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, MRSH, 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-joe-baker-review
https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/aug/11/longbourn-joe-baker-review-austen

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