

**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](mailto: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 Sellw (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**