



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 Amédéo

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), *'Beckett and the machine: Thinking text and reading in the AI times'*
- 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 Amédro

- Wahiba Cherrati (Université Blida 2), *'Lire l'absence, écrire le silence : de l'archive en errance à la lecture-créance'*
- 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 Amédro

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.