

Launch of MA Screen Media Cultures

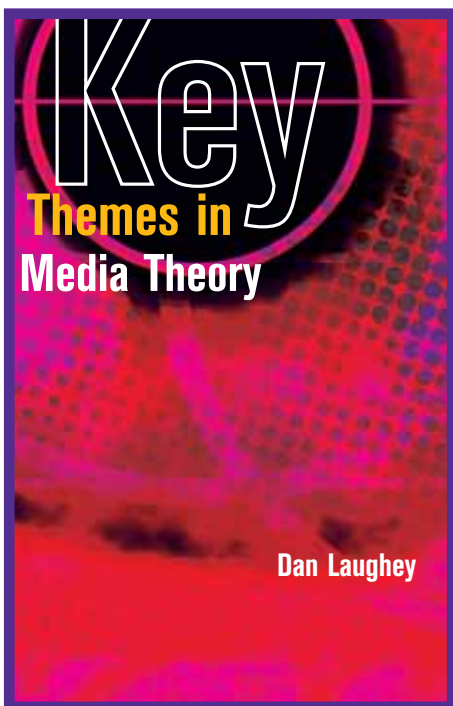


The new MA Screen Media Cultures was launched on 4 December 2007 with an evening at Old Broadcasting House, a former BBC building now part of Leeds Met's Civic Quarter.

Pat Loughrey, Director of BBC Regions and Nations, gave an entertaining and informative lecture entitled 'Future Screens: Local and National'. He provided both a cogent historical survey of the changing nature of communicative screens and informed speculation about the future role of the BBC in the rapidly-changing current order of convergence and multi-platform media. The lecture was followed by a reception, which gave attendees an opportunity to find out more about the course that will commence in September 2008.

If you would like further information about MA Screen Media Cultures, please contact Dr Lance Pettitt, l.pettitt@leedsmet.ac.uk or 0113 812 5934.

New books published:



Dan Laughey



Dan Laughey recently published a new book entitled 'Key Themes in Media Theory', which provides a thorough and critical introduction to the key theories of media studies. It is unique in bringing together different schools of media theory into a single, comprehensive text.

Prof Alison Oram's new book 'Her Husband Was a Woman!' was published in December 2007. To mark the occasion an event will be held in conjunction with a symposium entitled 'Remote Relationships in a Small World', on 13 February 2008, at Headingley Campus.

For further information about the event please contact cspublicity@leedsmet.ac.uk.

Professorship and Doctorate success



Professor Mary Eagleton

Congratulations to Mary Eagleton who was recently awarded the title of Professor in Contemporary Women's Writing.

This has been an exciting year for Mary who also celebrated the launch of a new, international journal entitled 'Contemporary Women's Writing', published by the Oxford University Press, which she co-edits with Professor Susan Stanford Friedman, University of Wisconsin.



Dr Melanie Chan

Melanie Chan, Research Officer for the School of Cultural Studies, received her doctorate from Leeds Met in July 2007. Melanie's thesis 'Representations of Virtual Reality' was supervised by colleagues from the Leeds School of Architecture, Landscape & Design.

Melanie recently published two 'Research Reflections' on the Leeds Met website, and has a forthcoming journal article, due for publication in July 2008.

Crossing Borders one-day conference



Michael Bailey and Ruth Robbins were successful in bidding for Teaching Research Funding which will fund a one-day conference entitled 'Crossing Borders'. The aims of the conference are to examine the research and teaching of interdisciplinarity and to discuss the particular and general uses of key concepts, such as class and ethnicity,

across disciplinary boundaries.

The conference speakers include Professor Chas Critcher, Sheffield Hallam University, Dr Gary Day, De Montfort University and Professor Carolyn Steedman, University of Warwick.

Photo reproduced with permission from Leeds Library & Information Services

Outstanding Media Scholar

Prize-winning graduate, Lee Broughton, was awarded a First Class Honours degree in Media and Popular Culture in July 2007.

A mature, part-time student at Leeds Met, Lee won the final year prize for his dissertation on Spaghetti Westerns and Fan Cultures, acclaim from examiner Dr Rinella Cere (Sheffield Hallam) and the Alan McGregor prize for Outstanding Achievement by a Mature Student.

