

Department of English &
Comparative Literary Studies

research & teaching NEWS



December 2007

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WELCOME

Welcome to this December 07 edition of the Department's newsletter.

The months leading up to this edition have been exhilarating, as colleagues have collected prizes and awards, brought out new books or scholarly editions, worked tirelessly at the interface between research and teaching for their mutual enhancement, and brought undergraduates on into research activity.

Colleagues in the department continue to publish agenda-setting studies in their fields, and to set the terms of public debate around key issues in literary study for our times. New publications in this period go from the renaissance through romanticism on to modernism and to the contemporary debates around the future of our discipline.

Alongside these, we have a series of conferences or colloquia arranged by colleagues, bringing fellow scholars of international eminence to our activities here in Warwick. These range from very high profile events, such as our Poetry and Philosophy conference, through to major activities for postgraduate training, coordinated from here, on Postcolonial Cultures. In many of these, we have benefited from funding won in both internal and external competitions. Our new Institute for Advanced Studies will also be funding further work on Transnational Cultures and Literatures; and the WReCk group will host a colloquium with funding won from our Research Development Fund.

Five of our graduate students have gained their doctorates in this period; and we have also launched several new initiatives in our research-led teaching. Our wiki-edition of *Omeros*, with funding from the English Subject Centre, brings our undergraduates into research activity; our California exchange opens up new possibilities for our undergraduates; and we now dance our way through Shakespeare and other work, in the company of our RSC colleagues in the CAPITAL centre.

Much to see and do; much to hear about; more still to be done – but that's for the next edition.

Thomas Docherty
Professor of English and of Comparative Literature
Head of Department

AWARDS

Fiona Sampson's latest poetry collection *Common Prayer* (Carcanet, 2007) has been short-listed for the prestigious T.S. Eliot Prize.

A L Kennedy has been awarded the Lannan Literary Award for Fiction. This highly prestigious international award is given to writers of exceptional quality who also demonstrate the potential for continued outstanding creative work. She

has also been shortlisted for this year's Costa Prize (formerly the Whitbread Prize) for her novel *Day*.

Professor Michael Bell is one of this year's recipients of the Harry T Moore Award for his life-time contribution to the study of D. H. Lawrence. The Award was granted by the D. H. Lawrence Society of North America.

▪ Postcolonial Cultures

In July 2007 Professor Karen O'Brien hosted a national, AHRC-funded postgraduate training event on 'Postcolonial Cultures'. It was attended by PhD students from UK universities, and featured workshops, papers and contributions from Dr Rashmi Varma,

Professor Neil Lazarus, Professor Benita Parry, Dr Samantha Haigh, and guest speakers from all over the country. The AHRC have granted funds for a further event, during Summer 2008, on 'Colonial Cultures'.

▪ Transnational Cultures and Literatures

Professor Jackie Labbe, along with Professor Erica Carter, from the Department of German, has won an Institute of Advanced Studies Incubation Award to organise an interdisciplinary workshop series that will explore the idea of 'transnationality' from its eighteenth-century roots in imperialism and colonialism through to its contemporary incarnation as a putatively non-coercive understanding of the fluidity of borders, cultures, and national identities. The workshops will seek to establish interdisciplinary frameworks for transnational studies in relation to literary production – in travel, conquest or conversion narratives, for instance; to film – e.g. in migrant and exile cinemas; to language, via multilingualism, translation etc; and to the visual and performing arts, social/cultural history and cultural theory.

In the latter context ideas of the transnational will be considered in their relation to theories of the cosmopolitan and the global. The key questions addressed will be: what do transnational flows of bodies, texts and meanings contribute to cross-cultural understanding? In what contexts, conversely, does transnationalism cement cultural divisions and hierarchies? And what conceptualisations of transnationality prove fruitful for interdisciplinary work in the field? The first workshop will explore 'eurocentrism' in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and will take place on 15 February 2008.

For further information see:
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/fundediasprojects/incubation/#2

▪ Cultures of Translation, Centres of Adaptation

Jackie Labbe and Kate Astbury (Department of French) received an RDF award for *Cultures of Translation, Centres of Adaptation* for a meeting to take place in Summer Term 2008 exploring issues of translation, adaptation, and transformation, both material and cultural as they are being studied by Arts Faculty colleagues specializing in the C18th. It is hoped that the meeting can be held in Venice.

