



Rethinking the Political: Narrative, Protest and Fiction in the 21st Century

Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th of September 2024
58-76 Grand Parade, University of Brighton, BN2 0JY

Registration Monday | 09:00 - 10:30 | Grand Parade Foyer
Tea & Coffee | 10.00 – 11.00 | Grand Parade Café Foyer

Welcome and Keynote Address:

11.00-12.30 M2 Grand Parade: Chair Mark Devenney

Keynote Address:

Dr German Primera, University of Brighton

**“Colonial Biopolitics and the Arc of Refusal:
rethinking grammars of resistance”**

Lunch | 12.30 – 1.30 | Grand Parade Cafeteria

Session 1: 1.30 – 3.30

Panel 1 What do Novels Do?

Room: M2 Grand Parade | Chair: Charlotte Woodford

Gerard Ronge, Adam Mickiewicz, University of Poznań: Tadeusz Peiper and Rita Felski: Polish contributions to the debate about post-critique.

Ana Tomljenović, University of Zagreb: A Politics of the Death Drive in Ranko Marinković's Never More.

Liam Connell, University of Brighton: Can the Novel Act?

Tomasz Mizerkiewicz, University of Poznan: Novel, Joy, Politics. A Perspective on Children's Games in Oksana Zabuzhko's Museum of Abandoned Secrets and Brygida Helbig-Mischewski's Niebko/Kleine Himmel.

Panel 2 | Thinking the Political Future in the Past Tense:

Room: G4 Grand Parade | Chair: Tanay Gandhi

Mikołaj Dalek, University of Wrocław: Obliteration: Contesting informational entropy in the digital public sphere.

Viktoria Huegel, University of Vienna “Training for the future”: embodied action and radical politics.

Alexandra van Laeken, University of Ghent: Who’s Afraid of the Subject? On the emancipatory potential of aesthetic practices from Althusser to Badiou and Rancière.

Karlo Drzaic, University of Zagreb: Political Education in the People’s Republic of Croatia.

Coffee & Tea | Grand Parade Café Foyer| 3.30-4.00

Session 2: 4.00 – 5.30

Panel 1 | Remaking the Demos/Polis

Room: G4 Grand Parade | Chair: Craig Jordan-Baker

Wojciech Ufel, University of Wrocław: The “return of tragedy”? Challenging visions and narratives of rethinking democracy.

Clare Woodford, University of Brighton, UK: Politics within or outside the polis? How to (re)turn to the city, or perhaps discover that we never left it.

Tim Christiaens, University of Tilburg: Cyberfascism in Italian Theory.

Panel 2 | Rebellious Fictions

Room: M2 Grand Parade | Chair: Tara Talwar Windsor

Andrea Milanko, University of Zagreb Models of Rebellion and Novel's Grace.

Arianna Preite and Chiara Xausa, University of Bologna: New technologies of re/production and a world beyond the family: Tlotlo Tsamaase’s Womb City and Virtual Snapshots.

Patrick Eiden-Offe, Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung: Is it (still) O.K. to be an anti-fascist? Looking back at Thomas Pynchon’s Gravity’s Rainbow after 50 years.



**5.30-7.45: CHEESE and WINE RECEPTION:
Grand Parade Café & Foyer**

The Politics of Publishing, Writing and Performance

Independent Bookshops and the Politics of Writing (Chair Vedrana
Velickovic)

Carolynn Bain (Afrori Books) and Ivana Drazic (Booksa Zagreb)
in conversation

The Novel and the Poem: Award Winning
Novelists and Poets read work in progress

Alice O'Malley-Woods
Natasha Kennedy
Éloïse O'Dwyer-Armary
Craig Jordan-Baker (Chair)



TUESDAY 10th of SEPTEMBER

Late Registration | 09:00 - 9:30 | Grand Parade Foyer

Keynote Lecture: 9.30 – 11.00 | M2 Grand Parade |
Chair: Joanna Kellond

Professor Moya Lloyd, University of Essex
**Radical corporeal politics: Flesh as a locus of
political struggle.**

Tea and Coffee Grand Parade Café Foyer: 11.00-11.30

Session 3: 11.30-1.30

Panel 1 | The Politics of Capitalism in Question?
Room: G4 Grand Parade, | Chair: German Primera

Sue Lucas, Area Dean Waltham Forest: The Paradoxical Practice of Politics against the Contradictions of Capitalism.

Ante Andabak, University of Zagreb: Towards a Marxist Conceptualisation of the Political.

Ivana Perica, Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung: Politics and Literature: Novels from the New Century.

Inka Maria Vilhelmiina Hiltunen, University of London: Exploring new modes of subsumption of labour under capital in financialization – and the battle against.

Panel 2 | Decolonial Narratives
Room: M2 Grand Parade | Chair: Natasha Kennedy

Tim Huzar, Kings College, London Apprehending Wayward Lives: Rethinking the Temporality of Politics.