The Alan McGregor Prize is awarded by the School for outstanding performance and contribution by a mature student. The prize is awarded in memory of Alan McGregor, Head of the School of Humanities & Contemporary Studies, Leeds Polytechnic, until his death in 1986.

Lee went on to win a prestigious AHRC Masters Preparation Studentship to fund his studies for 2007/08. Extending his interest in film, he is currently studying the MA in World Cinema at the University of Leeds, and is a contributor to the Leeds Met/Leeds Guide Cult Cinema column.

Student profile:

Geoff Collier
BA (Hons) History & Politics
Level 2



Geoff Collier is a mature student in the second year of BA (Hons) History & Politics. Geoff lives in Keighley and finds the combination of the teaching hours and location of Leeds Met really helpful in combining studying with his home life.

Geoff said "I chose this course because I expected it to cover subjects that already interested me and it hasn't let me down".

In his spare time he enjoys going to the cinema and to gigs, and volunteers at his local Citizens Advice Bureau.

ESRC Visiting Fellowship



Michael Bailey has been invited to take up a Visiting Fellowship at the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) at The Open University. It's a wonderful opportunity for an early career researcher and builds upon the HEFCE fellowship that he was awarded last year. The fellowship will involve various collaborative projects, including organising CRESC workshops that relate to his research, co-editing a book, publishing a paper in CRESC's working paper series, and working on a book proposal for CRESC's newly launched book series for Routledge.

Centenary Students

The School is pleased to welcome three PhD 'Centenary' students – Helen Davies, Jayne Mansfield and Richard O'Brien. They have come to Leeds Met to take up one of 100 PhD studentships offered to celebrate the centenary of the University.

Helen Davis studied her undergraduate degree at the University of Hull and her MPhil at the University of Birmingham. She is now working on her PhD focusing on the influence of Oscar Wilde on contemporary literature, specifically Angela Carter, Will Self and Sarah Waters.

Jayne returned to study after a number of years working in a publications company and gained her MA in 2006 from the University of Manchester. She is now working on her PhD, entitled 'Literature Place and Identity: Writing the North of England, 1845-1855 and 1955-1965'.

Richard O'Brien is a Leeds Met graduate who studied his MA at the University of Sheffield. He has returned to Leeds Met to undertake his doctoral research on the early fiction and articles written by Saul Bellow for Partisan Review, a once-prominent literary journal in the US.

Study Abroad

Michaela Stanikova, a Study Abroad student from Ostrava, Czech Republic, has enjoyed her semester studying BA (Hons) English Literature in the School so much, she has extended her stay for a full academic year.

Michaela said "I really enjoy living in Leeds and studying at Leeds Met. Every day I meet many new people from all over the world and experience different culture. University staff are very helpful and friendly and Leeds is an exciting city with a great deal to offer".

Kate Bedwell, from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia is currently studying within the School of Cultural Studies as part of the University-wide international exchange programme 2007/08. Reflecting on her experiences, Kate



said: "I seem to have had more time on my hands to think about where I'm heading with this year of exchange and beyond. I think I'd like to stay in England and continue to study, even work for a few years. My Leeds Met tutors and other people I've met here have passed onto me the best attitude – if you want it, go for it – that's the attitude I'll always be carrying with me."



Leeds Met Ireland Film Festival 2008

The School of Cultural Studies is working with the School of Film, Television & Performing Arts, the Leslie Silver International Faculty, and the Community Partnerships & Volunteering Team to host the Leeds Met Ireland Film Festival 2008.

The Festival will run from Sunday 9 March until Wednesday 12 March 2008.

The programme includes film screenings at Hyde Park Picture House and the

Electric Press, seminar and guest lectures, and film directors' introductions.

Dr Lance Pettitt, Reader and Senior Lecturer in Media & Popular Culture, is giving a lecture on Wednesday 12 March entitled 'Channel 4 and its Irish Angle, 1982-87' as part of an afternoon seminar session.

For further details please contact l.pettitt@leedsmet.ac.uk

Contemporary Women's Writing



The first issue of *Contemporary Women's Writing* was launched on Friday 28 December at the MLA Convention in Chicago. The 200 complimentary promotional copies flew off the shelves and the launch itself was very well

attended. The US Co-editor Susan Stanford Friedman proposed a toast to our own Mary Eagleton, UK Co-editor and founder of the journal. She and the Contemporary Women's Writing Network (of which Susan Watkins and Alice Ridout

are also members) deserve high praise for launching such an exciting journal that names and makes visible an important field of literary studies. Oxford Journals held a further event on Saturday 29 December to celebrate all its new journals of 2007 and *Contemporary Women's Writing* featured prominently.

