To join the mailing list:
The Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women’s Writing (CCWW) is proud to be celebrating its 10th anniversary. CCWW is one of the six research centres affiliated to the Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR). It was founded by Professor Gill Rye and grew out of the Centre for Women’s Writing in French, which had been a hub of activity since 2000. The Centre was officially launched on 16th October 2009 with a reading entitled ‘Writing Childhood’ which brought together authors writing in Portuguese (Ana Luísa Amaral), German (Anna Mitgutsch) and Italian (Nicoletta Vallorani), thus launching at the same time one of the Centre’s key themes: that of cross-lingual engagement. The Centre promotes and facilitates national and international research on contemporary writing by women in French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish (including Catalan and Galician). CCWW’s activities and events focus predominantly on a rich corpus of post-1968 authors and texts, but also include activities that work with a broader understanding of the ‘contemporary’. Every year it organises a wide range of events, from reading groups and author readings to themed workshops, study days and conferences, many of which explore relationships between writings across cultures and have a comparative focus.

The objectives of the CCWW are:
• To act as an umbrella organisation for scholars interested in women’s writing in each of the Centre’s language areas
• To stimulate and host networking opportunities
• To foster cross-cultural collaboration among scholars in the field of contemporary women’s writing
• To provide a variety of online research resources
• To organise both single-language and cross-cultural events (conferences and workshops, study days, seminars, book launches and author readings, reading groups and round-table discussions)
• To generate, facilitate and carry out research projects, especially comparative and cross-cultural collaborations

The Centre’s co-directors are Professor Shirley Jordan and Dr Godela Weiss-Sussex. They are advised by a steering committee with members from across the linguistic research fields and an International advisory board. The Centre welcomes a number of associate members and visiting fellows.

In 2019, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Centre with a series of events that show the variety of our work and are open to all.

Please join us in our celebrations!

Shirley Jordan and Godela Weiss-Sussex
Spring 2019
Overview: Anniversary Events

17–19 May 2019

Women and Power in French and Francophone Cultures and Societies
Women in French 15th Biennial Conference 2019 (WiF UK / CCWW)
Newcastle University / Hinsley Hall, Leeds

30–31 May 2019

Across Languages: Translingual Women’s Writing Conference (CCWW / OWRI)
IMLR, Senate House, London

30 May 2019

Encounter: Author – Translator Conversation: Katja Petrowskaja and Shelley Frisch
IMLR, Senate House, London

1 June 2019

Susana Chávez-Silverman: a Bilingual Reading and Q&A
IMLR, Senate House, London

31 October–1 November 2019

Translating Women: Breaking Borders and Building Bridges in the English-language Book Industry
IMLR, Senate House, London

8 November 2019

Contemporary Women’s Writing: Writing for Change. A Celebration of the Work of Gill Rye
Symposium at the IMLR, Senate House, London
Women and Power in French and Francophone Cultures and Societies

Women in French 15th Biennial Conference 2019
(Newcastle University, WiF UK / CCWW)
Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingly Lane, Leeds LS6 2BX
17–19 May 2019

Organisers:
Shirley Jordan (Newcastle), Siobhan McIlvanney (KCL), Jackie Clarke (Glasgow)

The topic ‘Women and Power’ is a particularly pertinent one in France today. Fifty years after the May 1968 uprisings, French society has seen a resurgence of politicised movements such as the ‘La Barbe’ or, more recently, the ‘Balance ton porc!’ campaign against sexual harassment and sexism in public life. Equally, French feminist writing played a pivotal role in challenging patriarchal literary, social and sexual norms, and much contemporary women's writing in French continues to push the boundaries in its representation of the power relations governing women’s experiences. But where precisely does power in contemporary France lie? How is power gendered and what does its shifting fault lines tell us about women’s purchase on power? Can the French emphasis on ‘l’égalité dans la différence’ be reconciled with a genuinely egalitarian, power-sharing society? How is women’s relationship to power articulated according to culture or to class? And what are the challenges and contradictions of women possessing power? The conference will focus on historical and contemporary instances of power (and powerlessness), empowerment (and disempowerment) in order to explore the contention that what constitutes women’s ‘power’ requires renewed investigation and theorising. Further, it will suggest that this extensive area of investigation is best served by working across disciplinary boundaries.

