



**\*\* updated/mis à jour 8.6.2026 \*\***

*All conference sessions will be held in the Attenborough Seminar Block and the Fielding Johnson Building (South Wing – Ogden Lewis seminar suite) on the City Campus (LE1 7RH). Lunch, coffee and refreshments will be served in Gee's, in the Percy Gee Building on the City Campus.*

*A drinks reception, gala dinner and disco will be held at the City Rooms (LE1 5AW).*

**Day One**  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm	<b>Registration</b> <b>publishers' stands, refreshments</b>	<i>Attenborough</i> <i>Gee's</i>
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	<b>Presidential welcome</b> Nicholas Harrison (King's College London)	<i>Attenborough LT1</i>
	<b>Plenary lecture one</b> Patrick Crowley (University of Galway) <i>'What's literature got to do with it?': Literary Criticism in a Time Before 'After'</i> Chair: Nicholas Harrison (King's College London)	
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>AGM of the Society for French Studies</b>	<i>Attenborough LT1</i>
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	<i>Gee's</i>
1:45 pm – 3:45 pm	<b>Panel sessions one</b>	
	<b>(1.1) New Approaches to Rabelais (I)</b> Chair: Richard Scholar (Durham University)	<i>Attenborough 111</i>
	<i>Rabelais and Early Modern End-of-Life Care</i> Rachel Hindmarsh (University of Oxford)	
	<i>Rabelaisian Interactions</i> Kathryn Banks (Durham University)	
	<i>Rabelais's Changing Relevance: from the 18th Century to the 20th</i> Neil Kenny (University of Oxford)	

**(1.2) Language and Authority in Late Medieval Texts**

Attenborough 208

Chair: Luke Sunderland (Durham University)

*'Cest parole tort doit estre reservé a la demonstracion': Learning French and Learning the Law in 15th-century England*

Edward Mills (University of Exeter)

*What Men and Women Do: Gendered Expectations in Medieval French Language Learning*

Thomas Hinton (University of Exeter)

*Nun the Wiser: Moulding Monastics at Lacock Abbey*

Clementine Pursey (University of Exeter)

*Gender Wars: Christine de Pizan's Intertextual Strategies*

Tina Montenegro (Boston College)

**(1.3) Performance: Music & Stage**

Attenborough 210

Chair: Jennifer Rushworth (UCL)

*Touring, Performance, and the Queer Belle Époque in Colette's La Vagabonde and L'envers du music-hall*

Kathryn Woods (University of Bristol)

*Tartan Jennys: Scotland, Costume, and the Parisian Stage*

Hannah Scott (Newcastle University)

*Napoléon as a conservative allegory: staging Napoléon's life as a musical in 1984*

Sarah Pellé (University of St Andrews)

**(1.4) Religion/Tradition**

Attenborough 211

Chair: Alexandra Pugh (University of Oxford)

*Citizenship and Laïcité in Early Twentieth-Century Colonial Algeria: Emir Khaled's Political Activism and a Reconfiguration of French Laïcité*

Hana Lee (Seoul National University)

*Gender and Feminist perspectives on Secularism in Contemporary France*

Eric Touya de Marenne (Clemson University)

*Imagining Muslim Women in the Old French Crusade Cycle*

Saaleha Iqbal (University of Leeds)

**(1.5) Other Worlds**

Ogden Lewis 1

Chair: *tbc*

*Proust Against Other Worlds*

Duarte Benard da Costa (University of Cambridge)

*Contemporary Ecopoetry as Counter-Erosion in the Climate Crisis*  
Marion Krauthaker (University of Galway)

*Pluralité des mondes et alternative chez Balzac*  
Antony Kussmaul (Université de Zurich, Suisse)

*Losing hold: writing, landscape, and the experience of dispossession in Nicolas  
Pesquès's La Face nord de Juliau*  
Ian Maclachlan (University of Oxford)

