



**** updated/mis à jour 10.6.2026 ****

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 29th June 2026

- 10:30 am – 12:30 pm **Registration** *Attenborough*
publishers' stands, refreshments *Gee's*
- 11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Presidential welcome** *Attenborough LT1*
Nicholas Harrison (King's College London)
- Plenary lecture one**
Patrick Crowley (University of Galway)
'What's literature got to do with it?': Literary Criticism in a Time Before 'After'
Chair: Nicholas Harrison (King's College London)
- 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm **AGM of the Society for French Studies** *Attenborough LT1*
- 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm **Lunch** *Gee's*
- 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm **Panel sessions one**
- (1.1) New Approaches to Rabelais (I)** *Attenborough 111*
Chair: Richard Scholar (Durham University)
- Rabelais and Early Modern End-of-Life Care*
Rachel Hindmarsh (University of Oxford)
- Rabelaisian Interactions*
Kathryn Banks (Durham University)
- Rabelais's Changing Relevance: from the 18th Century to the 20th*
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 2

Chair: Madeleine Chalmers (University of Glasgow)

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: Élise Hugueny-Léger (University of St Andrews)

*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)

Day Two
Tuesday 30th 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 (19th-21st 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	Tea/coffee	Gee's
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Plenary lecture three 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	ECR & PGR session Research Beyond the Academy 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	Free	
7:15 pm – late	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	
	<i>followed by Gala dinner and disco</i>	The City Rooms

Day Three
Wednesday 1st 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, 16th-17th 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 29th 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 30th 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 1st 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