The conference brings together more than 50 speakers from France, North America and the UK.
Keynote Speakers:

**Chahdortt Djavann**
Irish-born French author of powerful works of fiction and essays that scrutinise immigration, exile, identity, feminism and women’s position in Islamic societies

**Armelle le Bras-Chopard**
French political scientist and essayist, specialist on women in the political sphere and on the history of witches

For the full programme and the registration page, see: [https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19562](https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19562).

Supported by the Cassal Trust.
Across Languages: Translingualism in Contemporary Women’s Writing

Conference at the Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR)

Room G7, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
30–31 May 2019

Organisers:
Deirdre Byrnes (NUI Galway), Maria Cristina Seccia (Hull), Godela Weiss-Sussex (IMLR)

This conference is organised by the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women’s Writing (CCWW) in collaboration with the AHRC Open World Research Initiative project ‘Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community’. It brings together scholars working on translingual women’s writing in a range of language fields, in order to explore the particular richness of texts produced by writers in languages that are not their mother tongues.

In the current era of mass migration and transnational movement, analysis of translingualism as the mode of expression of this movement is an important area of inquiry. Where static concepts of belonging are questioned and increasingly replaced by hybrid identities and affiliations and by fluid attachments, changing with time, the power of translingual language use and its analysis can become a means to re-imagine the identitarian force of language. Translingualism can bring to the fore new subjectivities and new forms of community (Kellman, 2000; Yildiz, 2012). Considered in conjunction with questions of gender and power, translingual writing can also reveal powerful ways of conceptualising emancipatory feminine writing. Beyond concerns of identity formation, translingual language use opens up new ways of thinking, deconstructing established modes of expression through associative cross-language connections. In so transcending the binaries of language use it is apt to reveal new forms of literary writing.
Keynote Speakers:

Dr Anna-Louise Milne is an author, an academic, and founder of The Paris Centre for Migrant Writing and Expression (ULIP).

Professor Rebecca Walkowitz teaches English and Comparative Literature at Rutgers University, New Jersey. Her recent monograph, Born Translated: The Contemporary Novel in an Age of World Literature (2015), has been highly influential in re-thinking literary history as a series of transnational and translilingual convergences and divergences.

A reading and discussion with Katja Petrowskaja (Vielleicht Esther) and translator Shelley Frisch (Maybe Esther) is scheduled as part of the conference on 30 May (for further information, see page 8)

For the full programme and the registration page, see: https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/eventwevent/17740

Contact:
Jo Bradley
modernlanguages@sas.ac.uk
020 7862 8726

Supported by the Cassal Trust, the John Coffin Memorial Trust, the Keith Spalding Fund, and the AHRC OWRI project ‘Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community’.
Encounter: Katja Petrowskaja and Shelley Frisch

Author – Translator Conversation at the IMLR
University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
Thursday, 30 May 2019 at 6pm

Organiser:
Godela Weiss-Sussex (IMLR)

Author and translator come together in this encounter to discuss Shelley Frisch’s translation of Katja Petrowskaja’s award-winning Vielleicht Esther (2014), a singular, haunting, unforgettable work of literature. Maybe Esther tells the moving story of a family’s entanglement with 20th-century history, one with which Petrowskaja’s own family is inextricably involved. Her great-uncle, who in 1932 shot a German diplomat in Moscow, was sentenced to death; her Ukrainian grandfather disappeared during World War II only to reappear 40 years later; her great-grandmother, who may have been the ‘Esther’ of the title, was too old and frail to leave Kiev when the Jews there were rounded up. Petrowskaja takes the reader from Berlin to Warsaw, Moscow and Kiev, from Google searches, strange encounters and coincidences to archives, anecdotes and jokes, in a journey in search of her own place in the past and present, in memory and history, languages and countries.