**(1.6) Body Language**

Attenborough 214

Chair: **tbc**

*Discours de l'insoumission : scénographie et performativité dans L'insoumise de la  
Porte de Flandre de Fouad Laroui*  
Mohamed El Jamri (Université Ibn Tofail, Maroc)

« [N]ous pouvons aussi être plaisir, exultation des corps [...] » *La corporalité comme  
(prise de) parole autochtone (L'Amant du lac de Virginia Pesemapeo Bordeleau)*  
Małgorzata Sokołowicz (Université de Varsovie)

*Quand le trauma s'inscrit dans le corps : lire et traduire les langages du corps  
traumatisé face à la guerre d'Algérie chez quelques auteurs francophones de  
l'extrême contemporain*  
Maja Klostermann (Université d'Innsbruck)

*Decadence and Masculinity in Pierre Drieu la Rochelle's Gilles (1939) and Michel  
Houellebecq's Anéantir (2022)*  
Fraser McQueen (University of Leeds)

**(1.7) Machinations, Injustice and Consent**

Attenborough 212

Chair: Douglas Morrey (University of Warwick)

*Not Paying Attention: Barthes' Textual Intermittence, Thinking through Screen  
Captures*

James Dutton (University of Western Australia)

*Un monde dans les mots : machinations démiurgiques de Verne à Perec*  
Hervé Goerger

*Une histoire gratuite: addressing the recognitional injustice on female friendship in  
Simone de Beauvoir*

Madeleine Banatvala (University of Edinburgh)

*Proust et l'emprise littéraire: consenting to read À la recherche du temps perdu*  
Annie Guerra-Phillips (King's College London)



Dariusz Krawczyk (University of Warsaw, Poland)

**(2.5) Rethinking Orientalism & Reimagining Anticolonialism** Attenborough 210  
Chair: Małgorzata Sokołowicz (Université de Varsovie)

*Literature and the Aesthetics of Critical Orientalism: Edward Said's Orientalism in the Twenty-First Century*  
Jennifer Yee (University of Oxford)

*Reversing the Eurocentric: Segalen and The Poetics of Mediation*  
Micah McCauley (Indiana University)

*Pratique artistique et processus de décolonialité: perspectives d'un Yénilche franco-canadien en mobilité transatlantique*  
Franck Calard (Université de Montréal/Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières)

**(2.6) Rules of Language** Ogden Lewis 1  
Chair: David Evans (University of St Andrews)

*Policing Language on Screen: Prescriptivism and Non-Standard French in French-Language Film*  
Emma Humphries (Queen's University Belfast)

*French supplementary schools in the UK and the US: attitudes towards variation*  
Olivia Walsh (University of Nottingham)

*"Avais-je le droit d'ainsi malmener la langue de Molière ? Moi, une pauvre négresse ?": la naissance à l'écriture de Françoise Ega, Martiniquaise et Marseillaise d'adoption*  
Michele Bissiere (The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, US)

**(2.7) Languages of Fragmentation: Representations of the Disintegrated Self in the Text and the Clinic** Ogden Lewis 2  
Chair: Giovanni Menegalle (University of London in Paris)

*The Unconscious and Multiplicity in Taine's and Ribot's Treatises: How the Positivist Body Shaped the Psychoanalytic Mind*  
Anna Paola Manna (University of Exeter)

*Madness as Discourse: Linguistic Diagnostics and Resistance in the Early Nineteenth-Century French Asylum*  
Alessandro Bianchi (Newcastle University)

*The Passion of Laure: Love Relations across the Fragments of a Depersonalising Subject*  
Katie-Rose Nandhra (University College London)

**(2.8) Caribbean Worlds** Attenborough 214

Chair: Maeve McCusker (Queen's University Belfast)

*Cannibalizing the Odyssey: Aimé Césaire's Cahier d'un retour au pays natal and the foundation of a Caribbean epic tradition*

Clara Soucanh (Princeton University)