CONFERENCES – 2007/08

▪ **Poets Reading Philosophy/Philosophers Reading Poetry', October 26th to 28th, 2007**

This first major collaboration between the Writing Programme and the Centre for Research in Philosophy Literature and the Arts was an ambitious, slightly risky, but in the event highly successful occasion. The invited poets included Jorie Graham, John Koethe and Susan Stewart from the USA, Robert Bringhurst and Jan Zwicky from Canada, Robert Gray and Kevin Hart from Australia, and Geoffrey Hill from Britain. Apart from their readings, which were in themselves quite memorable public events, the poets were given a free space to present a more analytic account of their activity. Within this tight yet open formula, the highly fissionable concentration of diverse poetic powers and personalities, which could have been explosive, proved to be a quite natural way of eliciting from all the poets eloquent and memorable reflections on their art and sometimes, to the dismay of writing students in the audience, running counter to conventional wisdoms.

Early in the conference, after the first two sessions of poets' reflections, it seemed to this observer that the poets were going effectively to dominate the weekend with the academic papers providing a useful but solidly wooden frame. Yet this in turn proved a too minimal expectation as the academic papers maintained a high standard within their own mode so that the strange symbiotic tension between poetic and philosophical thought was not so much an overtly explicated topic admitting of a conclusion as a vividly suggestive resonance gathering around all the contributions. Congratulations to Michael Hulse for conceiving the event, to him and Eileen John for securing funding as well as convening, and to Andrew Webb and Barry Shiels for seeing to the necessary infrastructure. If the quality of this unusual occasion could be enshrined in a publication it would be remarkable volume.

Michael Bell, Director, CRPLA

▪ **WReCk Colloquium in spring 2008**

The Warwick Research Collective (Michael Gardiner, Nick Lawrence, Neil Lazarus, Graeme Macdonald, Pablo Mukherjee, Benita Parry, Stephen Shapiro, and Rashmi Varma, with assistance from Sharae Deckard) will be hosting a colloquium on the topic of 'Uneven and Combined Modernisms' on 18-19 April 2008 at Milburn House. The colloquium, funded by the RDF grant, is intended to allow sustained discussion of the ideas generally implicated by the notions of 'uneven and combined development'; 'peripheral modernity'/'alternative' modernities and modernism(s); 'Third-World'; 'world literature'; 'globalisation'; and related issues.

Eight scholars have been invited to Warwick to present papers on these topics

for discussion and argument. They include:

Bashir Abu-Manneh (Barnard)
Tim Brennan (Minnesota)
Keya Ganguly (Minnesota)
Richard Godden (UC Irvine)
Ruth Jennison (UMass Amherst)
Neil Larsen (UC Davis)
Silvia Lopez (Minnesota)
John Marx (UC Davis)

Papers will be circulated in advance to all participants in preparation for intensive discussion over the two days of the colloquium. We are currently investigating the possibilities of publishing the colloquium papers as a journal special issue or as a book.

Nick Lawrence

▪ **States of Damage: New Paradigms for the Study of US Writing and Culture in the Twenty-First Century**

In March 2008, Stephen Shapiro and Nick Lawrence will be hosting a colloquium, "States of Damage: New Paradigms for the Study of US Writing and Culture in the C21," at Milburn House, University of Warwick. The intention of the colloquium is to raise questions pertinent to this emerging field in an environment conducive to collegial exchange and debate. If you are interested in participating in the colloquium contact Nick Lawrence at: n.lawrence@warwick.ac.uk

PUBLICATIONS, RADIO SERIES ETC

▪ ***The English Question, Sussex Academic Press (2007)***

Tracing a history of the modern European University from Vico onwards and including Hume, Rousseau, Schiller, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Newman, Alain, Benda and Jaspers, Thomas Docherty argues in *The English Question* that the academy's will to freedom is grounded in study of the 'eloquence' that has shaped

literate and humane values. He goes on to explore the current condition of English as a literary discipline, arguing that literary studies is (or should be) a search for the unknown; and that in only that search can the academy establish the real meaning – or meanings – of social, political and ethical freedom.

▪ ***Masculinity, Gender and Identity in the English Renaissance Lyric, Cambridge University Press (2007)***

Dr Catherine Bates' new book, *Masculinity, Gender and Identity in the English Renaissance Lyric*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in December 2007. In this work Catherine examines the cultural and literary strategies behind this representation and uncovers radically alternative models of masculinity in the lyric tradition of the Renaissance. Focusing on Sidney, Raleigh, Shakespeare, and Donne, she offers astute new readings of a wide range of texts -- a sonnet sequence, a blazon, an

elegy, a complaint, and an epistle. She shows how existing critical approaches have too much invested in the figure of the authoritative male writer to be able to do justice to the truly radical nature of these alternative masculinities. Taking direction from recent psychoanalytic theories of gender formation, Bates develops critical strategies that make it possible to understand and appreciate what is genuinely revolutionary about these texts and about the English Renaissance lyric tradition at large.

