

Workshop 4: Motherhood, Migration and Exile

Participant Biographies

Kate Averis's research interests include twentieth and twenty-first Francophone and Latin American literature, transnational culture and identity, migration and exile, gender studies, feminism, and postcolonial studies. Her current research focuses on tropes of transnational mobility in Francophone women's writing. She is the author of *Exile and Nomadism in Franco-Hispanic Women's Writing*, due to appear with Legenda in 2014, and she has also published on Nancy Huston, Linda Lê, Kim Lefèvre and Pedro Lemebel. Kate holds a PhD in French and Hispanic Studies from King's College London and currently teaches at the Université Paris X (Nanterre).

Lisa Baraitser is a feminist writer, psychotherapist, Senior Lecturer and head of the Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London. She is author of *Maternal Encounters: The Ethics of Interruption* (Routledge, 2009) that won the Feminist and Women's Studies Association book prize for outstanding feminist scholarship in 2009.

Maria-José Blanco's research interests lie in Contemporary Spanish writers with a special focus on Women Writers and Life-Writing. Her PhD thesis (UCL) focused on the use of life-writing and writing as therapy in the work of Carmen Martín Gaité (1925-2000), her Cuadernos de todo and her 1990s novels. Her thesis will be soon published by Tamesis. Maria-José edited a special issue of the Journal of Romance Studies on the theme of diaries written by women in the Luso-Hispanic world. She has organised, amongst others, a conference to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Carmen Martín Gaité's death in December 2010, one on Perceptions of Death in Europe and the Americas, 'The Carnival of Death' in February 2011, and one on Women's Life-Writing in the Luso-Hispanic world. At the IGRS she has convened the Contemporary Women's Writing in Spanish seminars and Reading Group and since July 2010 was the Managing Editor of the Journal of Romance Studies. Maria-José teaches twentieth century Spanish Literature at King's College London.

Victoria Browne has a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Liverpool, and is currently a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire in the Department of Philosophy. Victoria's main research interests are in feminist philosophy and the philosophy of history and temporality. Her publications include 'Backlash, Repetition and Untimeliness: The Temporal Dynamics of Feminist Politics' (*Hypatia*, 2013), and 'Memory and the Metaphysics of Music' (*Women: a Cultural Review*, 2011). She has also written reviews for *Radical Philosophy* and *Environmental Values*. In September, Victoria will begin an Early Career Research Fellowship in the Department of Social Sciences at Oxford Brookes University.

Ruth Cain is Lecturer in Law at the University of Kent. She has a PhD in English Literature, has studied and taught both English Literature and Law, and takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law. Her particular interests are in legal and cultural definitions of maternity, and mental health law. She is currently working on two projects: a book on legal and cultural representations of maternal neglect and abuse in present-day neoliberal states, and an article on the overlapping of New Right and New Age philosophies in welfare reform

policy, particularly as these impact on the mentally ill and those suffering from 'invisible' disabilities.

Elizabeth Challinor, associate researcher at the Centre for Research in Social Anthropology, University of Minho (CRIA/UM) in Portugal, is originally from a literary background (French and Spanish, BA Oxford 1988) and became interested in Anthropology after living in Angola (1988-1992) where she worked for a Portuguese NGO (1990-1992). She has an MA in Rural Social Development, (University of Reading 1993) and in Applied Social Anthropology, (University of Sussex 1995) and a PhD (Sussex 2001) on the anthropology of development in Cape Verde. On a personal note, her experiences of home childbirth in Brighton and of motherhood in general, led to the publication of short stories on motherhood and maternity (Edições Temas, 1997) and of a birth narrative on her experience of hospitalized birth in Portugal (2012). The latter resulted in the development of new research interests, focusing, since 2008, on migrant Cape Verdean students' experiences of maternity and motherhood in Portugal, conducting interviews and examining their institutionalized encounters with health professionals and social workers addressing issues related to governmentality, gender and identity. She has published various articles, in books (Demeter Press, Carolina Academic Press) and journals (*Ellipsis*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Etnográfica*, *Saúde e Sociedade*, *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*).

Anastasia Christou is Reader in Sociology, Middlesex University. She was previously Senior Lecturer in Cultural Geography, University of Sussex, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Aalborg, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark and Visiting Research Fellow at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung in Germany. Anastasia has conducted multi-sited, multi-method and comparative ethnographic research in the United States, Germany, Denmark, Greece and Cyprus and has widely published on issues of diasporas; migration/return migration; the second generation and ethnicity; space and place; transnationalism and identity; culture and memory; gender and feminism; home and belonging; emotion and narrativity.