Petrowskaja writes: “Never have I felt as perfectly lost as here in Warsaw; I thought in Russian, looked for my Jewish relatives, and wrote in German. I was lucky to be able to move in that space between languages, swapping words and switching roles and viewpoints.” It is, as Shelley Frisch points out, the in-betweenness of language and perspective indicated here that goes to the very heart of the translator’s task, and, Frisch continues, "I regarded my translation of Katja’s book as an opportunity to extend the intimate conversation between the book’s trio of languages into a fourth, namely its new target language of English".
Keynote Speakers:

Katja Petrowskaja was born in 1970 in Kiev. Since 1999, she has lived and worked in Berlin. Vielleicht Esther, her first book, has been translated into 20 languages. Among the prizes and awards she has received are the Premio Strega Europeo (2015), the Ernst-Toller-Preis (2014), the Aspekte Literaturpreis (2014), and the Ingeborg-Bachmann-Preis (2013).

Shelley Frisch is best known for her translations of biographies, most notably of Kafka (2016), Nietzsche (2002), Einstein (2005), Leonardo da Vinci (2010), and Marlene Dietrich and Leni Riefenstahl (2015). She has won the Helen and Kurt Wolff Prize (2014), the Aldo and Jeanne Scalgione Prize (2005-6), and was longlisted for the PEN Translation Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the National Translation Award.

For the registration page, see: https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/encounters

Contact:
Jane Lewin
modernlanguages@sas.ac.uk
020 7862 8966

Encounters: Writers and Translators in Conversation brings together writers and their translators in front of an audience, providing a unique opportunity to experience author and translator reading from the text and in conversation and allowing a fascinating insight into the working relationship between the two as well as the practical and theoretical aspects of translation. The Encounters series of events is co-convened by the Department of German Studies, University of Nottingham and the IMLR.

Supported by the Keith Spalding Fund and the AHRC OWRI project ‘Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community’.
Susana Chávez-Silverman

A Bilingual Reading and Q&A
IMLR, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
Saturday, 1 June 2019, 4pm

Organiser:
Ellen Jones (IMLR)

Susana Chávez-Silverman is a US Latina writer and Professor of Romance Languages and Literature at Pomona College in Claremont, California. She is the author of two bilingual memoirs, *Killer Crónicas: Bilingual Memories* (2004) and *Scenes from la Cuenca de Los Ángeles y otros Natural Disasters* (2010). As a scholar of Latin American and US Latinx literature, she co-edited *Tropicalizations: Transcultural Representations of Latinidad* (1997) and *Reading and Writing the Ambiente: Queer Sexualities in Latino, Latin American and Spanish Culture* (2000). She has published on Argentine poet Alejandra Pizarnik, as well as on other Latin American and US Latinx authors.

Susana will read from her collections of bilingual crónicas including her forthcoming book *Our Ubuntu, Montenegro: del Balboa Café al Apartheid and Back* (University of Wisconsin Press).

This event accompanies an afternoon workshop programme Celebrating Multilingualism on the Page and in the Classroom, 1 June 2019, 2-4pm. Details: [https://crosslanguagedynamics.blogs.sas.ac.uk/event/celebrating-multilingualism/](https://crosslanguagedynamics.blogs.sas.ac.uk/event/celebrating-multilingualism/)

For the registration page, see:
[https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19576](https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19576)

Contact:
Jo Bradley
modernlanguages@sas.ac.uk
020 7862 8726

Supported by the AHRC OWRI projects ‘Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community’ and ‘Language Acts and Worldmaking’.
scenes
from la cuenca de los angeles
y otros natural disasters

susana chávez-silverman
foreword by paul saint-amour
Translating Women: Breaking Borders and Building Bridges in the English-language Book Industry

Conference at the IMLR
Court Room, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
31 October – 1 November 2019 | Call for papers open until 17 May 2019

Organisers:
Olga Castro (Aston), co-editor of Feminist Translation Studies (Routledge, 2017), Helen Vassallo (Exeter), principal investigator of the Translating Women project.

Translated literature notoriously accounts for only 3.5 per cent of published literature in the English-language book market, and less than one-third of this is women-authored. Women writers in translation occupy a difficult border space in literature, variously affected by lack of recognition in their home country, fewer women being entered for literary prizes, and less criticism and column space dedicated to women writers. Yet, recent phenomena such as Kamila Shamsie’s call for a ‘Year of Publishing Women’, Meytal Radzinski’s advocacy of ‘Women in Translation month’ each August, and the creation of the Women in Translation Tumblr and the ‘Warwick Prize for Women in Translation’ indicate the urgency of confronting the lack of gender equality in the English-language publishing industry with regard to translated literature.