Chalo ña Waya University of Cambridge: Negotiating globality: critical Afropolitanism as epistemic self-assertion in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah.

Noirin MacNamara, TU Dublin: On the necessities of ceding ground: Bringing the work of Bracha Ettinger, Judith Butler and Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí into conversation.

Lunch| Grand Parade Cafeteria | 1.30 – 2.30

Session 4: 2.30 – 4.30

Panel 1 | Queer Imaginaries 1

Room: M2 Grand Parade | Chair: Vedrana Velickovic

Roel Wolters, Radboud University: Ironizing the Witch-hunts and the Politics of Androcentrism.

Joanna Kellond, University of Brighton: 'The Church Fathers of Staten Island: Speculative Fictions of, and against, Christian Nationalism and Gender Traditionalism in Everything for Everyone: An Oral History of the New York Commune 2052-2072

Błażej Warkocki, A.Mickiewicz University, Poznań Poland Politics, Protest and the Anthology of Polish Queer Literature.

Natasha Kennedy, University of Brighton: Hetero-lingualism as literary activism: resisting oppression through (e)strangement of language.

Panel 2 | Theorising Political Forms

Room: G4 Grand Parade| Chair: Liam Connell

Zrinka Bozic, University of Zagreb: The politicisation of form: rethinking the political in literature.

Mark Devenney, University of Brighton: What 'is' the Political? The politics of the verb 'to be'.

Zvonomir Glavaš, University of Zagreb: The protean eschaton: on the actuality, contradictions and limits of Bloch's utopian Marxism.

Alice Romagnoli, Università degli Studi di Macerata: Politics in crisis: past, present and futures.

Coffee & Tea | Grand Parade Café Foyer| 4.30-500

Session 5: 5.00 – 6.30

Panel 1 | The Politics of Anthropocentrism

Room: Room M2 Grand Parade| Chair Mark Devenney

Luke Edmeads, University of Brighton: Democracy at the limits of subjectivity: Animals, Humans, Objects.

Sophia Hatzisavvidou, University of Bath Finding the political in climate fiction:



envisioning nature on a climate-changed planet.

Azucena Blanco, University of Granada: End(s) of the World, Temporality and New (Ec)ontologies in the Global Novel.

Panel 2 Queer Imaginaries 2:

Room: Room G4 Grand Parade | Chair: Vedrana Velickovic

Polina Whitehouse, University of Oxford: Utopia as Feminist Method.

Lucile Richard, University of Oxford: Towards a Coalition of the (Un-)Cared For? Feminist Care Politics, the “Care Crisis” and the (Under)theorization of Care Receiving.

Elena Betti, Queer Form, Intertextuality and Political Reimagination in Olivia Laing’s The Lonely City.

Conference Dinner | New Era Chinese Restaurant|
8.00pm: 6B Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3WA



WEDNESDAY 11th of SEPTEMBER

Grand Parade M2: 9.30-11.00

Chair: Mark Devenney

Can we theorise 'The Political'?

**Alan Finlayson, German Primera, Moya Lloyd, Zrinka Bozic and
Joanna Kellond in Discussion**

Coffee & Tea | Grand Parade Café Foyer | 11.00-11.30

Session 6: 11.30 to 13.30

Panel 1 | Decolonial Politics 2

Room: G4 Grand Parade | Chair: Joanna Kellond

David Ventura, University of Newcastle Time and the Middle Passage in Édouard Glissant's Thought.

Chris Griffin, University of Brighton Representation and Overrepresentation: Anticolonial Counternarratives in the Novel.

Eric Bergman, University of Zagreb War, Race, and National Belonging as Politics in Veijo Baltzar's *Polttava tie*.

Rumana Hashem, University of Brighton: Racialised sexism and gendered precarity: Untangling unlivability for Im/migrant women of colour in 21st century Britain.

Panel 2 | Thinking the Politics of Fiction

Room: M2, Grand Parade | Chair: Liam Connell

Marina Protrka Štimec, University of Zagreb: Fidelity to our futures past. Miroslav Krleža as a writer of the revolution.

Adrián Viéitez Torrado University of Granada: Don't want to be free want to be with you: political contradictions within Anne Carson and Ursula K. LeGuin's work.

Mirela Dakic, University of Zagreb: The life of genre: tracing the political in the political novel between literature and sociology.

Nenad Ivić University of Zagreb: Coup d'état: The technique of the novel – Mario

Vargas Llosa's Tiempos Recios.

Lunch 13.30 – 14.15 | Grand Parade Cafeteria

Conference Keynote and Closing Session: Chair Liam Connell
14.15 – 3.45 M2 Grand Parade

Professor Alan Finlayson, University of East Anglia

A Hero's Journey? Ideological Entrepreneurs
and Reactionary Digital Politics