*Caraïbes globales et Guadeloupe éclatée : transnationalisme et écriture postcoloniale dans l'œuvre de Maryse Condé*

Mario Laarmann (Universität des Saarlandes & Sorbonne Université)

*Aimé Césaire's Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (1968): The Aesthetics and Temporalities of Anticolonialism*

Rehnuma Sazzad (School of Advanced Study, University of London)

5:45 pm – 6:45 pm    **REF 2029 presentation** *Attenborough LT1*  
**and Q&A with SP26 'Modern Languages**  
**and Linguistics' Deputy Chair Susan Harrow**  
Chair: Jennifer Rushworth (UCL)

6:45 pm onwards    **Dinner** (own arrangements)

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**Day Two**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

9:00 am – 11:00 am    **Panel sessions three**

**(3.1) Uncertain Cyborgs: Thinking Machines in Late**  
**Medieval Francophone Literature**

*Attenborough 208*

Chair: Peggy McCracken (University of Michigan)

*Astrological Cyborgs*

Sarah Kay (NYU)

*The Amazing Adventures of Virgil the Cyborg*

Jonathan Morton (Tulane University)

*Rhétoriqueur Robotics: Jean Molinet's Feeling Machines*

Jack Nunn (University of Oxford)

**(3.2) Corps et Représentations:**  
**Interrogations and Transformations**

*Attenborough 211*

Chair: Douglas Morrey (University of Warwick)

*Questionner le corps : la langue de Marie Darrieussecq entre interrogations et*  
*physicité*

Sofia Tincani (University of Bologna)

*Mens sana in corpore sano? Le thème du corps dans les romans de sport contemporain pour adolescents : perspective féministe*  
Magdalena Grycan (University of Warsaw)

*Body and Soul: Manifestations of Malaise in Francophone African Return Narratives*  
Anabel Said (University of Malta)

*Des corps à corps avec la Nature et le paysage dans quelques fictions contemporaines (Van Acker, Bienne, Vinson)*  
Judyta Zbierska-Moscicka (Université de Varsovie)

**(3.3) Bodies, Health and the Environment in French Narratives (19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> c.)** Attenborough 212

Chair: Daniel Finch-Race (University of Bologna)

*'Classes souffrantes': environmental vulnerability and social injustice in Marie-Louise Gagneur's Le Calvaire des Femmes duology (1867)*  
Manon Raffard (University of Manchester)

*Milieux curatifs: environmental therapies in Maupassant, Zola and Proust*  
Larry Duffy (University of Kent)

*The Social and medical environments of donor conception in French life writing*  
Christie Margrave (University of Cardiff)

**(3.4) Life Forces in Early Modern France** Attenborough 210  
Chair: Emily Kate Price (University of Cambridge)

*The Force of Poetry: Literature and Efficacy in Scaliger and Montaigne*  
Timothy Chesters (University of Cambridge)

*Legal Fiction, Lifelikeness, and Efficacy in Corneille*  
Marina Perkins (University of Oxford)

*Fire's Force in d'Aubigné's Tragiques*  
Emma Claussen (University of Cambridge)

*'Automata, or living creatures': The Life Force of Early Modern Machines*  
Emma Gilby (University of Cambridge)

**(3.5) Limits of Representation, (Non)Representation** Attenborough 214  
Chair: Rehnuma Sazzad (Institute of English Studies, University of London)

*The Death of Literature? Reinventing Textual Form in Algeria with Mustapha Benfodil*  
Lillian Fontaine (University of Oxford)

*Constant and the limits of representation*  
Patrick O'Donovan (University College Cork)

*Desire, Discontinuous Subjectivities, and the Non-Image in Duras*  
Zoëy Ziller (University of Cambridge)

*Literature as Communication: Reading Georges Bataille beyond Subject and Representation*  
Junzhe Zhou (University of Bristol)

**(3.6) Boundaries & Migration**

Ogden Lewis 1

Chair: Marion Krauthaker (University of Galway)

