16.30)**

Chair: Lorraine Stagno

Haythem Bastawy (Leeds Trinity University) – Artistic Transgression as a Means for Breaking with Tradition: Reading Beardsley, Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Elizabeth Micallef (University of Malta) – Transgressive Textualities in *Seiobo There Below*, the Mann Booker International Award Book for 2015

Claudine Bollinger (University of Bern) – Transgressing Ontologies: The Uncanny in the Storyworld of *Welcome to Night Vale*

### **16.30 – 17.00 – Coffee Break**

**17.00 – 18.30 – Panels 5 & 6**

**Panel 5 – Digital and Print Paradigms of the Transgressive (17.00 – 18.30)**

Chair: Jonathan Harrington

Francesca Borg Taylor East (University of Malta) – Subcultures in Second Life: From Transgression to the Norm

John Ambrogio (University of Malta) – Objectification or Signification: The Paradox of the Photographic Image

Clara Chetcuti (University of Malta) - Enc0d1ng Poetry: On the Transgressive Materiality of Proto and Early Code Poetry

**Panel 6 – Transgressive Bodies and Representations (17.00 – 18.30)**

Chair: Pauline Fenech

Maria Pansidou (University of Malta) – Pain Management and Palliative Care: A Study of Pain in Sophocles' *Philoctetes* or How a Disabled Hero Saves the Day

Ben Mifsud Joslin (University of Malta) – 'I thought you was keeping it gangsta': Transgressive Representations of the African-American in Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly*

Jessica Micallef (University of Malta) – 'Better to Reign in Hell, than Serve in Heav'n' – The Use and Abuse of Text in *House of Cards*

**18.30 – End**

**20.00 – Optional Conference Dinner**

## **Saturday 21 May**

**9.00 – Welcome Coffee & Registration**

### **9.30 – 10.30 - Keynote Address: Dr Michael Greaney (University of Lancaster) - Sleep, Transgression, and the Novel**

Chair: Joseph St John

**10.30 – Coffee break**

**11.00 – 13.00 - Panels 7 & 8**

### **Panel 7 – Laughing, Eating, Playing Transgression (11.00 – 13.00)**

Chair: Lorella Fava

Christine Caruana (University of Malta) – ‘What Can’t Be Cured Must Be Endured’: Transgressive Humour in the World of Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*

Pauline Fenech (University of Malta) – ‘Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are.’ Transgressive Eating - Eating the Inedible

Jonathan Harrington (University of Malta) – Playing Bully: The Event of Art

Kathleen Vella (University of Malta) – Pedro Almodóvar’s Treatment of Transgression: Transgressing the Transgressive

### **Panel 8 – Transgression in Medieval, Victorian and Modern Times (11.00 – 13.00)**

Chair: Kayleigh Sacco

Alexander Abichou (Durham University) – Mutilation, Displacement and Disarticulation: The Function of Metatextuality and Compilation in John Gower’s *Confessio Amantis* (1390) and the Works of Jorge Luis Borges (1899 – 1986)

Joseph St John (University of Malta) – Perspectives in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*: A Medieval Transgressive Text?

Hazel Monforton (Durham University) – Antigone’s Words: Feminist Resistance in *The Years* (1937) and *Three Guineas* (1938)

Geraldine Sammut (University of Malta) – Transgression of Narrative Frameworks in the Fictions of John Banville

**13.00 – 14.30 - Lunch**

**14.30 – 15.30 – Keynote Address: Dr Mario Aquilina (University of Malta) - Text Generation: Calling Literature into Question**

Chair: Clara Chetcuti

**15.30 – 17.00 – Panels 9 & 10**

**Panel 9 – Screening Transgression (15.30-17.00)**

Chair: Ben Mifsud Joslin

Lydia Hope Ricards (University of Malta) – Norman Bates and His Persona: A Critical Analysis of Norman Bates from Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*

Glen Bonnici – (University of Malta) – Film Adaptation as Transgression

Anthea Formosa (University of Malta) – Protheses in Media: A Transgressive Representation

**Panel 10 – Participating in Transgression (15.30 – 17.00)**

Chair: Amy Webb

José Blázquez (University of Nottingham) – Participatory Storyworlds: Models of Collaborative Textual Production Beyond the Entertainment Industry

Maria Chiara Bartolo (University of Malta) – Transgressive Accelerationism through Mechanic Totalitarianism

**17.00 – Closing Address & Thanks**

**17.15 – End of Symposium**