



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



# Literature and Science: 1922-2022

“Sapienza” – Università di Roma, 30-31 March 2023

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

| THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023 |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 8:30-9:00                | <i>Conference Registration</i> (Outside Room T03)  |
| 9:00-9:20                | <i>Institutional Greetings</i> (Room T02)  |
| 9:20-10:20               | <b>Panel 1 – Modernism One: Eliot to Frost (Room T02)</b>  |
|                          | J. Levina, T. S. Eliot in Two Minds: The Scientific and Phenomenal Poetics of <i>The Waste Land</i><br><br>A. Jovanovic and N. Sirkovic, Modernism and Science: Reconfiguration of Time in T. S. Eliot’s <i>Four Quartets</i> and Virginia Woolf’s <i>Orlando</i><br><br>N. C. Gades, Drinks on Me: Frost’s and Eliot’s Poetic Prescriptions for Scientific Pandemic Panic                   |
| 10:20-10:35              | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |
| 10:35-11:35              | <b>Keynote 1. Max Saunders</b> (University of Birmingham) <b>Room T02</b>  |
|                          | “Literature and Science: The To-Day and To-Morrow Book Series (1923-31)”   |
| 11:35-12:55              | <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>   |
|                          | <b>Panel 2 – Language as Science / Science as Language (Room T02)</b>  |
|                          | P. Di Gennaro, Genetics and Literature: Words, Metaphors, Codes<br><br>P. Piredda, “When It Comes to Atoms, Language Can Be Used Only as in Poetry”. The Use of Metaphors in Werner Heisenberg’s <i>Physics and Beyond</i><br><br>E. Baldi, Science and the Humanities: Autonomy and (Hierarchical) Integration<br><br>C. Montini, From “The Art of Translation” to a Science of Translating |

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|             | <b>Panel 3 – Nonhuman/Posthuman and Sci-Fi (Room T03)</b>   |
|             | <p>B. Nicolaescu, When Literature Is the Voice of the Android heart: A (Non)Human Lens on Artificial Intelligence in <i>Speak</i> by Louisa Hall and <i>Klara and the Sun</i> by Kazuo Ishiguro</p> <p>E. Wiśniewska, A Transgression of Social, Interspecies and Technological Boundaries in Sheri S. Tepper's <i>The Gate to Women's Country</i></p> <p>G. Cinelli, Aerial Warfare and Literary Dystopia in Early Twentieth Century</p> <p>M. Parlati, Atomic Wonders: Radioactive Modernity in Early Twentieth-Century Fiction</p> |
| 12:55-15:00 | <i>Lunch Break</i>  |
| 15:00-16:00 | <b>Panel 4 – Modernism Two: Joyce, Science and Literary Form (T02)</b>  |
|             | <p>A. Crotti, Identity as an Enigma: the Influence of Alphonse Bertillon's <i>Portrait Parlé</i> on the Literary Representation of Criminals</p> <p>V. Paris, Joyce's Atavism</p> <p>F. Sabatini, "Heart and Science". Joyce's Narrative Geometries</p>   |
| 16:00-16:15 | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |
| 16:15-17:15 | <b>Keynote 2. Heike Bauer (Birkbeck, University of London) Room T02</b>   |
|             | "Queer Modernity Beyond the Human: Radclyffe Hall, Una Troubridge and their Dogs"   |
| 17:15-18:35 | <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>  |
|             | <b>Panel 5 – The Human Body after Technology (Room T02)</b>   |
|             | <p>C. Cardone, The Pornographic Nurture as New Beauty Standard in the Lenses of Nick Land's Transhumanism</p> <p>V. Rapetti, Dramatizing Scientific Racism in Suzan-Lori Parks's <i>Venus</i></p> <p>A. Freedman, "A Little Strangled Cry": The 'Hysterical' Literature of the 1920s</p> <p>M. Lubińska, Entropy, Oil and Sexual Difference in Pamela Zoline's <i>The Heat Death of the Universe</i></p>  |
|             | <b>Panel 6 – Literature, The Psyche and Neuroscience (Room T03)</b>   |
|             | <p>E. Gallitelli, Bringing the Poem into Existence: Literature and Neuroscience in Tim Parks and Iain McGilchrist</p> <p>M. Di Maio, <i>Damaged. Lost. Shell-shocked.</i> Representing War Neurosis in Rebecca West's <i>The Return of the Soldier</i> and Ford Madox Ford's <i>Parade's End</i></p> <p>J. Greaney, Real Fantasy: J. M. Coetzee and Siri Hustvedt at the Intersections of Autofiction, Psychoanalysis and Neuroscience</p>  |

