

Craft, Creativity, Critique
A Department of English International Postgraduate Symposium
University of Malta

27-28th March 2023
Valletta Campus
12.00-19.00

Email: englishpgsymposium@um.edu.mt
Website: <https://www.um.edu.mt/events/craftcreativity2023/>

Monday 27 March

12.00 – Welcome & Registration

12.15 – Welcome Address by Prof. James Corby (University of Malta)

12.30 – 14.00 – Panels 1 & 2

Panel 1 – Consuming Media, Producing Voices (12.30 – 14.00)

Chair: Megan Mallia

Jeremy Mallia (University of Malta) – Criticism and the Consumer

Francesca Xuereb (University of Malta) – Video Essays as a Creative Form of Public Discourse

Micaela Sant (University of Malta) – The Voice of Resistance: How the Female Voice Can Be Used to Craft a Space for Females

Panel 2 – Textual Lives, Textual Spaces (12.30 – 14.00)

Chair: Sandy Calleja Portelli

Ambrose Galea (University of Malta) – Spaces, Places and Entanglements: Creative Space in Ottessa Moshfegh's *My Year of Rest of Relaxation*

Michaela Hayes (University of Edinburgh) – Experimental Memoirs as Epistemologies: Restructuring the Archive with Carmen Maria Machado's *In the Dream House*

Nicole Sellew (University of St Andrew's) – On Reading and Writing Autofiction

14.00 – 14.30 – Break

14.30 – 15.30 – Roundtable on ‘Crafting Anglophone Creative Writing’

Chair: Prof. Ivan Callus

Participants:

Prof. Norbert Bugeja (Department of English, University of Malta)

Dr Abigail Zammit (Independent Writer/ Junior College)

Prof. Gordon Calleja (Institute of Digital Games, University of Malta)

Dr Caroline Cauchi Smailes (University of Liverpool John Moores)

15.30 – 17.30 – Panels 3 & 4

Panel 3 – Form and Critique (15.30 – 17.30)

Chair: Christabel Vassallo

Isabel Mallia (University of Malta) – Literary Criticism Regenerated

Jeremy Gatt (University of Malta) – Potentiality and the Craft of Critique

Melissa Mawdsley (University of Malta) – Authorship in Multimodal Electronic Literature

Michaela Flaherty (University of Edinburgh) - "Yeah, Another Day, Let's Do It": Sadcomedic Audiovisual Innovation as an Intermedial Tool in *BoJack Horseman*'s Campaign for Mental Health.

Panel 4 – Techniques of Creativity (15.30 – 17.30)

Chair: Daniel Cini

Alina Hanusiak (University College Dublin) – Creative Writing as Theft

Christopher O’Hara (University of St Andrews) – ‘An almighty aposiopesis’: When Craft Becomes Critique in the Mid-Century British Avant-Garde

Eleonora Soteriou (University of Edinburgh) – ‘Eyeless’ Writing: Rethinking Filmic Influences in Narrative Fictions

Anna LeFevre (University of Munich) – Mindful Repositioning: Reading an Image as Creative Writing Inspiration

17.30 – 18.00 – Break

18.00 – 19.00 – Keynote Address: Dr Caroline Smailes (University of Liverpool John Moores) – The Role of the Creative in Addressing the Political

Chair: Dr Marija Grech

19.00 – End

19.30 – Optional Conference Dinner

Tuesday 28 March

12.00 – Welcome & Registration

12.30 – 13.30 – Keynote Address: Dr Lars Iyer (University of Newcastle) – The Gnostic Imaginary

Chair: Dr Aaron Aquilina

13.30 – 15.00 – Panels 7 & 8

Panel 5 – Rethinking Traditions (13.30 – 15.00)

Chair: Micaela Sant

Christine Barbara (University of Malta) – Neo-Victorian Shapeshifting: An Exploration of the Evolution of the Neo-Victorian Novel

Lara Camilleri (University of Malta) – Rethinking the Muse of the Courtly Love Tradition

Megan Mallia (University of Malta) – Holding Out for a Heart: Recrafting the Cultural Myth of Heroism

Panel 6 – Tales of Dissent (13.30 – 15.30)

Chair: Ambrose Galea

Christabel Vassallo (University of Malta) – To Write or Not To Write (Academically): Some Distracted Reflections on the Possibilities of Literary Criticism Today, with reference to John Schad's critical-creative work

Daniel Cini (University of Malta) – The Craft of Spinning Stories: A Textual Reading of Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell's Revisionist Fairy Tale *The Sleeper and the Spindle*

Brianna Riggio (Trinity College Dublin) – Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill: The Undead and Untranslatable

15.00 - 16.00 - Break

16.00 – 17.00 – Roundtable on ‘Creativity and Critique’

Chair: Prof. Stella Borg Barthet

Participants:

Prof. Ivan Callus (Department of English, University of Malta)

Dr Giuliana Fenech (Department of English, University of Malta)

Dr Marija Grech (Department of English, University of Malta)

Dr Aaron Aquilina (Department of English, University of Malta)

Dr Lars Iyer (University of Newcastle)

17.00 – Closing Address

17.30 - End

18.30 – Open Mic Poetry Evening @ Offbeat, Valletta