Maria Luisa Coelho has recently submitted her PhD in Comparative Literature from Universidade do Minho, Portugal, and she has been a part-time Lecturer in the History of Art Department, University of Reading, where she teaches contemporary art and theory. Her PhD is entitled 'The Feminine in Contemporary Art: Representation and Contamination in the Work of Helen Chadwick, Michèle Roberts and Helena Almeida' and focuses on representations of the female body in literature and art produced by British and Portuguese women. She is particularly interested in the way the female body is articulated in self-representation, as well as with the grotesque and the sacred, and its ability to express hybridism and liminality. She also works on representations of maternal bodies and the relation between female corporeality and the domestic and private sphere. Publications include "'Gorgeously repulsive, exquisitely fun, dangerously beautiful": Dog Women, Monstrous Births and Contemporary Women's Art', in *Dark Reflections, Monstrous Reflections: Essays on the Monster in Culture* (2007), and 'Homeland, Mother-land and Imaginary Places: Michèle Roberts and Helen Chadwick's Interpretations', in *Interpreting, Representing and Recording: Papers of the post-graduate conference held at the University of Warwick 9-10 June 2006*.

Heather Elliott is the core researcher for Novella at the Institute of Education for the Parenting Identities and Practices project. Prior to this she worked at the Open University and at Manchester and Salford universities as well as undertaking consultancy work in the voluntary sector. Her recent research and writing has considered how policy and cultural narratives of motherhood are interwoven with everyday mothering practices. Earlier work explored the role of primary health care in addressing social need; lay and professional knowledges and provision of care and how research evidence is used in policy-making. Her methodological work has focussed on qualitative methodologies which can consider the unsaid and unsayable and how researchers' experiences of fieldwork can be used as a resource for data analysis and attendant ethical issues.

Sabina Fiebig is a PhD candidate at the University of Gloucestershire. Her research focuses on Eastern European women's experience of migration post 1989, combining literary accounts, such as memoirs, biographic novels and autobiographies, with life-stories of women from three different age cohorts. This work investigates how the experience of transnational movement in terms of crossing of geographical, cultural, as well as emotional, boundaries affects the concept of identity and subjectivity. This multidisciplinary study is built on feminist philosophy and explores motifs of belonging, home, motherhood, language and memory. The aspect of self-reflexivity is critical to the enactment and analysis of this research project since she is a migrant and mother herself. She holds a MA from the University of Wroclaw (Poland), in German-speaking Literature, with an emphasis on contemporary women's writing in particular Elfriede Jelinek's work, analyzing aspects of otherness in *Princessdrama I-V*.

Andrea Hammel is Senior Lecturer in German in the European Languages Department at Aberystwyth University. She has published widely on German-speaking refugees from National Socialism, especially women writers and the Kindertransport. Her book publications include *Everyday Life as Alternative Space in Exile Writing: The Novels of Anna Gmeyner, Selma Kahn, Hilde Spiel, Martina Wied and Hermynia Zur Mühlen* (Oxford 2008), *Not an Essence, but a Positioning: German-Jewish Women Writers, 1900-1938*, co-edited with Godela Weiss-Sussex (Munich 2009), and *The Kindertransport 1938/39: New Perspectives*. Yearbook of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, co-edited with Bea Lewkowicz, (Amsterdam 2012). She is a member of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, University of London, and a member of the Beirat of the Gesellschaft für Exilforschung in Germany. Her future plans include further research on the Kindertransport, partially funded by the British Academy and the Claims Conference, which will result in a monograph. Andrea Hammel is also the co-director of the Holocaust Writing and Translation Network, which received funding from the AHRC.

Valerie Heffernan's research interests encompass 20th and 21st century German-language literature, feminist literary theory and cultural studies. Her doctoral research, published as *Provocation from the Periphery* (Königshausen & Neumann, 2007), used feminist and postcolonial theory to shed light on the work of the Swiss writer Robert Walser (1878-1956). More recent research projects concentrate on contemporary literature, with a particular focus on German-speaking Swiss writers and women writers. She also has on-going research interests on representations of motherhood in German literature and culture. She is co-editor, with Gillian Pye, of a forthcoming volume entitled *Transitions: Emerging Women Writers in German-language Literature*.

