

Programme

Thursday 19 March 2020

9.45-10.20 Registration and tea and coffee

10.20-10.30: Opening remarks

10.30-11.30: Plenary: Abigail Williams, "Fling Peregrine Pickle under the toilet": reading fiction together in the eighteenth century.

11.30-1.00: Panels

Panel One: The early modern period (Chair: Eleanor Hardy)

Reading 'out of joint' in *Hamlet* (Elizabeth Ford)

Early Modern Anti-Romance and the Quixotic Heroine (Edwina Christie)

'The gay part of reading': corruption through reading? (Rahel Orgis)

Panel Two: The fictional child reader (Chair: Karen Attar)

'Because I have read books myself': Books and reading in E. Nesbit's Bastable children series (Suzanne Stauffer)

Is there 'no use trying to be romantic in Avonlea'? The woman reader in L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* (Amy Kaufman)

Pocket universes of comfort and escape: the transformative power of reading for fictional children readers in Greek and English modern fiction (Nadia Georgiou)

1.00-2.00: Lunch

2.00-3.30: Panels

Panel Two: The fictional woman reader (Chair: TBC)

'Her unexpected erudition': women readers in eighteenth-century Chinese novels (Fan Wang)

The value of reading in a violent, patriarchal world: Mary Gaitskill's *Two Girls, Fat and Thin* (Louisa Kirk)

'For my life is embarrassingly like a cheap novel': women readers and uncertain metalepsis in the novels of Barbara Trapido (Sophie Corser)

Panel Two: The twentieth century and beyond (Chair: TBC)

What is blitz literature? Reading badly under bombing in Greene's *The Ministry of Fear* and Bowen's *The Demon Lover* (Zachary Hope)

Reading habits in contemporary prose by Romanian women writers (Monica Manolachi)

Angela Thirkell's Barseshire (Hilary Temple)

3.30-4.00: Tea and Coffee

4.00-5.30: Panels

Panel One: Reading within genres, genres in reading (Chair: TBC)

'Into separate *brochures*': Sue Bridehead's 'new New Testament' and the use of Bibles (Lucy Sixsmith)

Library + Body = Agatha Christie (Keith Manley)

'Buried in the transformation': The treachery of the written word in science fiction (Yuri Cowan)

Panel Two: Providing contexts: beyond the fictional reader (Chair: TBC)

Realism in romance: duality in the presentation and practice of reading by Sheila Kay-Smith, novelist and bibliomemoirist (Gillian Neale)

Oh what a literary war! Overreading Kipling in the trenches (Bill Bell)

John Berger's *A Fortunate Man* (Philip Davis)

6.00: Plenary lecture: Sean O'Brien, 'Caveat Lector: Passing Through 'the swing door leading into the vestibule of a certain famous library'.

To be followed by a wine reception

Friday 20 March 2020

9.00-9.30: Registration

9.30-11.30: Panels

Panel One: The long nineteenth century (Chair: Andrew Nash)

Medicalised novel readers in eighteenth-century fiction: instilling boundaries for the imagination in readers of books in English in Georgian Britain (Monika Class)

The self-reflective, emotive, and interactive reader in novels of the Brontë sisters (Natasha Anderson)

'I had a sort of running novel in my head ... I was somebody in a book whose story I was reading' [about Charlotte M. Yonge's readers] (Julia Courtney)

The indispensability of books and reading in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (Hannah Callahan)

Panel Two: Representing reading experiences in fiction (Chair: Edmund King)

Archaeologies of the text: *Louis Norbert* and the stratified reading experience (Sally Blackburn-Daniels)

Ford Madox Ford's fictional readers (Helen Chambers)

The unseen reader: computers reading in fiction (Francesca Benatti)

'A fire fed on books: books and reading in D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* (Susan Watson)

11.30-12.00: Tea and Coffee

12.00-1.00: Plenary lecture: Shaf Towheed, 'I wish I had never read....': evaluating negative representations of reading (and non-reading) in fiction.

1.00-2.00: Lunch

2.00-4.30: READ-IT workshop

4.30-4.45: Concluding remarks