

Consolation in contemporary British and postcolonial literatures

6-7 April 2023

École Normale Supérieure de Lyon

Amphitheatre Descartes, 15 Parvis René Descartes, 69007 Lyon

Website: <http://consolation.vanessaguignery.com/>

Organised by Vanessa GUIGNERY (ENS de Lyon), Héloïse LECOMTE (ENS de Lyon) and Diane GAGNERET (University of Lyon 1)

Thursday 6th April 2023

09.00: *Welcome and coffee/tea*

09.15: *Opening of the conference*

PANEL 1: Mourning

Chair: Héloïse Lecomte (ENS de Lyon)

9.30: **Jürgen Pieters (Ghent University):** “‘the sacrifice of mourning’: Denise Riley’s ‘A Part Song’.”

10.00: **Lacy Rumsey (ENS de Lyon):** “Prosody as Consolation: Rhythmic vs. Cultural Work”

10.30: **Kathrin Ritzka (Humboldt-University of Berlin):** “Religious Residues and Consolation in the Works of Denise Riley and Julian Barnes”

11.00: *Coffee break*

PANEL 2: Ali Smith

Chair: Vanessa Guignery (ENS de Lyon)

11.30: **Margaret Scanlan (Indiana University-South Bend):** “A Private and Public Grief: Consolation in Ali Smith’s *Seasonal Quartet*”

12.00: **Merritt Moseley (University of North Carolina, Asheville, N.C.):** “Perverse Consolation in Ali Smith’s *The Accidental*”

12.45-14.00: *Lunch Break (Buffet CROUS Descartes for speakers)*

PANEL 3: Illness Narratives and the (Dis)Comforts of Bibliotherapy

Chair: Merritt Moseley (University of North Carolina, Asheville, N.C.)

14.15: **Pawel Wojtas (University of Warsaw):** “Illness Narrative as Bibliotherapy in J.M. Coetzee’s *The Death of Jesus*”

14.45: **Diane Gagneret (University of Lyon 1):** “‘a watering of her desert’: Depression and (Dis)Consolation in Jenny Diski’s *Monkey’s Uncle*”

15.15: **Gerd Bayer (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg):** “Apologies, Gratitude, Consolation: Jenny Diski’s Writing as Moral Reckoning”

15.45: *Coffee Break*

Chair: Vanessa Guignery (ENS de Lyon)

16.15: Keynote lecture: **David James (University of Birmingham):** “Whose Consolation? Medical Writing and the Caregiver’s Gain”

17.15: *Break*

17.30: Guest writer: Reading and Conversation with Salena Godden

Presented by Héloïse Lecomte (ENS de Lyon)

18.30: Book signing

Damn Fine Bookstore will be selling copies of Salena Godden’s books Pessimism is for Lightweights and Mrs Death Misses Death.

20.00: *Dinner at Trattino, 58 rue Clément Marot, 69007 Lyon (for speakers)*

Friday 7th April 2023

PANEL 4: Narrative, Memory, Transmission and (In)Consolation

Chair: Judith Misrahi-Barak (University Paul Valéry Montpellier 3)

09.30: **Teresa Gibert (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid):** “Desolation and Consolation in Margaret Atwood’s *The Blind Assassin*”

10.00: **Gina Cesto (University of Paris Nanterre):** “Consoling the Untold: Suturing Filial Wounds in Andrea Levy’s *Fruit of the Lemon* (1999)”

10.30: **Cédric Courtois (University of Lille):** “(In)consolation through Excavation in Yewande Omotoso’s *An Unusual Grief* (2022)”

11.00: *Coffee Break*

PANEL 5: Fictions as Forums for (Un)consolation

Chair: Cédric Courtois (University of Lille)

11.30: **Judith Misrahi-Barak (University Paul Valéry Montpellier 3):** “*Drifting* as Consolation in Michael Ondaatje’s *Anil’s Ghost*”

12.00: **Jaine Chemmachery (Sorbonne Université):** “Consolation in *The Fortune Men* (2021) by Nadifa Mohamed: Fiction as Consolatory Practice?”

12.45-14.00: *Lunch Break (Buffet CROUS Descartes for speakers)*

PANEL 6: Performing In/Consolation in Theatre

Chair: Diane Gagneret (University of Lyon 1)

14.15: **Vicky Angelaki (Mid Sweden University):** “Theatre, Community and Climate Consolation”

14.45: **Marion Coste (ENS de Lyon):** “Damage Has Been Done: Atoning for the Iraq War on the British Stage”

15.15-15.30: *Break*

PANEL 7: Counter-Narratives of Consolation

Chair: Jaïne Chemmachery (Sorbonne Université)

15.30: **Franck Miroux (Université Toulouse-Jean Jaurès):** “Consoling the Inconsolable? Writing, Telling and Persistent Pain in Robert Arthur Alexie’s *Porcupines and China Dolls*”

16.00: **Bryant Scott (Texas A&M University at Qatar):** “The Solace of the Gutter: Distance and Bearing Witness to Violence in Postcolonial Graphic Literature”

17.00: End of the conference