▪ ***The Greatest Gift, NAGTY (2007)***

An anthology of children's creative writing *The Greatest Gift*, edited and introduced by David Morley, was published in October in collaboration between the Institute for Ideas, NAGTY and the charity Street Child Africa. Proceeds from the publication go to the valuable work of Street Child Africa.

David's critical edition of Geoffrey Holloway's *Collected Poems* (The Arrowhead Press) was also published in October and his latest poetry collection *The Invisible Kings* was chosen for a special broadcast on Radio 3 last month, read by the poet and introduced by Ian McMillan.

▪ ***American Modernism's Expatriate Scene: The Labour of Translation*, Edinburgh University Press (2007)**

Daniel Katz's *American Modernism's Expatriate Scene: The Labour of Translation* takes as its point of departure an essential premise: that the widespread phenomenon of expatriation in American modernism is less a flight from the homeland than a dialectical return to it, but one which renders uncanny all tropes of familiarity and immediacy which 'fatherlands' and 'mother tongues' are traditionally seen as providing. In this framework, similarly totalizing notions of cultural authenticity are seen to govern both exoticist mystification and 'nativist' obsessions with the purity of the 'mother tongue.' At the same time, cosmopolitanism, translation, and multilingualism become often eroticized tropes of violation of this model, and in consequence, simultaneously courted and

abhorred, in a movement which, if crystallized in expatriate modernism, continued to make its presence felt beyond.

Beginning with the late work of Henry James, this book goes on to examine at length Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein, to conclude with the uncanny regionalism of mid-century San Francisco Renaissance poet Jack Spicer, and the deterritorialized aesthetic of Spicer's peer, John Ashbery. Through an emphasis on modernism as a space of generalized interference, the practice and trope of translation emerges as central to all of the writers concerned, while the book remains in constant dialogue with key recent works on transnationalism, transatlanticism, and modernism.

▪ ***Charlotte Smith in British Romanticism*, Pickering and Chatto (2008)**

Professor Jackie Labbe has recently completed editing a volume of essays entitled *Charlotte Smith in British Romanticism*, for Pickering and Chatto, which will be published early in 2008. This volume is the first devoted to Smith and her work, and features essays on the poetry, most of the novels, Smith's letters, and her only published play, *What is She?*. It also includes essays exploring Smith's literary afterlives: how she was

written about by admirers immediately after her death, and how she appeared in, and eventually disappeared from, the many nineteenth-century anthologies of British 'poetesses'. Jackie's own essay traces the complex relationship between Smith's novel *The Old Manor House* and Austen's *Mansfield Park*, an argument that grew out of the undergraduate module 'Jane Austen and the Romantic Novel': a perfect example of teaching-led research!

▪ ***Bluebeard's Wives*, Heaventree Press (2007)**

Bluebeard's Wives, Heaventree Press 2007, co-edited by Julie Boden and Zoe Brigley is a collection of poetry which was initially inspired by Bartok's opera, *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*. Twenty three women writers were invited by Julie Boden (Poet in Residence at Symphony Hall, Birmingham) to join her in an exploration of Bluebeard's world, to attend workshops and to respond to a performance of the opera at Symphony Hall. This exciting anthology explores the myth in new and exciting ways through the eyes of twenty four talented writers.

Poetry by: Jo Bell, Julie Boden, Zoe Brigley, Sue Brown, Christine Coleman, Jane Commane, Rachel David, Helen M. Dennis, Roz Goddard, Penny Harper, H.E. Hempstead, Hazell Hills, Jane Holland, Anouk Mishti, Cathy Perry, Emma Purshouse, Connie Ramsay-Bott, Jo Roberts, Sibyl Ruth, Jane Seabourne, Judy Tweddle, Catherine Whittaker, Diane Wiggett, Helen Yendall

▪ **The Poetry of History, Radio 4 (November & December 2007)**

Jonathan Bate is presenting a new series of his Radio 4 feature 'The Poetry of History', in which poems are discussed in the context of the historical events that inspired them, at 4.30pm on Sundays 24 November, 1st, 8th and 15th December, also available online via Radio 4's 'listen

again' facility. Programme 1 looks at the Anglo-Saxon 'Battle of Malden', 2 at Linton Kwesi Johnson and the Brixton Riots, 3 Dryden's 'Annus Mirabilis' and 4 John Betjeman on the death of King George V.

▪ **Shakespeare and Child's Play: Performing Lost Boys on Stage and Screen, Routledge (2007)**

Carol Rutter, Director of CAPITAL, gave this year's International Shakespeare Globe Fellowship lecture at Shakespeare's Globe in London on November 14th, entitled *Pyg, Moth and Little William*, to coincide with the launch of her new book *Shakespeare and Child's*

Play: Performing Lost Boys on Stage and Screen. In this book Carol shows how recent performances on stage and film have used the range of Shakespeare's insights in order to re-examine and re-think these issues in terms of today's society and culture.

