

“Narrative ethics and character in the representation of the past
in contemporary English-speaking fiction”, October 21st-22nd, 2022
Organised by Armelle Parey (ERIBIA¹, Université de Caen Normandie) and Christine
Berberich (University of Portsmouth)
Université de Caen Normandie, MRSB, Room SH 027

Special guest: Jo Baker

British writer **Jo Baker** is the author of 7 novels, 3 of which are set in the past. If her latest novel, *The Body Lies* (2019) is a contemporary novel that explores violence against women in fiction, *The Picture Book* (2011) – also published as *The Undertow* – spans 4 generations over the 20th century. In *Longbourn* (2012), she gives body and voice to characters hardly mentioned in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*: the servants looking after the Bennet household. If the characters of the past are all fictional in these two novels, the protagonist of *A Country Road, A Tree* is a real-life character as the novel narrates Irish writer Samuel Beckett's war years in France.

It will be a privilege to have her with us in October to answer our questions on ethics and characters in her fictions set in the past.

You can read reviews published in *The Guardian* at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jul/05/the-body-lies-by-joe-baker-review>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/may/27/a-country-road-a-tree-by-jo-baker-review>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/aug/11/longbourn-jo-baker-review-austen>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2011/aug/26/picture-book-jo-baker-review>

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