



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEMPORARY LITERARY STUDIES

Welcome to the BACLS November 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 or via messaging the [@BACLS_official](#) Twitter account.

Please send items by 15th December 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.

Events

[The New Feminist Literary Studies](#): A celebration of the award-winning New Feminist Literary Studies featuring talks from the editor Jennifer Cooke and contributors. 16th November 4-5pm, CCWA, Online.

Call for papers / articles / contributions

Call for Papers: Reproductive Justice and the Humanities in Times of Crisis, 21st June 2024, University of York. We are seeking proposals for 20 minutes papers to be delivered at a one-day hybrid symposium. The symposium will bring together scholars of all levels working on questions of reproductive justice in literature, film, media, and other forms of cultural representation. Our hope is that it will allow established and emerging scholars to share their current work and identify future directions for interdisciplinary research and collaboration focused on reproductive justice. The symposium will also mark the launch of a new international network in Reproductive Justice and the Humanities. Abstracts of 250 words are due by 15th January 2024. Full CFP attached.

Call for Contributions: [Special Issue "Dark Academia"](#) in *Literatur in Wissenschaft und Unterricht*. 'Dark Academia' is a social media trend devoted to the stylization of academic life in the humanities. Dark Academia lends itself to approaches from visual and literary studies (exploring e.g. the function of gothic, dark romantic or decadent motifs and genres; concepts like vibe, atmosphere, structure of feeling),

media and cultural studies (e.g. addressing the dynamics of social media communities, platformization, material culture; race, class and gender; (New) Englishness) and many more. The phenomenon can also be approached with concepts from cultural sociology and discourse analysis such as: students and academics as 'social figures', social and cultural capital in schools and universities; self-presentations, narratives and representations of higher education institutions; representations of knowledge or epistemological practices and timescapes. We also invite contributions that take Dark Academia as a point of departure for charting the post-pandemic situation of the humanities. Papers can build on the thought-provoking yet impressionistic essays in a 2022 Post-45 issue on Dark Academia (edited by Olivia Stowell and Mitch Therieau). Abstracts of 400 words are due by the end of January 2024. Full papers are due by 1st July 2024. Full CfP attached.

New Publications

Policy Report: Martina Zimmermann, Joe Wood, Harriet Boulding and Ross Pow. 2023. "[Shifting How We View the Ageing Process](#)." London: The Policy Institute at King's College London. (Open Access)

Article: Hannah Boast. 2023. "[Minor Detail Book: How the Language of the Past Can Help Us Read the Present Situation in Palestine](#)." *The Conversation*, 25 October 2023

Review Essay: Hannah Boast. 2023. "[Animal Nullius. Review on Iruş Braverman, Settling Nature: The Conservation Regime in Palestine-Israel \(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2023\)](#)." *Humanimalia* 14.1.

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.

NEW Achievements

[Science and Literature Forum](#): Arya Aryan would like to announce this newly founded forum as a platform for networking and knowledge exchange in the digital and medical humanities. The forum organises a [webinar series](#) with speakers from around the world. [Book launches and promotions](#) are also welcome to be shared on the forum's website.

Completed PhD Theses

Kai Qing, Tan. *Encountering Psychogeographical Literary Moments: Readers' Affective Enactment in Contemporary British Novels (2000-)*. 2023. RWTH Aachen University, PhD dissertation. RWTH Publications, <https://publications.rwth-aachen.de/record/963803/files/963803.pdf>. Congratulations Dr Tan!

Book Contracts for Forthcoming Publications:

Dominic Dean's monograph *Killing Children in British Fiction: Thatcherism to Brexit* is now under contract with SUNY Press, due to be published in 2024. Congratulations! Short synopsis: As the twentieth century entered its final decades and the twenty-first began, British fiction became full of children killing, being killed, or both. *Killing Children in British Fiction: Thatcherism to Brexit* is a major new study of how literature, film and culture has used these children to explore conflicts over the British future from the rise of Thatcherism to the Brexit era. Exploring work from 1970s horror films to novels by Kazuo Ishiguro, Ian McEwan, Sarah Waters, Jim Crace, Dorris Lessing and

Melissa Harrison, set alongside real disappearances, abuses and moral panics, *Killing Children in British Fiction* offers a new reading of the intersection between real and imagined violence towards the child and the future. This includes both a dark and complex account of recent British cultural history, and an intervention that will engage and provoke scholars of childhood, contemporary fiction, Psychoanalysis, and critical and queer theory.

Julia Ditter's monograph *Scottish Literature, Borders and the Environmental Imagination* is under contract with Bloomsbury Academic to be published in 2024. Short blurb: Bringing together concerns in border studies, the environmental humanities and Scottish literary studies, this book examines the relationship between borders and the environment in Scottish literature from the nineteenth-century to the present. Developing an innovative methodology that approaches Scotland from an interdisciplinary perspective, this book puts key debates in Scottish studies, literary theory, critical border studies and the environmental humanities into dialogue to highlight the critical intervention that Scottish literature can make in current theoretical discussions about borders and the environment.

All members are encouraged to share achievements to celebrate, so please feel free to send those over to include in future newsletters. We understand achievements as an open and non-exhaustive category that include anything you would like to share with the community (examples are prizes, research grants, completed PhDs, a new job, a book contract, or other exciting new developments).

Job / Funded PhD Listings

[Postdoctoral Research Fellow RENEW](#), University of Exeter, Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS). Full Time, Fixed-Term (6 months). Closes 6th November.

[Assistant Professor in World & Postcolonial Literature Cultures](#), University of Warwick, English and Comparative Literary Studies. Full Time, Permanent. Closes 3rd December.

[Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships 2024](#), Swansea University. Full Time, Fixed-Term. Closes 4th December.

[Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships 2024](#), Northumbria University. Full Time, Fixed-Term. Closes 8th December.

[Chair and Head of Department – Languages, Cultures and Film](#), University of Liverpool, School of Histories Languages and Cultures Department of Languages Cultures and Film. Full Time, Permanent. Closes 8th December.

[Fully funded CHASE: Arts & Humanities PhD Studentships](#), University of Kent. Full time, Fixed Term. Closes 3rd December.

[UEA Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships 2024](#), University of East Anglia, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Full Time, Fixed-Term. Closes 3rd January.

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

Social Media

You can now also find us on BlueSky ([@bacls.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@bacls.bsky.social)) We look forward to connecting with you there! For the time being, we will keep our Twitter account active and running and will use BlueSky as an additional social media platform and reassess depending on how things develop.

Thank you to everyone who has provided an invite code. If you need an invite code to join BlueSky, please contact Julia Ditter (julia-ditter@outlook.com). We do have some spares kindly provided by members!

Executive Committee Update

We welcome C21 editors-in-chief, Caroline Edwards and Siân Adiseshiah to the executive committee in an ex officio capacity. We look forward to working with you more closely!

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@outlook.com).

Best wishes,

Julia, on behalf of the BACLS Executive Committee.