

Narrative ethics and character in the representation of the past in contemporary English-speaking fiction

Organised by Armelle Parey (ERIBIA , Université de Caen Normandie) and Christine Berberich (University of Portsmouth)

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



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COLLOQUE

21-22 octobre 2022

MRSH, salle SH 027
Université de Caen Normandie

En présence de la
romancière Jo Baker

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FRIDAY MORNING

9.30: Registration and welcome address with Françoise Baillet, head of the ERIBIA research team.

SESSION 1 – GIVING A VOICE TO SILENCED WOMEN

Chair: **Armelle Parey**

9.45-10.15 **Elsa Cavalié** (Université d'Avignon, France, France), "Briseis, Circe, Medusa and others: appraising neo-mythical novels and literary consensus"

10.15-10.45 **Sheila Collingwood-Whittick** (Université Grenoble Alpes, France), " 'I gave my thinking to her': Kate Grenville's fictionalization of the historical Elizabeth Macarthur"

10.45-11.00 *coffee break*

SESSION 2 – RE-VISIONING HISTORY

Chair: **Christine Berberich**

11.00-11.30 **Georges Letissier** (Nantes Université, France), "Reparatory Historical Fiction: Re-collecting and re-connecting the pasts in Nadifa Mohamed's *The Fortune Men* (2021)"

11.30-12.00 **Héloïse Lecomte** (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France), "Re-wounding World War One in Graham Swift's *Wish You Were Here* (2011)"

Lunch on campus 12.00-2.00

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

SESSION 3 – HISTORY, CHOICES AND WRITER'S FREEDOM

Chair: **Georges Letissier**

2.00-2.30 **Alison Gorlier** (Université d'Artois, France), "Philippa Gregory's Controversial Approach to Katherine Parr in *The Taming of the Queen*"

2.30-3.00 **Kimberley Vanderstraeten** (Université de Caen Normandie, France), "The Representation of Henry VIII in TV series nowadays: *The Tudors* (2007-2020) and *Wolf Hall* (2015)"

3.00-3.30 **Lewis MacLeod** (Trent University, Canada), "The Progressivists May Be Wrong, But The Aesthetes Can't Possibly Be Right": On Martin Amis, Historical Violence and Creative Play"

3.30-3.45 *coffee break*

SESSION 4 – READING AND WRITING BIOFICTION

Chair: **Armelle Parey**

3.45-4.15 **Dunlath Bird** (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, France), 'This is where it begins': Beckett and Biofiction

4.15-5.00 Questions and answers with **Jo Baker**, author of *A Country Road, A Tree* (2015)

7 pm Conference Dinner in town

SATURDAY MORNING

SESSION 5 – WRITING, VALUES AND PREJUDICE

Chair: **Elsa Cavalié**

9.30-10.00 **Jessica Padilla-Sanchez** (University of Nottingham, UK), "The Future of LGBTQ+ YA Historical Fiction: An Exploration of Narrative Trends"

10.00-10.30 **Peter D. Mathews**, (Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea), «Transcribing the Ethical Limits of Empathy in Daniel Davis Wood's *Blood and Bone*».

10.30-10.45 *coffee break*

SESSION 6 – FACT AND FICTION

Chair: **Sheila Collingwood-Whittick**

10.45-11.15 **George Kowalik** (King's College London, UK), "That race war I been tellin' y'all about is here, I fear": Digging up the Past and Complicating the Present in Percival Everett's *The Trees* »

11.15-11.45 **Douglas Kneale** (University of Windsor, Canada), " '[A]utobiographical in form but not in fact': Catachresis in Alice Munro's *Lives of Girls and Women*"

Concluding words and end of the conference

Lunch (Pay as you go)