



# THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEMPORARY LITERARY STUDIES

Welcome to the BACLS January 2023 newsletter

The BACLS newsletter shares calls for papers, job listings, recent publications, and events (including conferences, talks, and exhibitions) relating to Contemporary Literary Studies in Britain and around the world.

Items for upcoming newsletters should be sent to the acting BACLS Publicity Officer, Julia Ditter at [julia-ditter@outlook.com](mailto:julia-ditter@outlook.com) or via messaging the [@BACLS\\_official](#) Twitter account.

**Please send items by 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for inclusion in the next mailing.**

BACLS is also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) – please feel free to follow for updates and to share formal and informal announcements with BACLS members and the wider contemporary studies community.

## Call for papers / articles / contributions

**Reminder:** Call for Papers: *Lydia Davis in Context* seeks to commission and develop new research for a landmark edited collection that redresses the marginalisation of Davis in the contemporary literary canon and repositions her work within new literary, critical, theoretical, and aesthetic contexts. The collection seeks to re-evaluate and reinvigorate the contexts through which Davis has been commonly read (postmodern metafiction, translation, minimalism) and looks beyond them to new and unexplored facets of Davis's work. *Lydia Davis in Context* will make a bold case for establishing Davis as an important figure in late-twentieth century and contemporary literature. We are interested in original and innovative approaches to any aspect of Davis's work. Among other fields we'd be interested to see contributions on

- Animal studies
- Gender and sexuality
- The body and medical humanities
- Climate writing
- Philosophy
- Writing institutions and networks (the academy, publishing, poetry circles)
- Davis, postmodernism (and after)
- Art writing
- Contemporary translation theory
- Life writing /autofiction /autobiography

- Archival projects based on the newly opened Lydia Davis Papers at Columbia University

Contributors will develop their chapters for the collection at a two-day workshop at the University of York in July 2023 (exact date tbc). Researchers from any career stage are welcome. Abstracts (300 words max) and a brief author bio should be sent to Dr Lola Boorman ([lola.boorman@york.ac.uk](mailto:lola.boorman@york.ac.uk)) and Dr Julie Tanner ([julie.tanner@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:julie.tanner@qmul.ac.uk)) by **1st February 2023**.

Call for Papers: Section on ["Social Reading and Reading Communities in Diachronic Perspective"](#), Anglistentag, 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Siegen (Germany).

In this section, we do not only aim to offer a critical investigation of the different ways in which reading in the digital age can be understood as (or in some cases merely appears to be) 'social'. We also would like to invite contributions on the sociality of reading in earlier periods. The design of this section is interdisciplinary in that we invite contributions from ELT as well as linguistics and literary studies. Early career colleagues are particularly encouraged to apply. The deadline for proposals has been extended to 15 February 2023.

## Events

[ECHIC 2023 Conference: Ecological Mindedness and Sustainable Wellbeing](#), 25-27 May 2023. Since the World Commission on Environment and Development published *Our Common Future* (1987), the notion of sustainable development has been continuously scrutinised and redefined. Sustainability has been expanded to incorporate environmental, cultural, legal, and economic aspects of a low-carbon future and to encompass the wellbeing of all living species, which involves material aspects such as the social acceptance of resource-efficient transitions and immaterial ones such as flourishing human capabilities. The conference theme – **"Ecological Mindedness and Sustainable Wellbeing"** – invites critical reflection on theories, methods, and practices of sustainability requiring eco-innovation and technology transfer as well as new cultural frames of mind and forms of education, social engagement, empowerment, and agency.

## New Publications

Article: Hannah Boast (2022). ["Theorizing the Gay Frog."](#) *Environmental Humanities* 14 (3): 661–679.

Article: Penny Simpson (2022). ["Breaking the Frame: The Role of Art-Making in Narratives of Migration and Diaspora."](#) *Literature Interpretation Theory Journal*.

Article: George Kowalik (2023). ["Post-Postmodernism, the 'Affective Turn', and Inauthenticity."](#) *Humanities* 12 (1).

Review: Kai Tan (2022). ["Lena Mattheis. Translocality in Contemporary City Novels."](#) *Anglistik* 33 (3): 156–158.

Monograph: Ben Davies, Christina Lupton, and Johanne Gormsen Schmidt (2022). [Reading Novels During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#). Oxford University Press.

Edited collection: [Wonder Tales in the Fiction of A. S. Byatt](#) (2023), edited by Alexandra Cheira, Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Extract available via [this link](#).

All members are encouraged to share news of recently published books, essays, or articles, so please feel free to send those over to include in future newsletters.

## Job / Funded PhD Listings

[Postdoctoral Researcher for "Post-Postmodern Fictions of the Digital"](#), College of Social Sciences and Arts, Sheffield Hallam University. Full Time, Fixed Term. Closes 19<sup>th</sup> February.

[Lecturer in Creative Writing](#), Edinburgh Napier University, School of Arts & Creative Industries. Part Time, Permanent. Closes 26<sup>th</sup> February.

[Anniversary Fellowships](#), University of South Hampton. Full Time, Fixed Term. Closes 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Please note BACLS shares all opportunities, so as to present a wide range of jobs on offer but does not seek to endorse precarious and fractional employment as a standard practice.

## Other Announcements

### **Membership Fee Waiver**

BACLS offers a 12-month membership fee waiver for members who may be experiencing financial hardship. If you would like to request a fee waiver then please contact Julia Ditter, Membership Secretary ([julia.ditter@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:julia.ditter@northumbria.ac.uk)).

Best wishes for the year ahead,

Julia, on behalf of the BACLS Executive Committee.