



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEMPORARY LITERARY STUDIES

Welcome to the BACLS October 2021 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 BACLS Publicity Officer, Zoe Hope Bulaitis at zoebulaitis@gmail.com or via messaging [@BACLS_official](https://twitter.com/BACLS_official) Twitter account.

Please send items by 15th November 2021 for inclusion in the next mailing.

BACLS is also on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BACLS) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BACLS_official) – please feel free to follow for updates and to share formal and informal announcements with BACLS members and the wider contemporary studies community.

Events

[“Uses of Literature”](#) Conference, Online, 3-5 November 2021. The “Uses of Literature” research group at the University of Southern Denmark will hold a conference to mark the conclusion of the Niels Bohr Professorship held by Prof. Rita Felski. See attached poster. Free to attend, registration closes 26 October 2021.

[Being Human Festival Programming](#), 9-20 November 2021. See full details online. If you are organising an event / café, please let us know so we can promote on social media. Here is a taster of a few contemporary events:

- [#CovidComics and Me](#). 11am-1pm, 13 November 2021. Bournemouth Gateway Building, University of Bournemouth. What can we learn about being human from comics made during COVID-19? This workshop is designed for anyone who enjoys visual arts and wants to learn more about how comics are used to engage audiences and encourage empathy.

- [Live and Local: Telling the Stories of a Commonwealth City](#). 5.45 – 7pm, 18 November 2021. The Exchange Building, University of Birmingham. This event brings together local poets and academics for an evening of live stories and readings that reflect the multiplicity of Birmingham as a Commonwealth City.

New Publications

Article: Julie Tanner. ['The legacy of literary reflexivity: or, the benefits of doubt'](#) *Textual Practice*, 2021.

Book: Emilie Walezak. [Rethinking Contemporary British Women's Writing. Realism, Feminism, Materialism.](#) Bloomsbury, 2021.

Book: Ian Hickey: [Haunted Heaney: Spectres and the Poetry.](#) Routledge, 2021.

Job / Funded PhD Listings

[Postdoctoral Research Fellow "Writing the Future"](#). The University of Exeter - College of Life and Environmental Sciences. Part-time (0.8 FTE), fixed-term basis from 1 December 2021 until 30 April 2022, deadline 31 October 2021.

[Lecturer in Literature.](#) The University of Essex. Eleven months (maternity cover) starting in January 2022, deadline 8 November 2021.

[Associate Professor in Modern / Contemporary English-Language and Literature.](#) Norwegian University of Science and Technology - Department of Language and Literature (ISL). Full-time, Permanent, anticipated start date August 2022. Deadline for applications 13 November 2021.

Other Announcements

We are delighted to announce the winners of the BACLS Book Prizes. Congratulations to the authors!

Postgraduate Essay Prize: George Cox '[Archived Bards: Platformalism, Hollie McNish & YouTube](#)' *C21 Literature*, 8:1 (2020).

Judges Comment: *An exciting study of new kinds of audience and textual interactions, this article is scholarly, fast-moving and in touch with contemporary debates about artists' relations with digital forms. Among the submissions, all of which are well-written, knowledgeable and engaged, this piece had something urgent to say about contemporary literary communication and contemporaneity.*

Edited Collection Prize: [The New Feminist Literary Studies](#) by Jennifer Cooke, Cambridge University Press, 2020.

Judges Comment: *An impressively polished and theoretically sophisticated piece of scholarship. With astute, nuanced and insightful critical analyses from its contributors, Jennifer Cooke has produced a necessary and significant volume that will undoubtedly be an essential read for anyone interested in the development of feminist literary studies.*

Monograph Prize: [Contemporary Feminist Life Writing: The New Audacity](#) by Jennifer Cooke, Cambridge University Press, 2020.

Judges Comment: *This is a bold, perceptive, and dynamic monograph. Cooke's analysis is consistently nuanced and insightful; both readers familiar with these texts and newcomers will learn much. The work is always well-contextualised – the theoretical foundations are rigorous but worn lightly, while the material is superbly explained, so that it will be of interest to a wide variety of readers and disciplines. The book is also a joy to read: the clarity of the writing is absolutely exemplary. This is original and important scholarship.*

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,

Zoe, on behalf of the BACLS Executive Committee.