TEACHING & LEARNING

▪ **Wiki-edition Omeros**

The Department's Wiki-edition of *Omeros*, led by Dr Elizabeth Clarke and managed by Dr Amanda Hopkins, has been awarded a mini-project grant of £5000 from the English Subject Centre.

▪ **University of Warwick – University of California Exchange**

This year the Department launched its new University of California exchange. Students are given the opportunity to spend the second year at one of the University's campuses in California. It is hoped that the Department will be able to offer an Intercalated Degree Programme in the future, so that students can spend a year in California, without forfeiting one of their years at Warwick

▪ **Podcast Series: Writing Challenges**

An innovative podcast series *Writing Challenges* has been developed and recorded by David Morley in collaboration with the University's Public Affairs Office and Cambridge University Press. It is broadcast in weekly episodes throughout autumn.

▪ **'Shakespeare without Chairs'**

This term has seen a new innovation to core module Shakespeare and Selected Dramatists. Students have been able to elect to take seminars in a practical format, dubbed 'Shakespeare without Chairs'. This is being trialled with several groups on the course, and Nick Monk's research will be looking at the effectiveness of this workshop-based strand.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

▪ The Isham Project

When there was lots of money made available for training graduates under the Roberts scheme in June I thought I might be able to use it for an extravaganza I was planning in August—a week-long visit for my research team on the Isham Project to Northampton where we could investigate the Isham archive in the local record office and visit Lamport Hall where Elizabeth Isham lived, to look at the private library there. Both enterprises are vital to the project of excavating an unknown early modern woman writer: in this case we were preparing for a symposium we were running in September in Princeton, where Elizabeth Isham's 'Remembrances', which is I think the earliest autobiography in English, has recently been found.

The committee granted me £1000 in the end, having I think caught the vision. The money went towards the costs of maintaining myself, a postdoctoral assistant, two graduate students and an undergraduate research student in Northampton for a week in August. My colleague, Erica Longfellow from Kingston who is involved in the project, funded herself and came with us. We booked into a cheap hotel which was not too far from the amazing Northampton Archive, and spent four days charting the Isham papers. Most of them were correspondence, but it was fascinating to get more detail on events mentioned in the autobiography—one of them even contained some samples of lace Elizabeth sent to her father. The best discovery was made by Alice Eardley who had transcribed the Princeton manuscript. Elizabeth was obviously a great economiser—she was kept short of money by her father a lot of the time—and she had used the backs of letters to draft part of the autobiography. These drafts were in

even tinier handwriting than she usually used—we found a letter from her brother complaining that although he could just about read her letters, the notes she insisted on putting in the margins were just illegible—but with patience and a magnifying glass and with all of us offering our opinions Alice made sense of them and they were a fascinating insight into the process of composing the 'Remembrances'.

We spent one day at beautiful Lamport Hall in the elegant library. There were hundreds of early modern books there and they had been catalogued after a fashion although we found some beautiful folio volumes mouldering away in cupboards, and the staff could not find the keys to other bookshelves. We were trying to find Isham's own copies of books she had mentioned in her 'Remembrances', and we did find many of the religious books and pamphlets, although the family had obviously sold the more exciting and lucrative poetry and drama at an earlier date. We had hoped for scribbles in the margins of the books but although Elizabeth annotated her own writings in that way she obviously had too much respect for books to do that to them. So we were not able to add too much to the sparse comments on books in her 'Remembrances'—that she liked Herbert better than Quarles, for example, an opinion which I hope the second year now shares.

This week was really the most fun research I have ever done. Archive work is usually a lonely activity but in a team it is not only more sociable, it is more productive

Elizabeth Clarke

'I Sham Not' Confessions of a Student Research Scholar

Between the 20th August and 21st September 2007, I undertook the challenging yet highly informative role of Undergraduate Research Scholar to Dr Elizabeth Clarke, director of the 'Constructing Elizabeth Isham' project, a British Academy funded Initiative, which seeks to provide new insight into Early

Modern Women's Autobiography by producing an online edition of two manuscripts written by Elizabeth Isham, daughter to Sir John Isham, 1st Baronet of Lamport. The first is a series of 'rough notes' which record episodes of personal, domestic and political significance housed at Northamptonshire Records Office, the

second, a fair copy 'Booke of Remembrance' recently discovered in the Robert. H Taylor collection of Princeton Library. Working over the summer, as part of the 'Constructing Elizabeth Isham' project team, which consisted of both post-doctoral and post-graduate researchers in early modern women's writing and related disciplines, our short term aim was to contextualise the manuscripts in preparation for a two-day conference held at Princeton University, in which 12 scholars were invited to read papers offering their expertise on the relationship between the two texts and through which the necessary components of the web edition were debated and finalised.

