

# *In Our Time*

International Postgraduate Symposium  
Intercontinental Hotel, St. Julian's, Malta  
27-28 March 2015

Organised by  
The Department of English  
University of Malta

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## **Friday 27 March**

**9.00** – Welcome Coffee & Registration

**9.30** – Welcome Address by Dr James Corby (Head, Department of English, University of Malta)

### **10.00 – Keynote Address: Prof. Ivan Callus (Department of English, University of Malta) – Monomodality Forever (or For Now)**

Chair: Dr Giuliana Fenech

**11.00** – Coffee Break

**11.30 – 13.00** – Panels 1 & 2

### **Panel 1 – Artistic Structures of Our Time (11.30 – 13.00)**

Chair: Jessica Micallef

Sephora Gauci (University of Malta) – Fiction and Testimony: Literature as a Witness of Time

Urban Orehek (University of Ljubljana) – Confined Women in Literature and Reality: Bridging the Victorian Period, the Age of Post-World War II Economic Expansion, and the Present

Maria Michela Formosa (University of Malta) – *Haute Couture* as Art: Is it Able to Enchant?

### **Panel 2 – Closing Time (11.30 – 13.00)**

Chair: Kathleen Vella

Aaron Aquilina (University of Malta) – 'The Clock Struck Three': Finitude and Condemnation

Lorraine Stagno / Lorella Fava (University of Malta) – The Nothingness in Our Time: Seeking Haven through Suicide

**13.00** – Break for Lunch

**14.00 – 15.30 – Panels 3 & 4**

**Panel 3 – The Influence of Politics (14.00 – 15.30)**

Chair: Sephora Gauci

Vasileios Koutsogiannis (University of Amsterdam) – The Politics of the Political

Chiara Bartolo (University of Malta) – A Rise to Power

James Farrugia (University of Malta) – ‘We Troglodytes’: History and Generational Stillness

**Panel 4 – Pop Culture of Our Time (14.00 – 15.30)**

Chair: Lorraine Stagno

Maria Cremona (University of Malta) – What's All the Fuss about Disney? Narcissistic and Nostalgic Tendencies in Popular Disney Storyworlds

Kelly Azzopardi (University of Malta) – Masculinity in *Breaking Bad* in Our Time

Maria Theuma (University of Malta) – Barbie and Posthumanism

**15.30 – Coffee Break**

**16.00 – 17.00 – Academic Panel – In Our Time**

Chair: Dr Giuliana Fenech

Dr Mario Aquilina (Department of English, University of Malta)

Prof. Stella Borg Barthet (Department of English, University of Malta)

Prof. Mark-Anthony Falzon (Department of Sociology, University of Malta)

Dr Mario Frendo (Department of Theatre Studies, University of Malta)

**17.00 – 18.30 – Panels 5 & 6**

**Panel 5 – Gender Considerations (17.00 – 18.30)**

Chair: Daniela Calleja

Season Butler (Goldsmiths University) – Whoopee! We're All Gonna Die!: *Kairos*, *Thanatos* and Queering the End of Days

Maria Cutajar / Sarah Cutajar (University of Malta) – Language as a Means of 'Performing' Gender ... In Our Time

## **Panel 6 – Digital Literacies (17.00 – 18.30)**

Chair: Lorella Fava

Elaine Gatt (University of Malta) – Infographics as Contemporary Rhetorical Tools

Clara Chetcuti (University of Malta) – The Way We Read Now: In Our (Post-Literate) Time

Liva Brice (Latvia University) – Googled ID: How Search Results Shape our Digital Life Story

**18.30** – End

**20.00** – Optional Conference Dinner

## **Saturday 28 March**

**9.30** – Welcome Coffee & Registration

### **10.00 – Keynote Address: Prof. William Watkin (Brunel University, London) – The Time of Indifference: Mandelstam’s ‘Age’, Badiou’s ‘Event’ and Agamben’s ‘Contemporary’**

Chair: Dr James Corby

**11.00** – Coffee Break

**11.30 – 13.00** – Panels 7 & 8

### **Panel 7 – Digital Games (11.30 – 13.00)**

Chair: Philip Attard

Daniel Vella (University of Copenhagen / University of Malta) – Presenting the ‘Contemporary Self’: Digital Games and the Autoscopic Relation

Renata Ntelia (University of Malta) – Death in Digital Games: A Thanatological Approach

Jonathan Harrington (University of Malta) – Tryharding: Hypercorrection of Online Capital

### **Panel 8 – Philosophical Interpretations of Time (11.30 – 13.00)**

Chair: Maria Theuma

Birgit Breidenbach (Warwick University) – *Stimmung*: Conceptualising the Contemporary through Attunement

Elsa Fiott (University of Malta) – Windows of Time: On Indifferent and Indolent Stillness

Marc Farrant (Goldsmiths University) – ‘Stirrings Still’: Samuel Beckett’s Radical Atheism

**13.00** – Lunch

**14.00 – 15.30** – Panels 9 & 10

### **Panel 9 – Canonical Contexts (14.00 - 15.30)**

Chair: Urban Orehek

Joseph St John (University of Malta) – *Beowulf* in Our Time

Christine Caruana (University of Malta) – ‘What, Is it a Time to Jest and Dally Now?’: O Present Silliness and Seriousness

Irene Scicluna (University of Malta) – Timeliness in Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita*

## **Panel 10 – Beyond the Human (14.00 – 15.30)**

Chair: Marc Buhagiar

Conrad Aquilina / Jessica Micallef (University of Malta) – Crossings Oceans of Time: The Re-Present-Ation of Vampirism

John Spiteri Maempel (University of Malta) – A Time for Corpus Stylistics in the Classroom: a Pedagogical Approach to Ray Bradbury's *Martian Chronicles*

**15.30** – Coffee Break

**16.00 – 17.30** – Panels 11 & 12

## **Panel 11 – Victorian, Modernist and Contemporary Literary Constructs (16.00 – 17.30)**

Chair: Renata D'Elia

Haythem Bastawy (Leeds Trinity University) – Oscar Wilde: A Victorian Sage in a Modern Age

Kathleen Vella (University of Malta) – D.H. Lawrence - A Contemporary's Refutation of Time

Elizabeth Micallef (University of Malta) – Ian McEwan's Ecocritical Narrative on Our Time Entitled *Solar*

## **Panel 12 – Framing Life through Art (16.00 – 17.30)**

Chair: Giuliana Barbaro Sant

Joel White (Kingston University) – Interrupting Tradition: Benjamin's Concept of Now-time In and Out of the Theatre (*Jetztzeit*)

Dean Muscat (University of Malta) – Redefining Human: How do we Define 'Human' in Relation to the Current Techno-Scientific Landscape?

Emma Musty (Aberystwyth University) – Two Contemporary Maps of Paris

**17.30 - Closing Address & Thanks – Dr Giuliana Fenech and the In Our Time Team**

**17.45** – End of Symposium