*La ville comme lieu d'appartenance migratoire et diasporique : les cas des communautés yiddishophones et d'après-guerre*  
Clémence Pelissier (Trinity College Dublin)

*Relating the Queer Family Across Boundaries: Reparation, Antagonism and Curation in the Life-Writing of Édouard Louis and sam albatros*  
Elliot Koubis (University of Oxford)

*La Migration et la découverte du moi : cas de Puis Ngandu Nkashma écrivain congolais*  
Mutombo Kabantu (École supérieure de savoir plus)

*Plant Figures of Migration: Ryoko Sekiguchi's Transplantational French Poetry*  
Xiaofan Li (UCL)

**(3.7) Diasporas: Trauma and Division**

Ogden Lewis 2

Chair: Maeve McCusker (Queen's University Belfast)

*Diasporic solidarities and divisions in the literary work of Fabienne Kanor*  
Miriam Gordon (University of Warwick)

*La voix des déracinés: une étude du traumatisme migratoire et diasporique dans L'âme prêtée aux oiseaux de Gisèle Pineau*  
Srija Srimathi Tirmuala Purighalla (University of Mumbai)

*Complices d'empires: The Other Asians and Narratives of Indentured Labor in Kanaky/New Caledonia*  
Chloé Luu (University of Southern California)

*Resisting Military Fictions of Absence: Mauritian and Reunionese Literary Solidarities with the Chagos*  
Alice de Reviens (Rutgers University)

**(3.8) *Techniques de l'avenir***

Attenborough 111

Chair: Patrick ffrench (King's College London)

*Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun: André Leroi-Gourhan, Cheikh Anta Diop, and the Decolonial Politics of Renewable Energy*

Tobias Barnett (University of Cambridge)

*Sublime Technicity from Côte d'Ivoire to the Cosmos*

Madeleine Chalmers (University of Glasgow)

*Against Accelerationism? Ruyer and Simondon on the Limits of Human Progress*

Giovanni Menegalle (ULIP)

11:00 am – 11:30 am **Tea/coffee and postgraduate posters**

Gee's

11:30 am – 12:45 pm **Plenary lecture two**

Attenborough LT1

Mary Harrod (University of Warwick)

*No More Mr. Nice Guy: Anatomy of Masculinity in the French Cinematic Relationship Drama since #MeToo*

Chair: Douglas Morrey (University of Warwick)

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm **Lunch**

Gee's

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm **Panel sessions four**

**(4.1) *50 years since Michel Foucault's 'Il faut défendre la société'***

Attenborough 208

Chair: Madeleine Chalmers (University of Glasgow)

*An Analysis of Renaud Camus's Le Grand Remplacement (2011) and Catherine Malabou's Il n'y a pas eu de Révolution (2024) in light of Michel Foucault's critical historiography of the nation*

Oliver Davis (University College Cork)

*Killing to Live: Foucault's Theory of Racism*

Patrick ffrench (King's College London)

*The War on Class: The Problematization of Abstraction in Foucault and Hall*

Naomi Waltham-Smith (University of Oxford)

**(4.2) *New Approaches to Rabelais (II)***

Attenborough 210

Chair: Kathryn Banks (Durham University)

*Cultural Animals: A Cognitive, Anthropological Reading of the Poetics of Incorporation in François Rabelais*

Rob Ley (University of Oxford)

*Rabelaisian Automatism: Casual Fictions*

Raphaële Garrod (University of Oxford)

**(4.3) Medieval Bodily Grammars**

*Attenborough 111*

Chair: Miranda Griffin (University of Cambridge)

*Language, Letters, Bodies*

Peggy McCracken (University of Michigan)

*Gender as Form in the Pelerinage de vie humaine*

Melek Karataş (London Library)

*Physiognomy as Bodily Grammar*

Luke Sunderland (Durham University)

**(4.4) Performing Gender, Performing Queerness**

*Attenborough 211*

Chair: Duarte Bénard da Costa (University of Cambridge)