Taking into consideration that my previous research experience amounted to the occasional expedition into the uncharted realms of the Warwick Library 'periodicals' or indeed a frantic trawl through the 'Early English Books Online' Catalogue for amusing anecdotes about James I, 'Constructing Elizabeth Isham' opened my eyes to the diverse opportunities associated with post-doctoral research. Not only did the project provide me with new insight into wide variety of resources available to the researcher, having received instruction in the request of early modern manuscripts from the Duke Humphreys collection at Oxford University Library, and correspondence from the Isham family Archive at Northamptonshire Records Office, it also acquainted me with the procedures of private library research, online database analysis, palaeography, academic paper-presentation and methods of poster production. Working alongside experts in

early modern women's studies at Princeton University has undoubtedly helped to refine and focus my own literary and historical interests, whilst providing an illuminating glimpse into what can only be described as the academic alter-ego, the somewhat unexpected choice of 'Sponge Bop Square Pants' as in-flight entertainment by one project member, and introduction to the world of 'Progressive Rock' by Nigel Smith, the man behind the edited works of Marvell, offering a welcome source of reassurance!

My experience as a URSS scholar will, I'm sure, prove invaluable to my future academic career. Taking part in the conference has both helped to consolidate my academic research skills whilst contributing to a more general understanding of the organisational and administrative skills relevant to a wider range of career paths. Effective time-management and regular contact with my project-manager and co-researchers were, I learned, integral to effective distribution of research findings, whilst the production of no less than three academic posters, which contained genealogical diagrams of the Isham network, vastly improved my less than adequate IT skills. I would like of course, to thank Elizabeth Clarke, Jill Millman and Alice Eardley, my 'co-researchers' for their instruction and advice, not to mention patience, and encourage current undergraduates, eager to experience a slice of academic life at its most challenging and dare I say, most entertaining, to consider applying for URSS bursaries which may become available in forthcoming academic year.

Kate Evans

▪ **Cities of Enlightenment in Global Context**

Professor Karen O'Brien, along with Stephane Van Damme and Rebecca Earle of the History Department, were awarded £4500 by the Institute for Advanced Study for their project 'Cities of Enlightenment in Global Context'. The project will be run through the Warwick Eighteenth-Century Centre, and will give rise to a number of colloquia and conferences in the coming academic year.

SEMINAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Over the last six months colleagues have participated in a number of conferences, seminars and colloquial.

▪ Renaissance Literature

Catherine Bates was invited to speak at an international conference on George Gascoigne held in Oxford during September. Her paper was entitled 'Gascoigne's Prick'.

Peter Mack has given a number of papers on rhetoric and renaissance literature. In Strasbourg he delivered a paper entitled 'Rhetoric of the Audience', in Venice he spoke on 'Aristotle in English Renaissance Literature' and in Porto he presented a paper on 'Rhetoric and the English Renaissance Theatre'.

▪ Seventeenth-Century Literature

During late Summer Michelle di Meo spent a month at McGill University, Montreal, fully funded by the Canadian-based project 'Making Projects 1500-1700 (MaPs Project)'. This fellowship allowed her to participate in the interdisciplinary summer seminar entitled 'Making Publics In Interregnum England'.

▪ Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Literature

Blake 250

On the occasion of the 250 years celebration of Blake's birth. Jon Mee and Emma Mason attended *Blake at 250* at the University of York in July. Jon delivered a paper in collaboration with Professor Saree Makdisi (UCLA) entitled 'Severe Contentions of Friendship: Life, Liberty, Community'. Emma's paper was entitled 'Spiritual sensation: the affective vision of Blake's *Job*'.

Institute of English Studies

Emma Francis continues to co-convene (with Anne Janowitz of QMUL and Elizabeth Eger of KCL) the 'Enlightenment and Romanticism Reading Group', which meets three times per term at Senate House, University of London. Now in its 8th year, this group, which is a seminar of the Institute of English Studies, is taking as its current theme 'Inspiring Texts'. Scholars of the later 18th and earlier 19th centuries with international reputations have been invited to speak on the text which has played a crucial role in their intellectual formation.

Jon Mee was invited to speak at the Institute of English Studies as part of The London Nineteenth-Century Studies Seminar. His paper was entitled 'Conversation and Contention' and was part of the series 'Conversation: Curiosity and Talking in the Nineteenth Century'.