Later on Friday 28 December, the celebrations continued as the Doris Lessing Society held its Annual General Meeting and started by toasting Lessing's Nobel Laureate. The Second International Doris Lessing Conference held at Leeds Metropolitan University last summer was also on the agenda. Susan Watkins and her organizing committee (which included Alice Ridout, Claire Chambers, Pat Cook, Elaine Newsome, and Anne Wallace) received high praise and enthusiastic gratitude from society members. It was agreed that the Special Issue of *Doris Lessing Studies* which will be co-edited by Susan Watkins and Alice Ridout based on conference proceedings will appear in the summer of 2008.

Student field-trips

The School has taken History and History & Politics students on trips to explore European cities for several years now. In the past we've been to Paris and Versailles as the French Revolution is one of the module we teach. We've also been to Berlin as the histories of several past Germanies is layered before us in a fascinating way - from Imperial to Weimar Berlins, from Nazi to Cold War and Communist Berlins, and finally the new vibrant capital of contemporary Germany symbolised by the new Reichstag. We teach the histories of communism and fascism and modern Europe and the legacy of the Holocaust. These tours are a useful addition to classroom based teaching and provide an opportunity for

students to expand their understanding of history and politics.

This year we are going to Krakow in Poland. Again the histories of communism and fascism will be studied. We intend to visit Auschwitz and the Polish industrial city of Nowy Huta, but there's also the grandeur of the longer-term history of an important city. Members of the staff team taking part are Polish speakers and we will also have a tour guide on hand during the 5 day trip.

Matthew Caygill, Course Leader for BA (Hons) History & Politics said "The Paris and Berlin trips are always well-received, but we'll definitely be looking to visit to other interesting places in the future".



New Staff News

We would like to introduce some new staff members who have joined the School recently, bringing with them a wealth of experience and expertise in their specialist areas of study. They are:



Prof Alison Oram joined the School in June 2007 as Chair in Social & Cultural History. Prior to this Alison was Reader in Gender Studies and Chair of the Arts & Humanities Research Degrees Board at the University of Northampton. Alison has worked extensively across the disciplines of History, English and Media and her research has made a significant contribution to Women's History and Gender History in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Nada Ellis is the new Course Administrator for BA (Hons) English & History and works Tuesday to Thursday during term-time.

Clairemarie Allen is the new Secretarial Assistant for the School, managing the frontline of the busy admin office. Clairemarie is a graduate of BA (Hons) Humanities and Social Studies and is enjoying her return to the School of Cultural Studies.



Dr Simon Morgan currently teaches four modules on the BA (Hons) History programme, and his research interests are in Nineteenth Century British History and particularly gender, radical politics and public culture. He is currently involved in the Letters of Richard Cobden project.



Dr Helen Dampier also recently joined the School as Senior Lecturer in History. Helen teaches three undergraduate modules for BA (Hons) History and her research interests concern memory, life writings and also historiography and its claims.

Amy Holdsworth has recently joined the School as Senior Lecturer in Television Studies. Amy recently completed her PhD on British Television, Memory and Nostalgia in the Department of Film and Television Studies at the University of Warwick. Her research interests primarily lie in the field of television theory, history and aesthetics.

For semester 2, the School welcomes the following part-time members of academic staff: Sara Barker, Grainne Goodwin, Christian Hogsbjerg, Kaley Kramer, Lisa Samson, Joanne Watkiss, Richard O'Brien and Helen Davies.

In February, Jean Brownbridge will be joining Cultural Studies, in the position of School Administrator, working with Pat Cook and Elaine Newsome.

Emily Marshall – from student to lecturer



Dr Emily Marshall completed her undergraduate degree, BA (Hons) English & History, with the School of Cultural Studies, and enjoyed it so much that she continued her studies on the MA English: Twentieth-Century Literature.