Marie-Noëlle Huet is a PhD student in literary studies at Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada. Her thesis deals with motherhood and writing in contemporary French literature by women. She is interested in mother authors (in autobiographical texts) and mother narrators who “use” motherhood and maternity as an inspiration for their writing. She analyses texts by Annie Ernaux, Christine Angot, Marie Darrieussecq, Camille Laurens, Nancy Huston and Karine Reyssset using feminist and enunciation theories, narratology and discursive analysis. She recently co-edited a book entitled *Entre plaisir et pouvoir. Lectures contemporaines de l'érotisme* (Montréal, Nota Bene, 2012) with Lori Saint-Martin and Rosemarie Fournier-Guillemette. She also works as editorial assistant for *Voix et Images*, a journal focused exclusively on Quebec literature. This academic year, she is a guest researcher at *Passages XX-XXI*, a multidisciplinary research centre on contemporary literature, music, cinema and theatre affiliated with Université Lyon 2 Lumière, France.

Emily Jeremiah is a Lecturer in German at Royal Holloway, University of London, whose research interests include gender, ethics, mothering, translation, and transnationalism. She is the author of *Troubling Maternity: Mothering, Agency, and Ethics in Women's Writing in German of the 1970s and 1980s* (Maney/MHRA, 2003), and of a forthcoming monograph, *Nomadic Ethics in Contemporary Women's Writing in German: Strange Subjects* (Camden House, 2012). With Frauke Matthes, she is currently co-editing *Ethical Approaches in Contemporary German-Language Literature and Culture* (*Edinburgh German Yearbook* 7, 2013). Emily is also an award-winning translator of Finnish poetry and fiction. Her translations include Eeva-Liisa Manner, *Bright, Dusky, Bright* (Waterloo Press, 2009), and Asko Sahlberg, *The Brothers* (trans. with Fleur Jeremiah, Peirene Press, 2012).

Eglė Kačkutė is a Vilnius born cultural journalist and literary critic based in Geneva (Switzerland). Her monograph *Svetimos ir savos (Strange and Familiar)* on identity in contemporary British and French women's writing has just come out with the Vilnius University Press. She is currently involved in a multidisciplinary project *Potraits of a Working Mother* on immigrant working mothers in Geneva with the Geneva based Italian photographer Marina Cavazza.

Joanne Lee is a teaching fellow in the Italian Department at the University of Warwick. She received her PhD from the University of Bristol in 2007 with a thesis on the topic of travel and displacement in the work of contemporary Italian women writers. She has published articles which address the questions raised by writings on travel and mobility including the memory of Italy's colonial past and the impact of migration on identity and belonging. She is currently working on a research project which examines Italian travel writing to the Soviet Union, China and South East Asia during the Cold War.

Abigail Lee Six is Professor of Spanish at Royal Holloway, University of London. She has published on a wide range of Spanish writers dating from the 19th century to the present day, but most recently has been working to bring the usefulness of Gothic studies to the attention of Hispanists and to demonstrate the relevance of Hispanic texts to Gothic scholars beyond the Pyrenees. This research has produced several articles and two monographs so far, one on the fiction of the contemporary novelist Adelaida García Morales, *Haunting Words* (Boydell & Brewer, 2006) and the other, *Gothic Terrors* (Bucknell University Press, 2010), on a selection of mainstream writers including Galdós, Pardo Bazán, Unamuno, and Cela.

Helia López Zarzosa has a degree in Sociology from the University of Concepción, Chile, an MA in Sociology of Education from the Institute of Education, and a PhD from Oxford Brookes University. Her PhD thesis was entitled 'Chilean Voluntary Repatriation, 1978-2002: How Voluntary, How Gendered and How Classed?', and her publications include: 'Internal Exile, Exile and Return: A Gendered View' (*Journal of Refugee Studies* 11(2), 1998); 'The Impact of Return Migration: The Case of Chile', (*RPN*, Issue 21, 1996); and the monograph *La problemática de la adaptación escolar en los hijos/as de las familias retornadas en la VIII Región* (FASIC Publications, 1995).

Mirca Madianou is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Media and Communication, University of Leicester. She is the author of *Mediating the Nation* (2005) and *Migration and New Media* (with Daniel Miller, 2012). She is co-editor of the volume *Ethics of Media* (2013). Between 2007-2011 she was Principal Investigator on the ESRC-funded project 'Migration, ICTS and transnational families' which included an ethnography of Filipina migrant women in their UK and their left-behind children in the Philippines. She's particularly interested in the role of new communication technologies in reconfiguring mothering practices and maternal identities.