▪ Twentieth-Century Literature

One of our PhD students, Andy Webb, has delivered two papers at the University this year. As part of the Warwick Colloquium he gave a paper entitled 'Towards a Theory of Poetry: Edward Thomas 1912-1914' and as part of the Warwick Arts Graduate Seminar he presented a paper called 'Homoerotic Robert Frost'.

Christina Britzolakis delivered an invited paper, 'The Dial: Making Modernism Safe for Democracy?', at the Modernist Magazines Conference, De Montfort University, 12-14 July, as part of an A.H.R.C.-funded project addressing the role of periodical publications in the construction of modernism in Britain, Ireland and North America.

▪ Women Writers

Nineteenth Century

At the end of the summer, 31 August – 1 September, Bristol University hosted the conference 'Reading Daniel Deronda'. John Rignall delivered a keynote speech entitled 'George Eliot's "elaborate misconception"? Daniel's Mission and the Counter-Claims of European Culture'. The conference closed with a paper from Emma Mason.

Emma also delivered a paper on Mary Shelley as part of the Oxford University's series on 'Shelley Legacies'. Her paper was entitled 'Apocalyptic renewal in *Alastor*'.

Twentieth Century

Christina Britzolakis gave the Keynote Address at the Sylvia Plath 75th Year Anniversary Conference at the University of Oxford, 25th-29th October 2007.

As part of the Oxford Brooks Poetry Centre Seminar Series, Emma Mason presented the paper "A kind of elegy": Elizabeth Jennings' "Waking to the Sea".

Anglia Ruskin University recently held two colloquia focusing, for the first time, on the work of Sylvia Townsend Warner and Winifred Holtby. Gill Frith delivered papers at each colloquium entitled 'Sylvia Townsend Warner's Magic Modernism' and 'Her Bright Materials: Winifred Holtby's Utopian Realism'.

Earlier this year Sherah Wells, one of our PhD students, presented a paper on Antonia White at the International Conference for the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature at Georgetown University, Washington. The title of her paper was 'Antonia White's Problematization of the Autobiographical Novel'.

At the recent Native Studies Research Network meeting in Geneva, Nick Monk delivered a paper entitled 'Resistance to Modernity through Strategies of Language in the Fiction to Leslie Silko'.

▪ Postcolonial and World-Literature Studies

At the seminar of London Historical Geographers in May 2007 Benita Parry presented a paper entitled 'Spatial tropes in Heart of Darkness'. During the same month she delivered a plenary at the Tenth Nordic Association of English Studies conference in Bergen: 'Critical Practices In Reading Peripheral Literatures'.

In October Neil Lazarus attended the Northern Modernism Seminar at the University of Manchester where he delivered "'A Figure Glimpsed in a Rear-View Mirror": Tactics of Representation in "Postcolonial". He followed this with a paper at the Institute of Race Relations in London entitled "'Border Thinking" and "Subjugated Knowledges": A Critique of the Paradigm'.

Pablo Mukherjee presented his paper 'Amitav Ghosh's Tide Country' at the Globalisation and Literature Conference hosted by Bath Spa University. He has also delivered a paper as part of the Oxford University Postcolonial Studies Seminar. This paper was entitled 'Arundhati Roy's Uneven Style'.

▪ Eco-Criticism

A number of colleagues in the Department have embarked on eco-criticism in their work. Among them, Pablo Mukherjee this year has delivered two papers within the field. At the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Studies in Literature and Environment he presented a paper entitled 'Eco-Materialism'. At the University of Newcastle he participated in the Visiting Speakers Series, delivering a paper entitled 'Materialism and Future Directions in Environmental Studies'.

▪ Literature Post 9/11

Nick Lawrence has delivered a number of papers addressing the impact of 9/11 on literature and literary studies. At the Twenty-first Century American Literature Seminar, at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University he presented his paper 'Premeditated Violence: Cartoon Abstraction and Post-9/11 Cultural Form'. Earlier in the year he delivered a paper to the British Association for American Studies entitled 'What I Heard: Writing as Testimony in Post-9/11 America'.

DEPARTMENT'S LECTURE & SEMINAR SERIES

▪ **The Edward Said Fourth Memorial Lecture, November 2007**

In 2004 the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies inaugurated an annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture to honour the prominent literary scholar and a renowned public intellectual who died in 2003.

This year's lecture was given by Gilbert Achcar who for many years taught in France and was recently appointed Professor of Development Studies and International Relations at SOAS. A keen student of US foreign policy, especially in the Middle East, a region about whose complex singularities he has an unrivalled knowledge, his most well-known books

are *Eastern Cauldron: Islam, Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq in a Marxist Mirror*, *The Clash of Barbarisms*; and with Noam Chomsky, *Perilous Power*.

