



Society for
French Studies

Do we still read? / Lisons-nous encore ?

Society for French Studies Postgraduate Conference
Friday 29 May 2026, King's College London

Council Room (K2.29), King's Building, Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS

Programme

9.00am – 9.30am

Registration

9.30am – 9.45am

Welcome

Tobias Barnett and Airelle Amédro

9.45am – 10.45am

Panel 1: DISENCHANTED READINGS

Chair: Tobias Barnett

- Giaime Lazzari (Trinity College Dublin), '*Readability in Science Fiction and (the) Future (of) Writing*'
- Natheir Malhawi (University of St Andrews), '*Birfurcated Traces*'
- Idriss Belhaj Abdallah (University of Minnesota), '*Lire sous surveillance : pratiques de lecture et pouvoir dans la littérature maghrébine contemporaine*'

10.45am – 11.15am

Break

11.15pm – 12.15pm

Keynote: Dr Madeleine Chalmers (University of Glasgow)

'Learning to Read at Last/Apprendre à lire enfin'

12.15pm – 1.15pm

Lunch

1.15pm – 2.00pm

Panel 2: READING AND MEDIATION

Chair: TBC

- Katharine Kent (University of Cambridge), '*Reading vs Listening: Cognitive and Phenomenological Approaches to Writing for Radio, Translation and Broadcasting in Samuel Beckett's Embers/Cendres (1959)*'
- Nayden Tafradzhiyski (University of Glasgow), '*Up to the Neck in Technical Muck': Reading, Embodiment, Play in Samuel Beckett's Krapp's Last Tape (1958) / La Dernière Bande (1959)*'
- Kratika Sen (The English and Foreign Languages University), '*La traduction comme lecture critique et médiation culturelle : Analyse de Ret Samadhi, Au-delà de la frontière (Geetanjali Shree, trad. Annie Montaut)*'

2.00pm – 2.15m

Break

2.15pm – 3.30pm

Panel 3: WAYS OF READING

Chair: Airelle Amédéo

- Lucas Villaumé (Sorbonne-Université), *‘Actualités de la lecture rhétorique : la théorie de l’ancien art oratoire comme instrument de lecture’*
- Kelsey Yi Wing Yuen (University of Cambridge), *‘Reading Architecture, Reading Authority: Reinterpreting Charles Garnier’s Le Nouvel Opéra de Paris’*
- Anastasia Scepi (Sorbonne-Université), *‘Comment lire encore la caricature au XIXe siècle ? Circulations, influences et communautés de lecteurs’*

3.30pm – 4.30pm

Panel 4: WOMEN IN FRENCH

Chairs: Katie-Rose Nandhra, Tamzin Elliott

- Felicity Moffat (King’s College London), *‘The Middlebrow: Not Just Blandly Mediocre!’*
- Tamzin Elliott (Independent), *‘Sonic Spatialities, Tactile Transmissions: Reading as Reliving in Contemporary bande dessinée on Abortion’*
- Katie-Rose Nandhra (University College London), *‘Metamorphic Rhythm: Reading the Poetry of Laure through Breath, Space and Graphic Intervention’*

4.30pm – 5:45pm

Panel 5: NEW HORIZONS

Chair: TBC

- River Searles (Durham University), *‘Reading the Human in/as the Plant’*
- Anjana Baskar (The English and Foreign Languages University), *‘Au-delà de la lisibilité : lecture rapprochée et sensorium gastronomique du polar Mystère de la chambre jaune de Gaston Leroux’*
- Annie Guerra-Phillips (King’s College London), *‘Reading as a site of consent’*

5:45pm – 6.00pm

Concluding Remarks

Tobias Barnett and Airelle Amédéo

6.00pm

End of Conference

This conference has been made possible thanks to the support of the Society for French Studies and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at King’s College London.