



Art & Action Literary Authorship, Politics, and Celebrity Culture

Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford
artandactionoxford.wordpress.com

Friday, 20 March 2020

9.30 – 10 am

Registration

10 – 10.15 am

Conference opening (Sandra Mayer & Ruth Scobie)

10.15 – 11.45 am

Panel 1: Writers as Political Activists

- Simon Morgan (Leeds Beckett University): “Disability, Authorship and Political Radicalism in the Life and Poetry of James Vernon of South Molton”
- Divya A (Indian Institute of Technology Madras): “The Art of Jeyamohan’s ‘Aram’ (2011): Ethics of Writers, Divinities, and Celebrity Narratives”
- Odile Heynders (Tilburg University): “Cultural Authority in the Democratic Public Sphere: Rethinking Literary Authors’ Positions and Practices”

11.45 – 12.15 am

Coffee / Tea

12.15 – 1.30 pm

Keynote

Antjie Krog (writer, scholar-activist, TORCH International Fellow) in conversation with Peter D. McDonald (University of Oxford)

1.30 – 2.30 pm

Lunch

2.30 – 4 pm

Panel 2: Authorial Border-Crossings and Freedom of Speech

- Kieran Hazzard (University of Oxford): “James Silk Buckingham: Celebrity Anti-Colonial Campaigner”
- Elisa Bizzotto (Luav University of Venice): “Vernon Lee: Female Celebrity Activism across Cultures”
- Hyei Jin Kim (University of Oxford): “Authorial Rights as Human Rights: Negotiating the Idea of the Writer between PEN International and UNESCO”

5.30 – 7 pm

Keynote

Art & Action: Benjamin Zephaniah (poet, activist, Professor of Poetry & Creative Writing, Brunel University) in conversation with Elleke Boehmer (Oxford) and Malachi McIntosh (Editor, *Wasafiri*).

Gulbenkian Lecture Theatre, St Cross Building, Oxford OX1 3UL



Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



Saturday, 21 March 2020

9 – 10.30 am

Panel 3: Literary-Political Networks and Organisations

- Asha Rogers (University of Birmingham): “‘A City Visible but Unseen’: Rushdie in Camden”
- Ellen Wiles (Exeter University): “Live at the Polari Salon: Literary Performance as LGBT Activism”
- Benedict Schofield (King’s College London): “From ‘Engaged Authors’ to ‘Engaged Citizens’? Transnational Literary-Political Networks and the Future of Europe Debate (A.L. Kennedy, Robert Menasse, Katrin Röggla, and Ali Smith)”

9.30 – 11 am

Coffee / Tea

11 – 12.30 am

Panel 4: Female Authorship and Activism

- Anna Paluchowska-Messing (Jagiellonian University Kraków): “No ‘mere passive spectactress’: Frances Burney and the Engagement of the Eighteenth-century Writer in Politics”
- Eva Sage Gordon (CUNY): “Nellie Bly and Fanny Fern: Fame in the Gendered 19th Century”
- Gaston Franssen (University of Amsterdam): “The Politics of the Postfeminist Confessional: the Self-Made Celebrity Authorship of Heleen van Royen”

12.30 – 1.30 pm

Lunch

1.30 – 2.45 pm

Keynote Panel

Art & Action: The Writers’ Activism of PEN

Carles Torner (PEN International Executive Director) and Margie Orford (former South African PEN President) in conversation with Rachel Potter (UEA), Laetitia Zecchini (CNRS Paris) and Peter D. McDonald (Oxford).

2.45 – 3.15 pm

Coffee / Tea

3.15 – 4.45 pm

Panel 5: Authorship & Authority

- Tore Rem (University of Oslo): “On Behalf of the Nation: Knut Hamsun and the Politics of Authorship”
- Foteini Dimirouli (University of Oxford): “Can Dead Poets Speak Back?: C.P. Cavafy in Cold War Propaganda”
- Margaret Scarborough (Columbia University): “Socrates Goes to the Moon: the Late, Democratic Pasolini”

4.45 – 5 pm

Break

5 – 6.15 pm

Closing Roundtable

Literary Celebrity, Activism & the ‘Industry’

Panel discussion with Kirsty Gunn (novelist, Professor of Writing Practice & Study, University of Dundee), David Graham (managing director Pavilion Books), Alan Taylor (editor *Scottish Review of Books*), Daniel Medin (co-editor *Music & Literature*; director Center for Writers and Translators, American University of Paris), Alice Guthrie (translator, writer, editor, Stephen Spender Trust associate).