His lecture on 'Orientalism in Reverse: Post-1979 Trends in French Orientalism' was a fascinating and engaging account of how French intellectuals, in the wake of the Iranian revolution, the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union and the publication of Edward Said's *Orientalism*, engaged in 'Orientalism in Reverse'.

Rashmi Varma

▪ **David Harvey**

The eminent geographer David Harvey (Professor at City University of New York) gave the closing lecture for the Rethinking Identities and Culture Series on 'Geography and Social Theory'. He also presented a paper on cosmopolitanism and the geographies of freedom to the Department.

▪ **Pankaj Mishra**

Pankaj Mishra, the well-known columnist for the New Yorker and the New York Review of Books, novelist and writer of numerous award-winning non-fiction books, gave a provocative talk entitled 'Prematurely Globalised: the Strange Case of Indian Writing in English'. His visit was part of the 'India at 60' celebrations at the University of Warwick.

▪ **Research Seminar Series**

Invited speakers in the Department's Autumn research seminar series have included:

- Paul Giles (Rothermere American Institute, Oxford): "Augustan American Literature: An Aesthetics of Extravagance," 17 October
- David Harvey (CUNY Graduate Center): "Cosmopolitanism and the Geographies of Freedom," 24 October
- Colin Burrow (All Souls, Oxford): "Reading Tudor Literature Politically: The Case of 2 *Henry IV*"

Speakers scheduled to contribute to the Spring 2008 series include:

- Laura Marcus (Edinburgh)
- Sally Ledger (Birkbeck)
- Fred Burwick (UCLA Emeritus).

The CAPITAL Centre

Creativity and Performance in Teaching and Learning

▪ New appointments

This term the CAPITAL Centre welcome two new members of staff, both formerly students in the English Department. **Dr. Nick Monk** is CAPITAL Research Fellow, whose particular focus is on performance pedagogies and the workshop model of teaching. **Jonathan Heron**, Research Associate, will look at the uses of performance archives in the classroom.

RSC Assistant Director **Donnacadh O'Briain** is a new Associate Fellow of the CAPITAL Centre. On Friday mornings he is working with students of Shakespeare and Selected Dramatists on *Henry IV*, and

in the afternoons he is running his own project on the *Oedipus* myth with a dedicated group of staff and students, which will culminate in a showing of work-in-progress in the Spring term.

Other new Associate Fellows include director **Heather Davies**, who directed the CAPITAL Centre's contribution to the RSC Complete Works Festival in 2006, Lope de Vega's *Capulets and Montagues*, and broadcaster **Paul Allen**, who will be teaching in the Spring Term on the European Theatre module.

▪ Fellows in Creativity

Michael Hulse of the English Department, developing a new module entitled *Shakespeare's Bones*.

Rob Clare, voice expert and founder of the MA in Classical Acting at Central School of Speech and Drama, who is running an extracurricular course entitled *Shakespeare's Toolkit*. Rob was with us for three weeks at the start of term and is returning in the Christmas vacation for an intensive series of workshops with his students.

Fiona Sampson, a poet working with the Warwick Writing Programme, who is working on a new collection of poetry exploring the ways conceptual space is enacted by music and poetry.

Djanet Sears, Canadian playwright, who began her fellowship in August working with the RSC on their production of Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*. She is back with us for a fortnight in November working on her new play *The Circle* and running a series of classes, including for first year students studying Epic Tradition on *The Penelopiad* and on Writing for Performance for students in Theatre Studies and the Warwick Writing Programme.

In the Spring Term we will also be welcoming as a Fellow of Creativity **Tony Howard** of the English department, who will be working on the actor **Paul Robeson**.

▪ Events

The CAPITAL Centre brings together the University and the theatre and has invited theatre practitioners to run several events, many of which tie in with modules in the English department. Highlights have included:

- A masterclass with Mark Rylance, former Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe, on his new play *I Am Shakespeare*.
- A talkback session with acclaimed actors Jos Houben, Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni on Peter Brook's production of Beckett's *Fragments* for students taking British Theatre since 1939.
- A packed out performance of Jos Houben's one-man masterclass *The Art of Laughter*.

- A three-day workshop course on the *Oresteia* for European Theatre students with director Andrew Visnevski and writer Joseph Coelho.
- The hugely successful *Beckett and Visual Culture* conference convened by Liz Barry in conjunction with a major exhibition by artist Bill Prosser, *Human Wishes: Drawings in Progress*.

Still coming this term:

- A student production of Marlowe's *Edward II*, to be performed at CAPITAL on Tuesday to Friday of week 10. Performance at 7pm, Wednesday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets are free and available from the CAPITAL Centre office.
- A Writing for Performance study day with playwrights Djanet Sears and Meredydd Barker on December 3rd.

