OCCT Hilary Events

OCCT is a Divisional research programme supported by TORCH and St Anne’s College. Our organising committee includes Prof Matthew Reynolds, Prof Adriana X. Jacobs, Prof Mohamed-Salah Omri, Dr Eleni Philippou, Dr Peter Hill, Ms Karolina Watroba, Ms Kate Costello, Ms Valeria Taddei, Dr Kasia Szymanska, Prof Ben Morgan, Prof Patrick McGuinness

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Week 3 – Modalities of Cybertext Poetry: John Cayley vs. Hsia Yu
Tuesday, 30 Jan.; 5.15-7.15pm
Speaker: Professor Tong King Lee (University of Hong Kong)
Venue: TBC

Week 3 – Fiction and Other Minds: “Affective Transformations"
Wednesday, 31 Jan.; 5.15-7.15pm
Speaker: Giovanna Colombetti (Exeter); Respondent: Ben Morgan (Oxford); Chair: Naomi Rokotnitz (Oxford)
Venue: Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building

Week 4 – Journeys in Translation: Poetry Reading and Discussion
Wednesday, 7 Feb.; 5.00-6.15pm *Please note earlier start time*
Poets and Translators: Ambrose Musiyiwa; Flair Donglai Shi; Kathleen Bell, Antonella Delmestri
Venue: Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building

Week 7 – Close-reading a Global Novel across Languages: Prismatic Jane Eyre
Friday, 2 March.; 5.15-7.15pm
Speakers: Matthew Reynolds (Oxford); Adriana X. Jacobs (Oxford); Eleni Philippou (Oxford); Yousif Qasmiyeh (Oxford)
Venue: TBC

Discussion Group

Mondays, 12.45-14.00 in weeks 2,4,6,8 in Seminar Room 10 in the new Library and Academic Centre at St Anne’s College. Fortnightly meetings, led by graduate students and early-career researchers. In Hilary Term 2018, the OCCT Discussion Group will again be structured as an experiment in comparative reading out of context. For further details please check on the OCCT website or email Karolina Watroba at karolina.watroba@merton.ox.ac.uk.
Week 3 – Modalities of Cybertext Poetry: John Cayley vs. Hsia Yu
Tuesday, 30 Jan.; 5.15-7.15pm
Speaker: Professor Tong King Lee, University of Hong Kong
Venue: Seminar Room 1, 48 Woodstock Road, St Anne's College

What makes a poem cyber? The term cybertext encompasses two different modalities of writing. One involves the use of digital technology and electronic platforms in its conception; the other taps into the technology of the codex to engage readers’ cognitive-perceptual and embodied (as opposed to hermeneutic-interpretive) participation in the unraveling of texts. This talk showcases exemplars of the two modalities of cybertext using the experimental works of John Cayley and Hsia Yu, with a focus on how they turn Chinese poetry into multimodal and multisensory artefacts. On the basis of these examples, we further theorise the cybertext as a spectrum category, which enables us to identify gradations of cybertextuality in literary works, based on the degree to which readers may substantively intercept the text and influence its trajectories or outcomes.

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'Alluring objects, scaffolded minds: how we use the world to transform our affective life'

According to an increasing number of philosophers and cognitive scientists, the mind is “situated” in the environment. Giovanna Colombetti’s work is largely sympathetic to this view, but she also sees some problems with it. One in particular is that promoters of this view still characterize the mind in “cognitivist” terms, neglecting its affective dimension. The talk will explain why this is problematic, and illustrate some of the many ways in which we manipulate and rely on material objects to transform not just our cognitive, but also our affective life. In his response, Ben Morgan will focus in particular on the ways in which literary texts can be seen to promote or hinder such affective transformations as she discusses.

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Poets and Translators: Ambrose Musiyiwa; Flair Donglai Shi; Kathleen Bell, Antonella Delmestri
Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building

At the event 14 poems from the anthology Over Land, Over Sea: Poems for Those Seeking Refuge (Five Leaves Publications, 2015) will be read in English and in translation. Poets as well as translators will briefly discuss their work. Copies of the anthology will be available for sale. Posters showing the poems alongside the translations will also be on display.

Over Land, Over Sea: Poems for Those Seeking Refuge expresses solidarity with the refugees who are currently receiving so little welcome as they take to boats and rafts to cross the Mediterranean and make their way with difficulty through Europe. Readers are invited to take a view of the situation which is not governed by the fear and hatred whipped up by the language of media and many politicians. The
anthology was edited by Kathleen Bell, Emma Lee and Siobhan Logan. The anthology is being sold to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Leicester City of Sanctuary and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum.

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**Week 7 – Close-reading a Global Novel across Languages: Prismatic Jane Eyre**

**Wednesday, 2 March; 5.15-7.15pm**

Speakers: Adriana X. Jacobs (Oxford); Matthew Reynolds (Oxford); Yousif Qasmiyeh (Oxford); Eleni Philippou (Oxford)

**Venue: TBC**

What does it mean to close-read a global novel? This seminar will explore the question, airing material from the AHRC-funded Prismatic Translation project and offering new ways of thinking about multiple translations. A cluster of brief presentations by the participants will open onto discussion. [Prismatic Translation is part of the AHRC - OWRI Creative Multilingualism research programme, and is hosted by OCCT]

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**Discussion Group**

In Hilary Term 2018, the OCCT Discussion Group will again be structured as an experiment in comparative reading out of context. It's a fantastic opportunity for graduate students working on comparative projects to get a fresh perspective on the texts they study by getting other participants to respond to selected passages without the usual background (biographical information, historical context, etc.) that covertly informs our reading. Do get in touch if you'd like to get involved and host a session!

We will meet at lunchtime (12:45-2pm) on Mondays of even weeks (week 2: 22 January, week 4: 5 February, week 6: 19 February, week 8: 5 March) in Seminar Room 10 at St Anne’s College. No preparation will be needed. Free sandwich lunch, fruit and coffee will be provided. For further details please check on the OCCT website or email Karolina Watroba at karolina.watroba@merton.ox.ac.uk.