



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEMPORARY LITERARY STUDIES

Welcome to the BACLS March newsletter

Please note that this March newsletter has been delayed due to the ongoing industrial action affecting UK universities.

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@northumbria.ac.uk or via messaging the [@BACLS_official](https://twitter.com/BACLS_official) Twitter account.

Please send items by 22nd April 2022 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

Call for Creative Writing: [Speculative Nature Writing: Feeling for the Future](#). As part of the UKRI-funded project (University of East Anglia), we are seeking creative writing for a new anthology. This publication will bring together some of the best and most innovative contemporary writing on the environment to create a collection of 'speculative nature writing'. See attached CFP for details.

Call for Papers: [Graduate Conference 2022, L'Orientale, Università di Napoli, Italy](#). 6-8th October 2022. The eighth edition of the graduate conference organized by the University of Naples L' Orientale, intends to explore the interactions among forms of literature, art and languages. One of the main aims of the conference will be that of investigating both synchronically and diachronically the different types and modalities of such processes, as well as the elements and tools related to them. Abstracts due 8th May, see attached CFP for details.

Call for Papers: [Narrative ethics and character in the representation of the past in Contemporary English-speaking fiction, 21st October 2022](#), University of Caen Normandie, France. CFP attached, abstracts due 21st May.

[Victorian Legacies podcast](#) is looking for academics and creatives to talk about their current projects and why the nineteenth century continues to influence and fascinate us. See attached document for more details.

Events

The 22nd Utopian Studies Society (Europe) Conference will be held at the University of Brighton, 13th-15th July. The conference title is: 'Opening Utopia: New Directions in Utopian Studies' and the first confirmed keynote speaker is Professor Jack Halberstam, who will speak on queering utopia. The conference is both in person and online, [details here](#).

New Publications

Article: Richard Bingham (2022) [Zadie Smith's Nonhuman turns](#), Textual Practice, 36:3, 454-472, DOI: 10.1080/0950236X.2022.2030120

Book: Peter D. Mathews, [English Magic and Imperial Madness: The Anti-Colonial Politics of Susanna Clarke's Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell](#). McFarland & Co., 2021.

Journal article: Peter D. Mathews, ["The Symbolism of Clothing: The Naked Truth About Jacques Lacan"](#) CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture 23.1 (2021)

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

[Lecturer in Liberal Arts](#). University of Bristol - Faculty of Arts. Full-time, Permanent. Closes 4th May.

[Associate Professor of Children's Literature and Comparative Literature](#). University of Aarhus - School of Communication and Culture. Full time and tenured. Closes 4th May.

[Research Associate](#), University of Glasgow - School of Education, Part-time, fixed-term. Closes 19th April

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

New C21 Editors

We are delighted to announce the new editors-in-chief of [C21 Literature](#): Dr Siân Adiseshiah and Dr Caroline Edwards. The journal's founding editor-in-chief Professor Katy Shaw has stepped down, after more than 10 years in the role, and BACLS want to take this opportunity to thank her dedication and vision.

BACLS Committee Changes

There have been a few adjustments within the Executive Committee, with Dr Zoe Hope Bulaitis Acting as Vice Chair of BACLS with Professor Katy Shaw stepping down, and Julia Ditter taking on the role of Publicity Secretary, which Zoe previously held. These positions will be held until the formal election process later this summer, see below.

Nominations are now open for 12 positions on the BACLS Executive Committee.

- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Communications & Web Administrator
- Membership Secretary
- Ordinary Member (5 positions)
- Graduate Student Representative (3 positions)

If you would like to nominate yourself for one of these positions, **please complete the [short online form](#)**, including a 300-word statement detailing your background and suitability for the role. The deadline for nominations is Friday 29 April 2022.

Link to online form [here](#).

Please feel free to contact [current post holders](#) if you would like to get a better sense of what these roles involve.

BACLS Book Prize

The April newsletter will announce how to apply for the 2022 book prize.

Membership Fee Wavier

BACLS is continuing its 12-month membership fee waiver for members who may be experiencing hardship and unforeseen difficulties as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 situation. If you would like to request a fee waiver then please contact Mike Witcombe, Membership Secretary (witcombeuk@gmail.com).

Best wishes,

Julia, on behalf of the BACLS Executive Committee.