Future events include a new student-devised puppet play entitled *Crowskin* and, in a major undertaking in May, the PENCIL creative writing festival, an extension of last year's Warwick Writing Festival that will bring together students of creative writing from around the country for a two-day celebration of new work.

▪ Research and Teaching

The CAPITAL Centre's premises at Millburn House opened on April 23rd, and are now well into their first full term of use. The Rehearsal Room and Studio have hosted sessions and regular classes this year for the following English department modules: Shakespeare and Selected Dramatists, Shakespeare Special Topics, European Theatre, States of Damage, British Theatre since 1939, Modes of Reading, Literature in the Modern World, The Epic Tradition and Drama and Democracy. Our Writers' Room is now used for the majority of Warwick Writing Programme teaching, as well as being a popular venue for events and reading groups.

The CAPITAL Centre aims to innovate and support performance-based teaching and learning throughout the university, and is already working with the Institute of Education, the School of Law, the School

of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies, the Department of History and the Department of Philosophy, all of which are using the practical spaces in Millburn House.

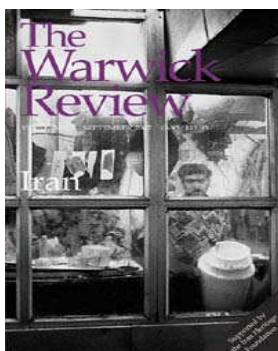
Nick Monk will be running a forthcoming symposium entitled "Space, Performance and Pedagogy" on May 15th, which will consider the implications of spaces and performance based methodologies on teaching and learning, and will be introduced by Sir Brian Follet. The programme will include presentations by practitioners and colleagues across the university and will offer opportunities to share practices. Interested participants should contact Nick at Nicholas.monk@warwick.ac.uk.

For more information on CAPITAL and up to date news about events, please visit the website at <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/capital>.

▪ Awards

The CAPITAL Centre has been short-listed for the Times Higher Education Supplement awards, in the category 'Excellence and Innovation in the Arts'. CAPITAL Director Carol Rutter and Administrator Susan Brock will be attending the ceremony on November 29th with representatives from the university and the Royal Shakespeare Company, where the winners will be announced.

THE WARWICK REVIEW



Volume 1, Issue 3 of the *Warwick Review* is now available. This issue includes work by Iranian writers and writing on Iran. Copies are available for £6.95. For subscription details contact Michael Hulse at m.w.hulse@warwick.ac.uk

PHD CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to the following successful doctoral candidates who all received their PhDs this year:

- **Leila Kamali**,
Spectres of the Shore: The Memory of Africa in Contemporary African-American and Black British Fiction
- **Rina Kim**
Beyond Mourning and Melancholia: Women and Ireland as Beckett's Lost Others
- **Nick Monk**
Literary Responses to Modernity in the American Southwest: Leslie Marmon Silko and Cormac McCarthy
- **Katsura Sako**
'Still Life': The matter of metamorphosis in the Fiction of A S Byatt
- **Nicola Wilson**
Reproducing the Home in English Working-class Fiction 1913-1960

STAFF

This year we have welcomed a number of new staff to the faculty. Dr Michael Gardiner joined us from Aberdeen University. From Paris, Dr Daniel Katz has helped to broaden our American and Modernism expertise. The novelists A L Kennedy and China Mieville are teaching on our BA and MA creative writing programmes and the Nobel Prize Winner, Orhan Pamuk, has joined the department as an Honorary Professor.

Academic Staff

Dr Elizabeth Barry
Prof. Jonathan Bate
Prof. Michael Bell
Dr Christina Britzolakis
Dr Elizabeth Clarke
Dr Helen M Dennis
Prof. Thomas Docherty
Mr John Fletcher
Dr Emma Francis
Ms Maureen Freely
Dr Gill Frith
Dr Michael Gardiner
Dr Teresa Grant
Mr Tony Howard

Mr Michael Hulse
Dr Cathia Jenainati
Dr Daniel Katz
Dr Michael John Kooy
Prof. Jackie Labbe
Dr Nick Lawrence
Prof. Neil Lazarus
Dr Graeme Macdonald
Prof. Peter Mack
Dr Emma Mason
Prof. Jon Mee
Prof. David Morley
Dr Pablo Mukherjee
Prof. Karen O'Brien
Prof. Benita Parry

Dr Paul Prescott
Dr John Rignall
Prof. Carol Rutter
Dr Stephen Shapiro
Prof. Jeremy Treglown
Dr Rashmi Varma
Dr Christiania Whitehead

Honorary Professors

Prof. J. Coe
Prof. J. R. Mulryne
Prof. O. Pamuk
Prof. K Sharpe
Prof. C. J. Rawson
Prof. J Uglow

