Biological Discourses
The Language of Science and Literature around 1900
A Postgraduate-Led Conference at St John’s College, Cambridge

Friday, 10 April 2015

10.00 Registration
11.00 Welcome
11.15 **Keynote Lecture**
Heike Bauer (London): Death and Inversion
12.00 **Panel 1: Sexology**
Linda Leskau (Bochum): Vegetal Perversions in Texts by Alfred Döblin
Cyd Sturgess (Sheffield): Constructing the Boundaries of Desire: Theories of Sexual ‘Inversion’ and Sapphic Self-Fashioning in Berlin and Amsterdam (1918-1933)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **Panel 2: The Racial Other**
Aisha Nazeer (St Andrews): The Degenerate, Racial ‘Other’: Reading the Abject in Marryat’s *The Blood of the Vampire* and Haggard’s *She*
David Midgley (Cambridge): The Legacy of Haeckel in the Writings of German Anti-Racists

15.00 **Panel 3: Infections and Infestations**
Marie Kolkenbrock (Cambridge): Gothic Infections: Discourses of Bacteriology and Occultism in the Literature of Prague and Vienna around 1900

16.00 Tea
16.30 **Panel 4: Reproductive Issues**
Michael Eggers (Cologne): A Kiss is not just a Kiss. Adalbert Stifter’s Novella ‘The Kiss of the Sentze’ and the Reproduction of Mosses
Charlotte Woodford (Cambridge): Biology and the Romance: Eugenic Thinking in Early Twentieth-Century Fiction by Women

18.00 **Graduate Workshop**
An Opportunity to Present Research Plans and Seek Advice

Advance registration required by Friday, 27 March 2015.
Conference fees: £30 (standard rate one or both days); £25 (Friends of Germanic or Italian Studies at the IMLR); £20 (students).
Register online at [http://onlinesales.admin.cam.ac.uk/](http://onlinesales.admin.cam.ac.uk/), using the form overleaf/at [www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk](http://www.modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk) > events or [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/german](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/german), or contact german@mml.cam.ac.uk (tel: 01223 335 037)

Saturday, 11 April 2015

9.00 **Panel 5: The Darwinian Legacy**
Elena Borelli (New York): The Beast Within: Darwinism and Desire in the Fin de Siècle
Anahita Rouyan (Bologna): Resisting ‘Excelsior Biology’: H.G. Wells’s *The Time Machine* and the Late Victorian (Mis-)Representations of Charles Darwin’s Theory of Evolution
William Dodd (Birmingham): From Hitler to Darwin? Dolf Sternberger’s *Panorama or Views of/from the Nineteenth Century* (1938) as Cultural History in the Shadow of National Socialism
10.30 Coffee
11.00 **Panel 6: Psychology and Aesthetics**
Tracey Loughran (Cardiff): Biology, Trauma and History: ‘Shell-Shock’ in British Medical Literature and Fiction, ca. 1914-1930
Sarah Cain (Cambridge): Attention and Efficiency: The Experimental Psychology of Modernism
Rey Lawson-Conquer (Oxford): ‘Synaesthesia is the art of perceiving, itself’: The Uses and Abuses of a Cross-Disciplinary Metaphor

12.30 **Commentary**
Angus Nicholls (London)
13.00 Lunch
14.00 **Panel 7: Literary Transformations**
Robert Craig (Cambridge): ‘I looked for myself … but found the world’: Looking for a New Hermeneutics in Alfred Döblin’s Literary Anthropologies and Biologies
Annja Neumann (Cambridge): ‘Literarische Naturbetrachtung’. Arthur Schnitzler’s Literary Dissection Theatre in his *Ärztstück* and *Professor Bernhardi*

16.00 **Keynote Lecture**
Staffan Müller-Wille (Exeter): Heredity around 1900
16.45 Tea
17.30 Conference Closes

Conference organisers: Robert Craig, Ina Linge and Annja Neumann (Cambridge)

Background image: ‘Chordaria flagelliformis’ from Anna Atkins: *Photographs of British Algae. Cyanotype Impressions Vol. 2* [British Library, Item 80:11 (80)]