

CONSOLATION IN CONTEMPORARY BRITISH AND POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURES

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

DAVID JAMES (UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)

GUEST WRITER:

SALENA GODDEN



6 April 2023

MILC Amphitheatre

35 rue Raulin
69007 Lyon

7 April 2023

Amphitheatre Descartes

École Normale Supérieure de Lyon
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THURSDAY 6TH APRIL 2023

- 09.00 *Welcome and coffee/tea*
09.15 *Opening of the conference*

PANEL 1 – MOURNING

Chair - H elo ise Lecomte (ENS de Lyon)

- 9.30 *"the sacrifice of mourning": Denise Riley's 'A Part Song'*
J rgen Pieters (Ghent University)
- 10.00 *"Prosody as Consolation: Rhythmic vs. Cultural Work"*
Lacy Rumsey (ENS de Lyon)
- 10.30 *"Religious Residues and Consolation in the Works of Denise Riley and Julian Barnes"*
Kathrin Ritzka (Humboldt-University of Berlin)

11.00 Coffee break

PANEL 2 – ALI SMITH

Chair - Vanessa Guignery (ENS de Lyon)

- 11.30 *"A Private and Public Grief: Consolation in Ali Smith's Seasonal Quartet"*
Margaret Scanlan (Indiana University-South Bend)
- 12.00 *"Perverse Consolation in Ali Smith's The Accidental"*
Merritt Moseley (University of North Carolina, Asheville, N.C.)

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 *"Illness Narrative as Bibliotherapy in J.M. Coetzee's The Death of Jesus"*
Paweł Wojtas (University of Warsaw)
- 14.45 *"'a watering of her desert': Depression and (Dis)Consolation in Jenny Diski's Monkey's Uncle"*
Diane Gagneret (University of Lyon 1)

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

15.45 **Coffee Break**

Chair: Vanessa Guignery (ENS de Lyon)

16.15 **KEYNOTE LECTURE**
"Whose Consolation? *Medical Writing and the Caregiver's Gain*"
David James (University of Birmingham)

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 "Desolation and Consolation in Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin*"
Teresa Gibert (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid)

10.00 "Consoling the Untold: Suturing Filial Wounds in Andrea Levy's
Fruit of the Lemon (1999)"
Gina Cesto (University of Paris Nanterre)

10.30 "(In)consolation through Excavation in Yewande Omotoso's
An Unusual Grief (2022)"
Cédric Courtois (University of Lille)

11.00 **Coffee Break**

PANEL 5 – FICTIONS AS FORUMS FOR (UN)CONSOLATION

Chair: **Cédric Courtois (University of Lille)**

- 11.30 "Drifting as Consolation in *Michael Ondaatje's Anil's Ghost*"
Judith Misrahi-Barak (University Paul Valéry Montpellier 3)
- 12.00 "Consolation in *The Fortune Men* (2021) by Nadifa Mohamed:
Fiction as Consolatory Practice?"
Jaine Chemmachery (Sorbonne Université)

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 "Theatre, Community and Climate Consolation"
Vicky Angelaki (Mid Sweden University)
- 14.45 "Damage Has Been Done: Atoning for the Iraq War on the British Stage"
Marion Coste (ENS de Lyon)

15.15-15.30 Break

PANEL 7 – COUNTER-NARRATIVES OF CONSOLATION

Chair - **Jaine Chemmachery (Sorbonne Université)**

- 15.30 "Consoling the Inconsolable? Writing, Telling and Persistent Pain in
Robert Arthur Alexie's *Porcupines and China Dolls*"
Franck Miroux (Université Toulouse-Jean Jaurès)
- 16.00 "The Solace of the Gutter: Distance and Bearing Witness to Violence
in Postcolonial Graphic Literature"
Bryant Scott (Texas A&M University at Qatar)
- 17.00 End of the conference**