



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEMPORARY LITERARY STUDIES

Welcome to the BACLS October 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 10th November 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

Call for Papers: [Divine Disasters: Exploring Distressed Landscapes in Literature and Theology](#), 24th February 2024, University of Warwick. This conference proposes “divine disasters” as a new lens for examining the interrelationship between theology, ecology, and literature. We invite papers that consider how ideas of faith, religion, the divine or the sacred are challenged during ecological crises. Focusing on the Spaces/Places of such disasters, we invite enquiries into these distressed landscapes containing multitudinous emotions, including fear, sadness, anxiety, hope and anger, foregrounding theological queries of evil, doubt and suffering. “Divine disasters” becomes a framework to question human vulnerability and theology’s big questions within narratives of distressed landscapes. This conference welcomes explorations of “divine disasters” in various forms, from imagined apocalyptic landscapes in literature to the religious implications of real-life post-disaster recovery. Abstracts of 250–300 words are due by 27th October 2023.

Call for Papers: [The European Society for the Study of English 2024 Conference](#), 26–30 August 2024, Lausanne, Switzerland. As is tradition, the conference will consist of a mixture of plenary lectures, parallel lectures, roundtables, seminars, posters, and the Doctoral Symposium. Details of each format, calls for papers and how to participate can be found on the ESSE website. Individual abstracts for [presentations, posters](#) or participation in the [doctoral symposium](#) are due 31st January 2024.

Call for Contributions: [C21 Special Issue 'Novel Media/Media Novel: Theorising Digital Media Cultures in the Contemporary Novel'](#). Rather than reading the contemporary novel as mimetic in nature, we invite papers which explore to what extent novels can function as a vital source of theorising the digital media cultures of our times. What are the societal contexts of staging digital media forms in literary writing in which the presence of digital media is not only the background for everyday life but plays a central role in the formal make-up of the narrative? Could we go as far as announcing that some of the contemporary novels featuring digital experience constitute the 'novel of digital ideas' as a new configuration of the 'novel of ideas' (LeMahieu 2015)? What, if any, is the symbolic function of digital media in contemporary writing? And how can interdisciplinary readings of contemporary literature contribute to innovative ways of theorising media and literature? Therefore, instead of limiting contributions to readings facilitated by current approaches within media studies, we are looking for critical contributions that develop ways to theorise digital media cultures through, with, and in contemporary fiction. Abstracts/expressions of interest are due by 1st December 2023.

Call for Contributions: [gender forum Early Career Researchers XI Special Issue](#). The interdisciplinary and peer-reviewed open access journal *gender forum* launched its first annual Early Career Researchers Issue in October 2013 in order to encourage the next generation of scholars who work at the intersection of gender studies and literary studies, cultural studies, media studies, and/or cultural history to publish their work in a guided publication process which is specifically designed to support the first publications of emerging scholars. Ever since then, *gender forum* has dedicated one special issue a year to presenting the work of early career researchers (ECR). Contributions for the upcoming Early Career Researchers Issue XI (fall issue 2024) may be pieces composed specifically for the occasion or previously unpublished term papers or final theses, which have been carefully revised and adapted for the issue. Full article submissions of 3,000–5,000 words are due by 15th December 2023.

Call for Submissions: [Contemporary Women's Writing Essay Prize 2024](#). The *Contemporary Women's Writing Essay Prize* aims to encourage new scholarship in the field of contemporary women's writing, recognise and reward outstanding achievement by new researchers and support the professional development of next generation scholars. *Contemporary Women's Writing* critically assesses writing by women authors who have published approximately from 1970 to the present, especially in essays that reach beyond a reading of a single text in order to challenge existing thinking or extend debates about an author, genre, topic, or theoretical perspective and relate literary analysis to wider cultural and intellectual contexts. The prize is open to anyone currently registered for PhD study or within three years of completion. Entrants may be asked to provide formal confirmation of their status. Full essays of 7,000-9,000 words are due by 1st March 2024. More details can be found on the [website of the CWWA](#).

New Publications

Article: Diletta De Cristofaro (2023). ["'How do you sleep at night knowing all this?': Climate Breakdown, Sleep, and Extractive Capitalism in Contemporary Literature and Culture"](#), *Textual Practice*.

Monograph: David Sergeant. 2023. [The Near Future in Twenty-First-Century Fiction](#)

[Climate, Retreat and Revolution](#). Cambridge University Press.

Special Issue: ["Reading Utopia Now"](#) (2023). *Textual Practice* 37 (9). This special issue features leading scholars working at the intersection of utopian theory and contemporary literary studies, featuring articles on c21st speculative fiction, disability justice, the commons, migrancy, ecocatastrophe aesthetics, and reproductive crises and includes contributions by BACLS members.

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

[Fully Funded PhD Bursary on "The Present and Future of Reading"](#), University of Portsmouth, School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature. Closes 30th October.

[Lecturer in English Literature](#), Birmingham Institute of Media and English, Birmingham City University. Full Time, Permanent. Closes 12th November.

[Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities](#), University of California Santa Barbara, English Department. Full Time, Tenure Track. Closes 13th November.

[The Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships 2024](#), Brunel University London. Full Time, Fixed-Term. Closes 16th November.

[Assistant Professor](#), Bilkent University, English Language and Literature. Full Time, Permanent. Closes 17th November.

[Assistant Professorship in Visual Culture and Literary Studies](#), University of Cambridge, Faculty of English. Full Time, Permanent. Closes 15th December.

[Midlands4Cities Arts and Humanities Doctoral Training Partnership](#), AHRC Studentships, Full Time (3.5-4 years), Part Time (7-8 years). Closes 10th January 2024.

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

BACLS Executive Committee

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2023 Executive Committee Elections!

Elected to Secretary: Sandro Eich (uncontested)

Elected to Ordinary Member

- Dr Sara Pini
- Dr Caroline Edwards
- Dr Dominic Dean

- Dr Dilek Ozturk Yagci
- Dr Yagmur Sönmez Demir

We are also pleased to announce that Samia Majid will be joining the EC as Graduate Student Representative.

Dr Caroline Wintersgill and Dr Charlotte Terrell will serve as Conference Organisers, while Dr Diletta De Cristofaro and Prof Phil Leonard will be Co-Chairs of the Association.

Welcome to new and returning members of the Executive Committee!
You can find an up-to-date list of all Executive Committee members [here](#).

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.