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|             | R. Colombo, Sharing Secrets: Between Sarah Kane's <i>4.48 Psychosis</i> and Clarke-Kubrick's <i>2001. A Space Odyssey</i> |
| 18:15-19:15 | <b>Keynote 3. George Levine (Rutgers University) Room T02</b>   |
|             | "Science and Literature: The Importance of Differences"   |

| <b>FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023</b> |  |
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| 9:00-10:20                    | <b>Panel 7 – Modernism Three: Woolf and Stein (Room T03)</b>   |
|                               | <p>L. Filip, Approaching the Nonhuman through the Senses: Literary Synesthesia in Contemporary Novels and Virginia Woolf's "The Mark on the Wall"</p> <p>T. Prudente, The Narrative Construction of Hallucination: The View from Modernist Fiction</p> <p>P. Armstrong, Modernism and Microscopy</p> <p>M. Giesenkirchen Sawyer, The Posthumanist Science of Gertrude Stein</p>                              |
| 10:20-10:35                   | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |
| 10:35-11:35                   | <b>Keynote 4. Stephen Kern (Ohio State University) Room T03</b>  |
|                               | "My Phenomenological Approach to the Integration of Science and Literature in Cultural History"  |
| 11:35-12:55                   | <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>   |
|                               | <b>Panel 8 – Method and Literature (Room T03)</b>  |
|                               | <p>A. Prigozhin, Realism, Futurology, and Soil Science in Andrei Platonov</p> <p>Z. Sala, Lev Vygotsky's Psychology of Literature in the Context of Contemporary Affective Literary Theory</p> <p>G. Mariani, American Indian Literature and Blood Memory. Rethinking an Old Polemic</p> <p>M. Mitrano, Notes on Method</p>  |
|                               | <b>Panel 9 – Ecocritical Perspectives (Room T01)</b>   |
|                               | <p>A. Dehdarirad, "When I Was Alive, Hydrocarbons Were Frequently Used": The Environmental Imagination in Thomas Pynchon's <i>Bleeding Edge</i> and William Vollmann's <i>Carbon Ideologies</i></p> <p>P. Antonello, Speculative Vegetation: Weird and Fantastic Botany in SF and Slipstream Italian Literature and Art</p> <p>E. Zueva, Wild Nature and Urbanisation in Garry Kilworth's Animal Fantasy</p> |
| 12:55-15:00                   | <i>Lunch Break</i>   |

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| 15:00-16:20 | <b>Panel 10 – Modernism Four: Beckett and Stoppard (Room T03)</b>  |
|             | <p>M. Martino, Beckett's Lucky Number: Mathematics and Geometry on Stage</p> <p>B. Wilson, Beckett's System Agnosia</p> <p>M. Losasso, 'It Is enough to Breathe to Qualify for Asphyxiation': Beckett's Asthmatic Prose and Our Contemporary Crisis of Breathing</p> <p>L. Sacchetti, Structural Entropy and Chaos Theory: Centripetal Forces Governing Stoppard's Arcadia</p> |
| 16:20-16:35 | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |
| 16:35-17:35 | <b>Keynote 5. Natalia Cecire (University of Sussex) Room T03</b>   |
|             | "The Inheritances of Modernism: 1922-2022"   |
| 17:35-18:35 | <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>   |
|             | <b>Panel 11 – Italo Calvino, Postmodernism and Science (Room T03)</b>  |
|             | <p>N. Allocca, The Modern Human Nature in Context: Italo Calvino, Cyrano de Bergerac and the Post-Copernican Image of Nature</p> <p>G. Polizzi, Cosmologies and Mythologies, from Italo Calvino to Giacomo Leopardi</p> <p>S. Annavini, The Hyper-novel: Italo Calvino and Joyce's Legacy to Italian Postmodernism</p>   |
|             | <b>Panel 12 – Healing through Literature: Religion, Myth and Science (Room T01)</b>  |
|             | <p>F. Caraceni, "A Myth, but Durable Myth": Science and Religion in Flann O'Brien's Narrative</p> <p>D. Crosara, "He Keeps His Eyes in a Plastic Bag": Kae Tempest's Visionary Ecologies</p> <p>L. Moawad, If Prometheus Were a Scholar... Understanding Today's STS Practices While Rereading Yesterday's Ancient Myths</p>   |
| 18:35-18:40 | <i>Final Greetings</i> (Room T03)  |
| 20:00       | <i>Conference Dinner</i>   |

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

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| 10:00 | <b><i>Guided tour of the "Orto Botanico".</i></b> |
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