Organised with the CCWW, this conference will explore the circuits of translation of women-authored literature into English, with the aim of promoting synergies between academic and publishing contexts. By questioning the power dynamics of the English-language book industry, it seeks to offer fresh insights into the cultural, social, economic and political implications of making foreign women writers available to English-speaking readers, considering where ‘borders’ lie in translated literature, and how and why women might destabilise them. Our feminist perspective challenges the lack of recognition and influence of women writers, and our transnational and geopolitical focus encourages a cross-cultural understanding already fostered by translation and by the pioneering work of organisations such as English PEN and Literature Across Frontiers. We aim to break through ‘borders’ – both real and figurative – and build ‘bridges’ between research areas and industry initiatives, bringing together representatives from all key groups of stakeholders to discuss and redress the imbalance affecting women writers in translation.
Keynote speaker:

Margaret Carson (Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY), co-founder of https://womenintranslation.tumblr.com/

We are delighted to include as part of the programme two evening events (time tbc) with acclaimed women writers and their translators. These public sessions are free and open to all. Author Négar Djavadi (Disoriental, 2018) and translator Tina Kover. Author Ariana Harwicz (Die, My Love, 2017; Feebleminded, 2019), and translators Carolina Orloff and Annie McDermott.

For call for papers and details see: https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19479

Contact:
Jo Bradley
modernlanguages@sas.ac.uk
020 7862 8726

This conference is supported by the Centre for Language Research (CLaRA) at Aston University, the University of Exeter, the Cassal Trust and the AHRC OWRI project ‘Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community’.
Contemporary Women’s Writing: Writing for Change. A Celebration of the Work of Gill Rye

Symposium at the IMLR
University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
8 November 2019

Organisers:
Shirley Jordan (Newcastle) and Godela Weiss-Sussex (IMLR)

This symposium, one of the key events marking the 10th anniversary year of the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women’s Writing (CCWW), celebrates the work of the Centre’s founder, Gill Rye, Professor Emerita in French studies. Designed as a cross-cultural workshop, it will bring together a range of expert speakers – established, early career and PhD – whose research intersects with, or has been inspired by Gill’s own research, or whose intellectual trajectory has developed thanks to connection with the CCWW.

The symposium will include an author reading. For further information, see https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/

Amaleena Damlé, who will deliver the keynote lecture, has been mentored by Gill Rye and collaborated very closely with her over the years. She is now assistant professor at the University of Durham, working on a monograph entitled Love’s Wonder – a study of the so-called ‘soft’ emotions in public life and their relation to femininity – and on a project concerning transnational representations of childhood in literature and visual culture.
For the registration page, see:
https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19593

Contact:
Cathy Collins
modernlanguages@sas.ac.uk
020 7862 8738
The **Institute of Modern Languages Research** (IMLR) was established in 2004 by the merger of the Institutes of Germanic Studies and Romance Studies, founded in 1950 and 1989 respectively. It is committed to promoting dialogue and research in modern languages for the academic and wider community across a range of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields in the humanities. IMLR publishes the *Journal of Romance Studies* and ‘IMLR books’ series as well as other important publications.

The **School of Advanced Study** is the UK’s national centre for the support and promotion of research in the humanities. Located at the heart of the University of London in Bloomsbury, the School provides an unrivalled scholarly community in which to pursue postgraduate study and research. Students learn from leading specialists in their fields, hone their research skills in highly regarded training programmes, expand their knowledge through an extensive calendar of events, and become part of a worldwide network of humanities scholars. Funding opportunities include AHRC-sponsored London Arts and Humanities Partnership studentships, SAS studentships, and a number of subject-specific bursaries and awards.

Institute of Modern Languages Research  
School of Advanced Study  
Senate House  
Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HU

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7862 8966 | 8738  
Email: modernlanguages@sas.ac.uk

twitter.com/ @IMLR_News  
facebook.com/ theIMLR  
modernlanguagesresearch.blogs.sas.ac.uk

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