

## PRESENTATION

This conference is partly a response to Sean O'Brien's hypothesis—formulated in 1995—on the deregulation of British poetry since the 1980s. While Margaret Thatcher proclaimed that there was no alternative (TINA) to economic liberalism and economic deregulation, poetry in Britain seems to have produced alternatives only, an increasing range of aesthetic alternatives. Are we today still living in the wake of this 1980s aesthetic turn? Where have new poetics emerged since then? What significant formal innovations—in terms of diction, prosody or rhythm—have been produced by this “deregulation” of British poetry? Has the questioning of all forms of poetic authority and centrality led to a self-regulation of the various parts of the poetic scene? Has this in turn led to more innovation, and poetic freedom, or, on the contrary, has it created more pressure for poets to keep to their own corners of the poetry market? This two-day conference will be an attempt at addressing some of those questions.

Organised by Bastien Goursaud (UPEC), Juliette UTARD (SU), Claire Hélié (U. Lille) and Elise Brault-Dreux (UPHF) with funding from Université Paris-Est Créteil (laboratoire IMAGER), Sorbonne Université (Laboratoire VALE and Fonds d'Intervention pour la Recherche), Université Polytechnique des Hauts de France (laboratoire LARSH) and Université de Lille (Laboratoire CECILLE)

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# CONTEMPORARY BRITISH POETRY

**AND THE LONG 1980s:  
FROM DEREGULATION TO SELF-REGULATION**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> :**  
Sorbonne Université

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> :**  
Université Paris-Est Créteil

**EN SAVOIR PLUS :**

[IMAGER.U-PEC.FR](http://IMAGER.U-PEC.FR)

# THURSDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>

*All Thursday sessions at Sorbonne Université, Amphi Molinié,  
Maison de la Recherche, 28 rue Serpente, Paris 5e (Métro : Odéon)*

## 9:30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**10:00 – 11:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
(respondent: Juliette Utard, Sorbonne Université)

**Deryn Rees-Jones (U. Liverpool):** "A secret transaction, a voice answering a voice?": On the Emergence of Women's Voices in British Poetry (1980s-1990s)"

## 11:00 COFFEE BREAK (2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR)

**11:30 – 12:30 FORMAL DEREGULATIONS**  
(respondent: Marc Porée, ENS Ulm)

- **Monica Manolachi (U. of Bucharest):**  
"Formal Innovations in Contemporary Caribbean British Poetry"
- **Lacy Rumsey (ENS Lyon):** "The whole business is rather screwed up nowadays: prosodic deregulation or deprosodized poetics?"

## 12:30 – 2:30 LUNCH BUFFET (2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR)

**2:30 – 3:30 BRITISH POETRY AND MUSIC: FEELS LIKE 80S SPIRIT**  
(respondent: Bastien Goursaud, Université Paris-Est Créteil)

- **Michael Hinds (Dublin City U.):**  
"It Smells Like Decent Bacon: Sleaford Mods' Antic Counter-Sublime"
- **Iain Halliday (U. of Catania):**  
"Song Lyrics as Poetry from the 1980s to the present day"

## 3:30 – COFFEE BREAK

**4:00 – 5:00 NEW DIRECTIONS**  
(respondent: Elise Brault-Dreux, Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France)

- **Julie Irigaray (U. of Huddersfield):** "Accessibility in the Poetry World: How the Pandemic Transformed the Contemporary British Poetry Scene"
- **John Sannaee (U. Paris 8):** "A Return to the Lyric in Contemporary British Poetry?"

**5:00 – 6:00 POETRY READING BY DERYN REES-JONES AND FIONA SAMPSON**  
(chair: Marc Porée, ENS Ulm)

**6:00 – 7:30 COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT LES PATIOS**  
5 Place de la Sorbonne, 75 005 Paris

# FRIDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>

*All Friday sessions at Université Paris-Est Créteil, Amphi MIEE,  
Campus Mail des Mèches – Métro : Créteil-Université*

## 9:30 WELCOME COFFEE

**10:00 – 11:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
(respondent: Claire Hélie, Université de Lille)

**Fiona Sampson:** "Thatcher's Children and Cool Britannia: British Poetry and the Long 1980s"

## 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

**11:30 – 12:30 WOMEN'S VOICES**  
(respondent: Marie Olivier, Université Paris-Est Créteil)

- **Alix Cazalet-Boudigues (U. Lyon 3):** "Geography III in England: Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop in the Poetry of Some British Women Poets of the Long 1980s"
- **Laure-Hélène Anthony-Geroldt (U. de Bourgogne):** "The witch thinks about what it would be like: the Figure of the Witch as a Contemporary Poetic Emblem"

## 12:30 – 2:00 – LUNCH ON CAMPUS

Restaurant Universitaire (CROUS)

**2:00 – 3:00 THE PUBLIC VOICES OF POETRY**  
(respondent: Adrian Grafe, Université d'Artois)

- **Mike Sweeting (Ted Hughes Society):**  
"Ted Hughes, Inspiration and the Establishment"
- **Eva Zettelmann (Vienna U.):**  
"Familiarising Poetry: Lisibility and the New British Lyric"

## 3:00 COFFEE BREAK

**3:30 – 4:30 POETRY ACROSS BOUNDARIES**  
(respondent: Corentin Jégou, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

- **Sarah Bouttier (Ecole Polytechnique):** "Moss is myriad: Nonhuman Poetic Objects and Trans-poetics in Vahni Capildeo's Works"
- **Adriano Elia (U. Roma Tre):** "Crossing Boundaries and Practising Empathy with Roger Robinson's Poetry"

**4:30 – 5:30 – BILINGUAL POETRY READING BY ANDREW MCMILLAN**  
(chair: Bastien Goursaud, Université Paris-Est Créteil)