*'Ce muet langage des robes': Clothing the Queer Body in the Fin de Siècle*

Rebecca Boyd (University of Oxford)

*Lost Between the Genders: Cross-Dressing and Identity Conflict in 19th-Century French Literature*

Matteo Silvestri (Vilnius University)

*'Man or Woman?' Gender Performance and Disruption among the Cross-Dressers in Paris, 1920-1933*

Juane Kim (Seoul National University)

**(4.5) Posthuman Machines**

*Attenborough 212*

Chair: Hervé Goerger

*La culture de la machine et le synthecorps : vers une téléologie posthumaine*

Melissa Barchi Panek (Brooklyn College)

*Apollinaire and the posthuman*

Susan Harrow (University of Bristol)

*The Non-Body et la Matérialité du Corps : From de la Mettrie to Hypermateriality*

Arun Kumar N A (English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)

**(4.6) Writing Against Medicine**

*Attenborough 214*

Chair: Élise Huguény-Léger (University of St Andrews)

*Medical Authority and Subjective Discourse in Annie Ernaux's Happening (2000)*

Ariana Serafinceanu (University of St Andrews)

*Medical Mistreatment in Contemporary Abortion Narratives*

Alexandra Pugh (University of Oxford)

*Against Medicalisation: Deaf 'Gain' and Experimental Forms of Writing in Les méduses n'ont pas d'oreilles* by Adèle Rosenfeld

Matilda Nevin (Royal Holloway, University of London)

**(4.7) Visibility and Resistance in the Maghreb**

Ogden Lewis 1

Chair: Siobhán McIlvanney (King's College London)

*The Body Alight: (De)politicising Self-Killing in Post-2010 Tunisia*

Jack Griffin (SOAS)

*Fanon's centrifuge: anticolonial aesthetics in Resnais' Muriel (1963)*

Christopher Ellis Dodd (University of Oxford)

*The Sahara Desert: a crossroads of colonial encounters and re-imagined futures*

Amina Zarzi (University of Oxford)

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	<b>Tea/coffee</b>	Gee's
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>Plenary lecture three</b> Camille Robcis (Columbia University) <i>The War on Gender: A History</i> Chair: Madeleine Chalmers (University of Glasgow)	Attenborough LT1
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<b>ECR &amp; PGR session</b> <b>Research Beyond the Academy</b> Chairs: Kate Foster (University of Reading), Tobias Barnett (University of Cambridge) Nina Parish (University of Glasgow) Hannah Scott (Newcastle University) Benjamin Dalton (Lancaster University)	Attenborough LT1
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm	<b>Free</b>	
7:15 pm – late	<b>Drinks reception including launch of <i>The Horizons of Medieval French and Occitan: New Approaches to Manuscripts and Texts</i>, a volume of essays edited by Luke Sunderland and Emma Campbell in honour of Simon Gaunt</b>	
	<i>followed by Gala dinner and disco</i>	The City Rooms

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**Day Three**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026**

(Delegates may leave luggage in Ogden Lewis 1)

9:30 am – 11:00 am **Panel sessions five**

**(5.1) Pathologies and Technologies of the Medieval Body**

Attenborough 208

Chair: Luke Sunderland (Durham University)

*Reading and Eating: Languages of the Body in the Régime du corps*  
Miranda Griffin (University of Cambridge)

*Tristan, Yseut, and the Physiology of Amorous Passion*  
Gaia Gubbini (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

*Machaut's Voir Dit: Bodily Proxies and the Technology of Writing*  
Alice Hazard (King's College London)

**(5.2) Au cœur de la mémoire : maternité et héritage des femmes noires dans la littérature francophone**

Attenborough 212

Chair: Marina Dikosso (Pennsylvania University)

*'Les Damnées de la terre': Joséphine Baker, Suzanne Césaire, and the Impossible Expectations of Black Motherhood*  
Vanessa Weller (Michigan State University)

