

Literary London Conference

11th-12th July 2019

Hosted by the Institute of English Studies, University of London
Senate House, London, U.K.

‘Neighbours of Ours’: Cities, Communities, Networks

Call for Papers



Annual Lecture:

Marina Warner: ‘Words on the Move’

Plenary Panel:

‘The Baron Six’:

Anthony Cartwright, Sean Longden, Susie Thomas,
Nadia Valman, Andrew Whitehead, Ken Worpole.

This year, we wish to explore the neighbourliness or otherwise of our cities, both within and beyond the U.K. How are our communities resisting, surviving, adapting and developing in times of international turbulence and national division? How are places of safety, creativity, meeting and exchange established and maintained? How do representations in print, on stage and screen, as well as reading and digital communities, develop possibilities for neighborliness? We will consider how urban networks operate and how these can transform spaces and human experience.

We welcome proposals for 20 minute papers, comprised panels, and roundtable sessions, which consider any period or genre of literature about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city’s roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures. While the main focus of the conference will be on literary texts, we actively encourage interdisciplinary contributions relating to film, TV, architecture, geography, theories of urban space, etc. Papers from postgraduate students are particularly welcome for consideration.

Themes for consideration may include (but are not limited to):

- revisiting theories of community (e.g., the work of Marshall Berman, Georges Perec, Jane Jacobs, Walter Benjamin)
- sister cities – London and Paris, London and New York; relations between urban centres following Brexit; immigration and emigration.
- gentrification, urbicide and loss
- public and privatised urban communal space
- urban transport networks and the construction of community
- households, homes and homeliness
- boundaries, borders and limits
- gossip, ‘godsibs’, hearsay, eavesdropping and whisper networks
- reading communities and literary networks; online spaces and online communities
- artistic communities in the city (e.g. Pre-Raphaelites, Bloomsbury, Fitzrovia, 1950s Soho)
- nationhood and empire
- religious and secular communities in the city
- temporal neighbours – recent pasts, near futures, daytime and nighttime urban communities

Individual abstracts should be no more than 400 words in length, and should include the speaker’s title, name, institutional affiliation, and home address. Please include a brief bio (no more than 50 words) and send your proposals to conference@literarylondon.org

A limited number of travel bursaries of £100 are available to postgraduate students. Please indicate in your correspondence if you would like to be considered for one of these.

Deadline for submissions: 1st February 2019

The Literary London Society (LLS) was founded in July 2011 to ‘foster interdisciplinary and historically wide-ranging research into London literature in its historical, social, and cultural contexts.’ Joining the society confers a number of benefits, including the opportunity to present a paper at the annual conference, and a newsletter with regular updates about relevant events and publications. Joining also helps us to ensure that the Literary London Journal remains freely available into the future, and to develop our other activities, including our popular regular reading group.