

Borders and Boundaries Conference Summary

The 7th Annual Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Conference took place on Monday 20th June 2016 on the theme Borders and Boundaries. It was held at Devonshire Hall, University of Leeds thanks to the generous funding of The School of Languages, Cultures and Societies and LEAP. Over the course of the day, 34 postgraduate papers were delivered as well as 2 keynote papers. This was a demanding programme, but ran very smoothly due to the efforts of the entire postgraduate organising committee: Natalie Enright, Maria Haley, Henry Clarke, Leonardo Costantini, Anna Reeve, Elinor Cosgrove, Andrea Basso, Ben Chwistek, Devon Allen, Tim McConnell and Anthi Chrysanthou.

The day began with a keynote paper from Dr Ingrid Sharp, Senior Lecturer in German, LCS who gave a fascinating talk entitled 'Crossing Gender Boundaries: Expressions of Feminist Rage in German Crime Fiction.' The paper outlined the development from the end of WW1 to the late 60's during which women began to challenge their perceived roles within the established patriarchy. Dr Sharp then explored the crime fiction of Sabine Deitmer, in which the women find ways to dispose of their husbands, while always remaining above suspicion because of the assumptions made about their gender.

Our first parallel panels of the day looked at the themes 'Human and Divine' and 'Constructing Boundaries.' This was followed by a panel looking at the effects of 'Aquatic Boundaries' alongside our 'Home and Away' panel, which looked at differences in cultural identities and perceptions when an individual or an idea is removed from location of origin. After lunch, Dr Emma Stafford, Senior Lecturer in Classics, LCS gave our second keynote paper. This was specifically our postgraduate training session, and Dr Stafford spoke about Impact: both what it is and why we should be worrying about it. She explained the difference between dissemination and impact for academics and why impact has become so crucial in the recruitment process in recent years.

The 'Frenemies' and 'Intertextuality' panels kicked off the afternoon, looking at problematic relationships between peoples through time and comparisons in genre, respectively. This

was followed by 'Transgression' and 'Water and Land', and finally, to round off the day, we had panels entitled 'Memory' and 'Openness', which explored various aspects of the difficulties in trying to shape cultural and historical memory, and looking at cultural integration.

Overall, the day was a resounding success, with many speakers and delegates contacting the committee afterwards to express their gratitude that they had been able to be involved in such a diverse and well-organised conference. Throughout the day our dedicated livetweeters collected a number of photos and outlines of each paper which have now been compiled using Storify and can be found here:

<https://storify.com/henryhbclarke/bordersandboundaries>

By Natalie Enright