The English Showcase
11th February 2015
1pm - 5pm
Law and Social Sciences, B63

and

An Audience with Thorlac Turville-Petre
5.30pm - 6.30pm
Law and Social Sciences, B63

Conference Organisers:
- Nicole Jones
- Wuraola Alake
- Lizzy Cai

The English Showcase Programme

1pm: Welcome – Professor Josephine Guy and Showcase Committee

Panel 1: Chair – Nicole Jones

1.10pm: Sonia Kumari – *The Gendering of Death in Old Norse Mythology*

1.20pm: Rebecca Rowland – *Evolution and the scientific romance: how does H.G. Wells use the scientific romance genre to explore late Victorian fears about evolution and the nature of man?*

1.30pm: Emily Heathcote – *Editing the Postmodern*

1.40pm: Harry Patte-Dobbs – *Opening the doors of perception with Aldous Huxley*

1.50pm: Richard Bingham – Visual and pure language in a *A Visit From the Goon Squad*

2pm: Questions

2.20pm: Break (10 minutes)

Panel 2: Chair – Lizzy Cai

2.30pm: Georgina Dobie – *Poor Stroop performance in dyslexic undergraduates*

2.40pm: Chaoran Ding – *'You became significant to yourself': A discourse analysis of advertising strategies by Nike to attract female consumers*

2.50pm: Kim-Sue Kreischer – *A corpus-cognitive approach to Pip's self-characterisation in Great Expectations*

3pm: Jessica Mateo – *A corpus analysis of politeness phrases in Pride and Prejudice and 19th century fiction*

3.10pm: Questions

3.30pm: Break (10 minutes)

Panel 3: Chair – Wuraola Alake

3.40pm: Hannah Bassa – *Creative writing*

3.50pm: Liam Knight – *Inspiration and the creative process*

4pm: Lauren Wilson – *The Joycean triple threat: formal and stylistic experimentation in Ulysses*

4.10pm: Swati Mishra – *The switch: characters and writers*

4.20pm: Priya Varughese – *Creative writing – Between the Lines*

4.30pm: Questions

4.50pm End of Showcase – Closing Remarks

5pm: Refreshments

5.30pm: An Audience with Thorlac Turville-Petre

6.30pm: Wine reception

Abstracts

Panel One (Chair: Nicole Jones)

Speaker: **Sonia Kumari**
Title: *The Gendering of Death in Old Norse Mythology*
This presentation discusses early medieval representations of women by exploring the prevalence of female beings associated with death in Old Norse mythology. Building on Judy Quinn's discussion on Valkyries, this work expands the types of women associated with death, explores the power they have, the link to symbols associated with fertility, fate and the place of women outside the home.

Speaker: **Rebecca Rowland**
Title: *Evolution and the Scientific Romance Genre: how does H.G. Wells use the scientific romance genre to explore late Victorian fears about evolution and the nature of man?*
This presentation explores the influence of nineteenth century political thought on the scientific romances written by H.G. Wells. The influence of Darwin's theory of evolution on the Victorian psyche lead to various beliefs about the nature of the world they lived in, from the belief that they as white British people were further along the evolutionary scale to the belief that they themselves were at risk of evolutionary decline. This paper will use a range of texts to explore these ideas, offering an intriguing commentary on the attitudes to evolution in the late nineteenth century.

Speaker: **Emily Heathcote**
Title: *Postmodernist Literature and Postmodernist Editing*
Literary postmodernism is now a standard subject on most university syllabuses. However, two generations now separate today's students from the authors of the first postmodernist works, with the result that iconic novels of the period are effectively historical documents: they are 'modern classics' produced at a particular political and cultural moment. Surprisingly, there have been no attempts to 'edit' postmodern fiction, and so no systematic testing of the kinds of claims made for editorial theory in relation to the literary works through which postmodernist ideas were first articulated. This presentation will explore the idea of postmodernist editing.

Speaker: **Harry Patte-Dobbs**
Title: *Opening the Doors of Perception with Aldous Huxley*
Aldous Huxley's short book *The Doors of Perception* serves as a seminal transition point between the concerns of Huxley in the 1930s and his later depiction as a proponent of drug usage and YouTube sensation. This presentation aim to relate Huxley's philosophical musings, in reaction to the usage of the drug Mescaline, to allusions throughout some literature of the last century and to issues in contemporary society and religions.

Speaker: **Richard Bingham**
Title: *"Where does the writing come in?": Examining the Domestication of Visual and 'Pure' Language in Jennifer Egan's A Visit from the Goon Squad*
This essay examines the different modes of expression afforded to characters in the final two chapters of Jennifer Egan's A Visit from the Goon Squad by the domestication of new electronically-mediated communication mediums. Egan's formal use of PowerPoint in "Great Rock and Roll Pauses" employs its affordance for a visual narrative, requiring a different approach to producing and reading meaning, while the 'Ts' of "Pure Language" blur the distinctions between spoken and written modes to increase the efficiency of interpersonal communication. The final section of this essay suggests Egan's portrayal of the domestication of these electronically-mediated communication modes includes the implication that they encourage the use of a standardized counter language that restricts individualistic expression and thought.

