

Literary and Cognitive Ends

A workshop of the Balzan Project
'Literature as an Object of Knowledge'

29th-31st March 2012
Grey College, Durham

Overview

The workshop *Literary and Cognitive Ends* has two strands. First, it will explore how cognitive approaches can contribute to analyses of literature, and how literature can contribute to an interdisciplinary discussion of the cognitive. Second, with a focus on the early modern, it will analyze how literature thinks with – and about – ends, or delayed ends, or prophesied ends. What roles can be played by apocalypse, death, and the ends of stories? The workshop forms part of the Balzan Project on ‘Literature as an Object of Knowledge’ (www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/balzan), which explores the value of literature as an object of knowledge, and more specifically the cognitive value of literature in relation to other kinds of discourse. Most workshop sessions will begin with an individual 15-20 minute talk but it is intended that they focus on discussion of the broad questions and methodological issues outlined above.

Thursday, 29th March 2012

- 16.00-16.45: Registration and coffee, Old Library, Grey College
16.45-17.00: Welcome, Old Library, Grey College
18.00-19.00 Servery Dinner, Grey College Dining Hall

Friday, 30th March 2012

- 8.00-8.45 Breakfast, Grey College Dining Hall
- 9.00-10.00 Spenser's Problem with Endings: Cognitive Closure and the *Faerie Queene*
Keynote talk by Mary Thomas Crane
Chair: Kathryn Banks
- 10.00-11.00 ‘Cognitivising’ Kermode’s *Sense of An Ending*
A discussion session introduced and chaired by Raphael Lyne.
- 11.00 Tea
- 11.30-12.15 Prophecy and the Ends of Fiction: Rabelais
Speaker: Kathryn Banks
Chair: Rowan Tomlinson.
- 12.15-1 Tragic Knowability in the French Renaissance
Speaker: Philip Usher
Chair: James Helgeson
- 1.00 Lunch
Grey College
Dining Hall
- 2.15-3.00: Magic of the Mind: Shakespeare's Romance Endings
Speaker: Corinne Saunders
Chair: Raphael Lyne

3.00-3.45 Grammar and Conceptualization? Tense as a matter of life or death in Middle and early Modern French

Speaker: Neil Kenny

Chair : Terence Cave

3.45 Tea

4.15-5.00 Chronicles of A Death Foretold: *L'Histoire prodigieuse et lamentable du Docteur Fauste* (1598) and *Les Confessions & Depositions du Magicien Loys [Gaufridy]* (1611).

Speaker : Thibaut Maus de Rolley

Chair : Tim Chesters

5.00-6.00 Andrew Crumey, Novelistic Endings: *Mobius Dick*

Chair: Karin Kukkonen.

7.00 Dinner

Pennington Dining Room, Grey College

Saturday, 31st March 2012

8.00-9.00 Breakfast

Grey College Dining Hall

9.15-10.00 "Tout mouvement nous découvre": Montaigne's Apocalypse

Speaker: John O'Brien

Chair: Wes Williams

10.00-10.45 The Extended and the Finite Subject in the English Renaissance

Speaker: Miranda Anderson

Chair: Olivia Smith.

10.45 Tea

11.15-1.00 Round Table

Introduced by Michel Jeanneret and Wes Williams

Chair: Terence Cave

1.00 Lunch

Grey College Dining Hall