*Speaking of Stories: Memory Preservation through Intergenerational Storytelling in Marie-Célie Agnant's La dot de Sara and Le livre d'Emma*  
Danica Guerrero (University of Maryland)

*Motherhood, Memory, and Resistance: Reading Léonora Miano's La Saison de l'ombre*  
Precious Ojo (Penn State University)

**(5.3) Marginalized Voices and Figures in French Festival Culture, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries**

Attenborough 210

Chair: Derval Conroy (University College Dublin)

*Hidden Magnificence: Trumpeters in French Festivals at the Turn of the Seventeenth Century*  
Alexander Robinson (University of Basel)

*Between Exoticism and Erasure: Tupinamná People and the Other at Louis XIII's Court*  
Marc W. S. Jaffré (University of Groningen)

**(5.4) Consumption and Material Cultures**

Attenborough 111

Chair: Siobhán McIlvanney (King's College London)

*Old Diaries and Other Things: Memory Objects and Mobility in Clara Beaudoux's Madeleine Project*

Sonia Wilson (University of Sydney)

*Planned Obsolescence: The Imaginary of Disposable Books in 19th-Century France*

Marine Le Bail (Université Toulouse II Jean Jaurès)

*Excessive Body, Empty Mind: The Woman Cashier in French Visual Culture*

Sonja Stojanovic (Texas Tech University)

**(5.5) Gender Wars**

Attenborough 214

Chair: Katherine Kent (University of Cambridge)

*Frontières du genre, frontières du monde : une lecture féministe d'Alexandra David-Néel*

Anaïs Delcol (University of Glasgow)

*Éros, extase et justice amoureuse : la dialectique lilarienne entre guerres des sexes et resacralisation de l'amour*

Hind Moutai (Université d'Ottawa, Canada)

*Le corps en excès : vers une esthétique littéraire de l'impudeur*

Zahir Sidane (Université de Béjaïa, Algérie)

**(5.6) Allegories of Nation**

Attenborough 211

Chair: David Evans (University of St Andrews)

*The Domesticated Iconoclast: Rimbaud under the Mask of National Allegory*

Thomas Dalle (ENS Lyon)

*Towards a Non-Monolingual Account of Poetry: Heidegger and Hölderlin, Derrida and Deguy*

Jack Morson (Goldsmiths, University of London)

*Hexagon Redux: The Aerial View and Abstract Spatiality in Darrièssecq, Houllebecq, Rico, and Vasset*

Gustaf Marcus (Uppsala Universitet)

11:00 am – 11:30 am **Tea/coffee**

Gee's

11:30 am – 12:45 pm **Simon Gaunt Memorial Lecture**

Attenborough LT1

Jean-Christophe Abramovici (Sorbonne Université)

*Qu'est-ce qu'un littéraire peut bien avoir à dire sur des textes médicaux ?*

Chair: Derval Conroy (University College Dublin)

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm **Lunch**

*Gee's*

**- End of Conference -**

PANEL DAY/TIME MAY CHANGE

## Conference at a glance

### **Day One: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Delegate registration, publishers' stands, refreshments
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Presidential welcome and plenary one: Patrick Crowley
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch and AGM of the Society for French Studies
1:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Panel sessions one
3:45 pm – 4:15 pm	Tea/coffee and PG poster session
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	Panel sessions two
5:45 pm – 6:45 pm	REF session

### **Day Two: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

9:00 am – 11:00 am	Panel sessions three
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Tea/coffee and PG poster session
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	Plenary two: Mary Harrod
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Panel sessions four
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	Tea/coffee
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Plenary three: Camille Robcis
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	ECR session, Postgraduate workshop
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	<i>free</i>
7:00 pm – late	Gala dinner and disco

### **Day Three: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026**

9:30 am – 11:00 am	Panel sessions five (OR start at 9:10 for 4-person session)
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Tea/coffee
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	Simon Gaunt Memorial Lecture: Jean-Christophe Abramovici
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch