

# Biological Discourses

## The Language of Science and Literature around 1900



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



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**  
**Michael Wainwright** (London): *The Lair of the White*: Stoker's Literal Projection of a Helminthic Nightmare  
**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

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

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/>, 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](mailto:german@mml.cam.ac.uk) (tel: 01223 335 037)

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)]