

ESSE (European Society for the Study of English)

22–26 August 2016 – Galway, Ireland

<http://www.esse2016.org/>

selected calls for papers for themed seminars (i.e. those relating to Scottish Studies)

Deadline of submission: February 28, 2016

1) Scottish studies seminars

(for more detailed information see the conference website at the end of September or contact individual convenors):

“Regional and World Literatures: National Roots and Transnational Routes in Scottish Literature and Culture from the 18th Century to Our Age”

Co-convenors: Gioia Angeletti, University of Parma, Italy, gioia.angeletti@unipr.it

Bashabi Fraser, Edinburgh Napier University, UK, b.fraser@napier.ac.uk

The panel intends to explore the multifaceted ways in which Scottish literature and culture from the eighteenth century onwards have become vehicles and interpreters of an increasingly plural, transcultural, diasporic and liquid world. While preserving regional specificities, through the centuries Scottish literature and culture have looked beyond national boundaries, both impacting on and absorbing elements of English, European or world literatures through migration processes and mutual exchanges. We welcome papers on a broad range of topics.

“The Politics of Language in Contemporary Scottish and Irish Drama”

Co-convenors: Ian Brown, University of Kingston, UK, ijmbrown@hotmail.com

Daniele Berton-Charrière, Université Blaise Pascal, France, Daniele.Berton@univ-bpclermont.fr

In 1980, Brian Friel's *Translations* had its first production, its themes highlighting the importance of language politics in an imperialist setting. In both Scottish and Irish contemporary drama since then, language forms and usage have been a prime issue, either in forms of theatrical dialogue as in Enda Walsh's *Disco Pigs* (1996) or in the varieties of language used in recent Scottish theatre. Papers are invited which explore aspects of the politics of language in contemporary Irish or Scottish drama.

“The Inner Seas connecting and dividing Scotland and Ireland”

Co-convenors: Jean Berton, Université de Toulouse-Jean Jaurès, France, jean.berton@univ-tlse2.fr

Donna Heddle, University of the Highlands and Islands, UK, Donna.Heddle@uhi.ac.uk

From the Minch to the North Channel the marine area has been a most active zone for adventurers, traders, marine scientists, pilgrims and hermits, fishermen, painters, migrants, pirates, missionaries, sailors, bird watchers, spies, etc. whether Irish, Roman, Scottish, Viking, English, American, Russian, German, French and Spanish. This seminar invites papers on fiction in all its aspects from historical to crime fiction dealing with all sorts of activities in this area from fighting to romance and extending to hinterlands on both sides.

“‘I hear it in the deep heart’s core’: political emotions in Irish and Scottish poetry”

Co-convenors: *Stephen Regan, Durham University, UK, stephen.regan@durham.ac.uk*
Carla Sassi, Università di Verona, Italy, carla.sassi@univr.it

Nations can be the object of intense emotions, and while some are notoriously blinding and destructive, others can be for the common good. Poetry can play a powerful and positive role in articulating the thoughts and feelings of a nation. It can direct hearts and minds towards principles of equality, justice and democracy, so that the nation becomes the catalyst for global change. We invite contributions that consider poetry as vehicle and shaper of political emotions.

“Twenty-first century Scottish literature”

Co-convenors: *Marie-Odile Pittin-Hédon, Aix-Marseille Université, France, marie-odile.hedon@univ-amu.fr*
Scott Hames, University of Stirling, UK, scott.hames@stir.ac.uk
Camille Manfredi, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, France, camille.manfredi@univ-brest.fr

This seminar aims to examine cultural diversity in twenty-first century Scotland. We welcome papers that focus on the interrogation of borders and of the national sentiment in twenty-first-century Scottish literature, and on the various ways that writers “reconfigure the possible” in a key period of their political and cultural history. Questions might be raised as to the dynamic of contemporary Scottish cultural politics and the way literary nationalism is being overtaken by the mass-movement politics of independence; both taking it over in the sense of determining the political/social frames in which literary criticism operated, thus rendering key paradigms redundant, and overtaking in the sense of surpassing and leaving behind, thus marking the end of the age of nationalist politics and the beginning of what Tom Nairn terms the age of “nationality-politics”.

“Celtic Fictions - Scottish and Irish Speculative Fiction”

Co-convenors: *Jessica Aliaga Lavrijsen, Centro Universitario de la Defensa Zaragoza, Spain, jeskeal@unizar.es*
Colin Clark, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, scoczech@gmail.com

The thesis of much modern Speculative Fiction in Ireland and Scotland is the generation of a creative space in which, imaginatively, solutions are sought and simulated for real political, social and metaphysical problems. Often the result of impasses and failed channels for expression in society, speculative writing may be ludic, genre-hopping and heteroglossic offering refreshing and innovative discursive space. This panel seeks to expose and explore deliberately transgressive texts and engage with authors concerned with negotiating topoi neglected by conventional, institutionalized institutions and to bring together practitioners from various literatures and genres to discuss the potentialities of the speculative mode.

2) Furthermore, the convenors of the following seminars expressed an interest in proposals from a Scottish studies perspective:

“Religion and Literatures in English”

Co-convenors: *Pilar Somacarrera, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain, pilar.somacarrera@uam.es*
Alison Jack, University of Edinburgh, UK, a.jack@ed.ac.uk

Religion has been an endless source of motifs and inspiration for literatures in the English language. The Bible has always had a central place in English literature, although its influence was heightened after the publication of the King James Bible of 1611. Since then, it has provided subjects for literature to writers like D.H. Lawrence and James Joyce. This seminar welcomes contributions dealing with any aspect of the relationship between religion and the literatures in English: papers about the relation between religion, Bible intertextuality and gender are particularly welcome.

“The Fast and the Furious: The Amazing Textual Adventures of Miniscripts”

Co-convenors: *Francesca Saggini Boyle, University of Tuscia/University of Glasgow, fsaggini@unitus.it*
Anna Enrichetta Soccio, University of Chieti, Italy, esoccio@unich.it

From the standpoint of complementary linguistic, literary and cultural studies, this panel will examine all forms of micro-textuality. The diversity of past and present-day microtextuality includes textual sermons, graffiti, flash fictions, media texts (hashtags, blogs, twitter size fictions), literary ephemera (greeting cards, postcards and trade cards), extreme bowdlerizations, essential compendia to be read in one sitting, one-act plays, aphorism, epigrams, funerary inscriptions, captions. This panel argues for a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of the concepts of 'mini-text', 'mini-narratives' and 'textual snapshots', the metaphorical 'small print' that has traditionally been relegated to peripheral or spectralised narratives.