Panel Two (Chair: Lizzy Cai)

Speaker: **Georgina Dobie**
Title: *Poor Stroop performances in Dyslexic Undergraduates*
This presentation examines Stroop performance in Dyslexic undergraduates. 'Dyslexia' can cause a number of difficulties that present themselves in reading, spelling and written language. It is widely believed that problems with single word decoding underlie dyslexia. For this reason, dyslexics are a particularly interesting population to study in relation to the Stroop effect. The 'Stroop test' traditionally requires participants to name ink colours in a neutral condition (e.g. patches of colour), a congruent condition (e.g. the colour name 'GREEN' printed in green ink) and an incongruent condition (e.g. the colour 'GREEN' printed in red ink). In his research, Stroop found that reaction times in the incongruent condition are slower than naming colours within the congruent condition and the colour naming condition.

Speaker: **Chaoran Ding**
Title: *'You became significant to yourself': A Discourse Analysis of Advertising Strategies Applied by Nike to Attract Female Consumers*
Nike is widely recognized as the world's leader in the sports clothing industry, and it also dominates the American sportswear market. However, in the mid-1980s, Nike's sales fell significantly behind Reebok, which was attributable to its ignorance of the women's fitness market. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Nike launched a series of advertising campaigns targeted at women consumers, and its sales of women's sports and fitness categories surged. Nike's 'Empathy' campaign was one of these effective campaigns. It started in 1991 with an eight-page magazine advert, and celebrated the internal self of everyday women. This paper will analyse how the language is designed as personal, colloquial, and pseudo-poetic to engage readers, and how the paralanguage is manipulated to persuade readers into the philosophy of life established by Nike.

Speaker: **Kim-Sue Kreischer**
Title: *A Corpus-Cognitive approach to Pip's self-characterisation in Great Expectations*
This paper combines cognitive poetics and corpus stylistics to demonstrate how Pip's self-presentation in Great Expectations creates character impressions. Readers mind-model a consciousness for Pip, regarding his actions and narration as indicative of mental states, and interpret who Pip is, or wants to be, by how he implicitly and expressively presents himself.

Speaker: **Jessica Mateo**
Title: *"I should like to know…" A Corpus Analysis of Politeness Phrases in Pride and Prejudice and in a Reference Corpus of 19th Century Fiction.*
This study reports on the findings of an investigation that looks at patterns of politeness in the dialogue of *Pride and Prejudice*. This paper builds on an earlier study that uses keyword analysis to explore civility as a thematic component in the novel (Mahlberg and Smith 2010). The present study uses 'clusters' (i.e. repeated sequences of words, e.g. I do assure you that), to approach this text from a new angle, investigating how form and function play a role in how politeness is used. The findings for *Pride and Prejudice* are then compared to a general reference corpus of 19th Century fiction.

Panel Three (Chair: Wuraola Alake)

Speaker: **Hanna Bassa**
Title: *Creative Writing Samples*
A selection of creating writing that explore a range of important topics, including but not limited to; the practice of Female Genital Mutilation; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and the human struggle that exists in wars.

Speaker: **Liam Knight**
Title: *Inspiration and the creative process*
A tour through the poem 'Tegenaria Domestica', a coursework piece submitted for a creative writing module. This presentation retells the process of writing from initial source and inspiration to the drafting and rewriting process, concluding with a reading and analysis of the poem.

Speaker: **Lauren Wilson**
Title: *The Joycean 'triple-threat': the Casting of an Arranging Device as a Dramatic Carrier of the Formal and Stylistic Experimentation in Ulysses.*
If James Joyce's epic, Ulysses, were to be dramatised as a two act play, it would be a performance of two very distinct halves; the first, a realistic portrayal of a day in Dublin's life, June 16th 1904, and the second being a showcase of performance art laced with an underlying plot of Homeric origin. After the interval, a new presence would make his debut on stage: Joyce's multi-faceted showman, director of this showcase and a carrier device for the modernist stylistic experimentation to be negotiated when reading the second half of this great literary work. David Hayman refers to such a figure as 'the Arranger'[1] and there has been much critical debate on the subject of its identity; however, this paper proposes that this arranging presence does not limit itself to a single persona. Rather, this paper offers a review of its 'performances' in three different chapters of Ulysses, within which Joyce's 'showman' undertakes the directorial roles of the newspaper editor of "Aeolus"; the composer and conductor of "Sirens"; and the puppeteer positioned above the Dublin of "Wandering Rocks."

Speaker: **Swati Mishra**
Title: *The Switch: Characters and Writers*
This paper analyses the thin line or the binary that separates the writer from the characters he writes about. The author shares a complex relationship with his characters, and the growth of the author is interchangeable with that of the writer. The paper will include research on writers, their lives, how and what affected their character formation. Two writers will be analysed in detail, one that lives the characters in real life and the other who has mastered the art of drawing the thin line that separates characters from the writers.

Speaker: **Priya Varughese**
Title: *Between the Lines*
A creative writing sample that explores the nature of love. Are love stories boring? Can they express more than boy meet girls, boy and girl fight, and finally make up? Rebecca and William have known each other since primary school. This presentation tells their story, encouraging the audience to read- or listen- between the lines.

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