Elena Marchevska is a performance artist and researcher, who examines the peculiar inter-relationships between public/private space, the screen and the female body. Her art practice is interdisciplinary and makes use of every media that best fits the subject and content of the project that she is developing. She works in many materials and formats including writing, performance, video/film and electronic media. She is committed to the inclusion of diversity within her practice. Elena is a Senior Lecturer in Drama and Performance studies at London South Bank University. You can see more about her work on the following link: www.elenamarchevska.com.

Letizia Mencarini is Associate Professor of Demography at the Political Science Faculty of University of Turin (I). She is a Research Affiliate at Collegio Carlo Alberto, Moncalieri, I, a member of CHILD – Center for Household, Income, Labour and Demographic Economics (University of Turin & ESPE), a Fellow at the Centre for Research on Social Dynamics Dondena at Bocconi University, Milan, and a Research Associate at ISER – MISOC, the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change at the University of Essex. Her research interests include life cycle and family formation, time use, gender issues, and wellbeing and demographic dynamics both in developed and developing countries. She is a member of the Scientific Board of *Population Review* and *Genus* demographic journals and part of the editorial board of a website on population, society and politics, www.neodemos.it.

Julie Rodgers is Lecturer in French in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. Her PhD was awarded by Trinity College Dublin in 2008 and examined the mother-daughter relationship in Quebec Women's Writing. Her current research interests include: emerging feminist theorists; maternal counternarratives; contemporary women writers in French; Quebec literature; and migrant writing. She has written a number of articles related to the field of motherhood studies, the most recent one being a study of the maternal experience in Ying Chen's *Un enfant à porte*, published in the *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, (no. 45-46, 2012). An article discussing Eliette Abécassis' *Un heureux événement* as a maternal counternarrative will appear in the next issue of the *Irish Journal of French Studies* (no. 12, 2012).

Gill Rye is Emeritus Professor and Associate Fellow at the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, University of London. She is Director of the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing and directs the AHRC-funded Motherhood in post-1968 European Literature Network. Her research centres on contemporary women's writing in French and she has convened the Contemporary Women's Writing in French seminar since 2000. Her main publications include *Narratives of Mothering* (2009), *Reading for Change* (2001), *Women's Writing in Contemporary France* (co-edited with Michael Worton, 2002), and *'When familiar meanings dissolve ...': Essays in French Studies in Memory of Malcolm Bowie* (co-edited with Naomi Segal, 2011), plus numerous articles and chapters, and several edited and co-edited journal special issues. Forthcoming are three publications on 21st-century women's writing in French, co-edited with Amaleena Damlé, a special issue of *Dalhousie French Studies* on the author Marie Darrieussecq, co-edited with Helena Chadderton, and an edited special issue of *Forum for Modern Language Studies* on writing childhood.

Ana Souza is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Education, University of London. She completed her doctoral thesis on language and identity of Brazilian mothers and their mixed-heritage children at the University of Southampton. Some of her recent publications are: 'Pentecostal and Catholic churches in London – the role of ideologies in the language planning of faith lessons', (with Amoafi Kwapong and Malgorzata Woodham, in *Current Issues in Language Planning*, 13(2), 2012); "'Making Pies" – a way of exploring children's views on curriculum innovation', (with Chris Downey and Jenny Byrne, in *Children & Society*, 2012); 'Planning a competence-based curriculum: the case of four secondary schools in England' (with Jenny Byrne and Chris Downey, in *The Curriculum Journal*, 2012); 'O Papel da Família e de Organizações Cívicas no Ensino de Português para Crianças (Anglo) Brasileiras' [The Role of Families and Community Organizations in the Teaching of Portuguese to (Anglo)Brazilian Children], (in *Revista Travessia*, 66: 55-64, 2010); 'How Linguistic and Cultural Identities Are Affected by Migration' (in *Language Issues*, London: NATECLA, 19(1), 2008).

Claire Williams lectures in Lusophone Literature and Culture at the University of Oxford, where she is a Fellow of St Peter's College. Her research and publications focus on women's writing and minority writing from the Lusophone world, particularly Clarice Lispector (Brazil), Maria Gabriela Llansol and Maria Ondina Braga (Portugal), and Lília Momplé (Mozambique). Dr Williams is a past President of WISPS (Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies) and the General Secretary of ABIL (Association for British and Irish Lusitanists).

Paulina Yurman is a designer and researcher. She is now conducting a practice-based PhD in design at Goldsmiths looking into the role of technology for home-working parents and their children, the use of technology as an escape from domesticity and its role in the negotiations of worker/parent identities. She is looking into how design and technology can embody or materialise the conflict or coexistence of the two. She also runs her own design practice and recently designed a range of baby and toddler furniture concepts for Mothercare.