Emily has since lectured at the School on a part-time basis and completed her PhD 'The Journey of Anansi: An Exploration of Jamaican Cultural Resistance'. The main emphasis of Emily's PhD research is an exploration of the ways in which the Anansi folktales, as

cultural forms, encouraged methods of resistance and survival for the Jamaican slaves during the plantation era. She is particularly interested in forms of cultural 'resistance' and cross-cultural fertilisation in the face of colonialism and researches key areas of twentieth-century literary theory. Emily specialises in postcolonial literature and theory and the cultural history of West Africa and the Caribbean and has recently been appointed as Senior Lecturer in African American Literature within the School.

Research Seminar series

The School of Cultural Studies' Research Seminar programme for 2007/08 has been very well received.

Seminars have included Alison Oram speaking about "An Astonishing Masquerade": Masculinity, Gender Relations and the Passing Woman in the British Popular Press 1900s-1930s and David Hendy, University of Westminster, speaking about "An Intimate History of Radio 4: Intimacy on Radio in the 1970s and 1980s".

The Research Seminars are open to staff and students and there is no charge to attend.

Seminars for 2008 include: Dr Wendy Webster, University of Central Lancashire, "After the Nazis: British Narratives of Germany and Europe, 1945-54" on 6 February, as part of the Joint Seminar Series in Modern Social & Cultural History in conjunction with the University of Leeds, and Dr Lance Pettitt, School of Cultural Studies, "Channel 4 and its Irish Angle, 1982-87" on 12 March.

Details of future seminars are posted on the School website www.leedsmet.ac.uk/cs.

School of Cultural Studies Programme of Events 2008

- 6 February** Joint Modern & Social Cultural History Seminar Series held in conjunction with the University of Leeds.
'After the Nazis: British Narratives of Germany & Europe, 1945-1954' – Dr Wendy Webster, Professor of Contemporary British History, University of Central Lancashire.
5.30 pm, H302, Civic Quarter
- 9 February** **Crossing Borders: A one-day interdisciplinary conference** for staff and students considering the concept of Class.
Keynote speakers include: Professor Chas Critcher, Dr Gary Day, Dr Carolyn Steedman, 10 am – 5 pm, Northern Terrace, Civic Quarter.
Cost: £12/ £5 (student/unwaged)
- 13 February** **Professor Alison Oram's book launch for 'Her Husband was a Woman! Women's Gender-Crossing in Modern British Popular Culture'** in conjunction with books by colleagues from the Carnegie Faculty of Sport and Education.
5.00 pm, Gandhi Hall, Headingley Campus
- 9-12 March** Leeds Met Irish Film Festival 2008
- 12 March** 'Channel 4 and its Irish Angle, 1982-87' – Dr Lance Pettitt, Reader in Media & Popular Culture, School of Cultural Studies.
3.30 – 5.30 pm, Electric Press, Civic Quarter
- 15 March** **Leeds in Context, Popular Entertainment in the North, 1850-1939**
10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Priestley Hall, Headingley Campus
Fee: £10
- 10 May** **Researching Local History Day**, in conjunction with the Thoresby Society, Leeds Library
- 4-5 September** **Symposium on New Directions and the History of Crime**
- For information about these events please contact cspublicity@leedsmet.ac.uk or 0113 812 3474
- All events are free, unless otherwise stated, and open to staff, students and members of the public.

Bloody Sunday publications

Tom Herron, Course Leader for MA English: Twentieth-Century Literature, has co-written two new publications focusing on Bloody Sunday. Bloody Sunday is the name given to 30 January 1972, when thirteen innocent men and boys were shot dead by Paratroopers in Derry's Bogside during a Civil Rights march. A further fifteen people were wounded, one of whom died later of his injuries.

Harrowing of the Heart: The Poetry of Bloody Sunday (Guildhall Press), edited by Julieann Campbell and Tom Herron, is an anthology that has been painstakingly compiled over the last year. The collection creates a chronological account of Bloody Sunday and contains pieces by

internationally renowned figures such as Seamus Heaney, Christy Moore, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Thomas Kinsella and Brian Friel. It is being published to coincide with the thirty-sixth anniversary of Bloody Sunday and will be launched as part of the official 2008 Commemoration events.

Tom is also the co-author with John Lynch, University of Birmingham, of *After Bloody Sunday, representation, ethics, justice* (Cork University Press). *After Bloody Sunday* examines the portrayals of the day and its devastating repercussions in photography, film, theatre, poetry, television documentary, art installations, murals, commemorative events and legal discourse.

