

# THE (NEO-)HISTORICAL IN BRITISH LITERATURE AND VISUAL ARTS (20<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES)

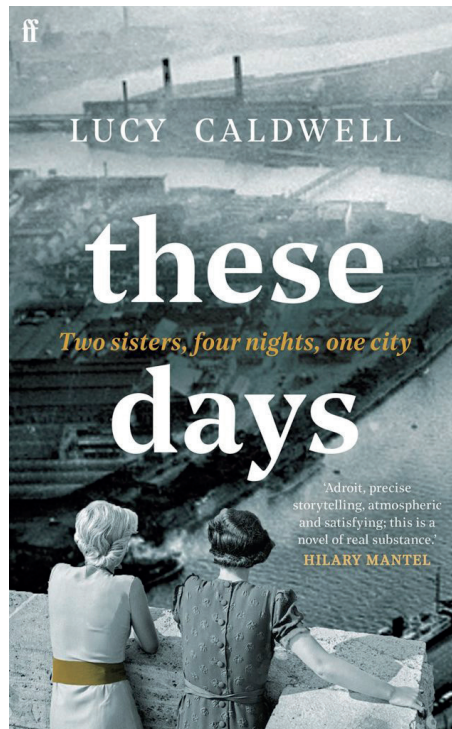
## These Days

April, 1941. Belfast has escaped the worst of the war – so far. Over the next two months, it's going to be destroyed from above, so that people will say, in horror, My God, Belfast is finished.

Many won't make it through, and no one who does will remain unchanged.

Following the lives of sisters Emma and Audrey – one engaged to be married, the other in a secret relationship with another woman – as they try to survive the horrors of the four nights of bombing which were the Belfast Blitz, *These Days* is a timeless and heart-breaking novel about living under duress, about family, and about how we try to stay true to ourselves.

*These Days* won both the 2023 Walter Scott Prize For Historical Fiction and the 2022 E. M. Forster Award



[www.lucycaldwell.com](http://www.lucycaldwell.com)



**17-18 OCTOBRE 2024**

Maison de la Recherche  
en Sciences Humaines  
Salle des Actes Sh 027  
Université de Caen Normandie  
Campus 1 - Bât. F

Organisé par **Armelle Parey**  
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### GUEST SPEAKERS

**Lucy Caldwell**

Author of *These Days*, Winner of the 2023  
Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction

**Jerome de Groot**

University of Manchester, UK

**Diana Wallace**

University of South Wales, UK



## THURSDAY OCTOBER, 17

- 8.30 : Registration
- 8.45- 9.00 : Welcoming address by Françoise Baillet, Head of the research centre ERIBIA (Equipe de Recherches Interdisciplinaire sur la Grande-Bretagne, l'Irlande et l'Amérique du nord) and Vanessa Guignery, President of the SEAC.
- **9.00-10.30 : Session 1 - Variations on biofiction** (Chair : Georges Letissier)
  1. Ayako Mizuo (Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan), "The Neo-Historical Austen: Sisterhood, Female Autonomy, and the Ethics of Care in Gill Hornby's *Miss Austen*"
  2. James Dalrymple (Université Grenoble-Alpes, France), "Spitting image: improvisation, impersonation and ellipsis in Mike Leigh's *Mr Turner* (2014)"
  3. Dorothea Flothow (University of Salzburg, Austria), "Detecting the Past to Prevent a Bleak Future: Philip Kerr's *Friedrich the Great Detective* and the Neo-Historical YA Novel"
- 10.30-11.00 : Coffee break
- **11.00-12.00 : "The historical novel NOW", Jerome de Groot, University of Manchester, UK.**
- 12.00-13.30 : Lunch – Table de l'acadiane <sup>(1)</sup>
- **13.30-15.00: Session 2 - Figures of marginality** (chair: Isabelle Roblin)
  1. Siobhan O'Connor (independent scholar), "Men, Moors and Manchester: Masculinity and Post-National Histories in Benjamin Myers' *The Gallows Pole* and Ian McGuire's *The Abstainer*"
  2. Georges Letissier (Nantes Université, France), "Prurient sapience: Tom Crewe's genealogy of gay culture in *The New Life* (2023)"
  3. Peter D. Mathews (University of Macau), "Imogen Hermes Gowar's *The Mermaid and Mrs. Hancock*: Rethinking the Eighteenth-Century Marriage Plot"
- 15.00-15.30 : Coffee break
- **15.30-17.00 : Session 3 - Art and materialities** (Chair: Vanessa Guignery)
  1. Sylvie Maurel (Université Toulouse-Jean Jaurès, France), "The pressure of history in *The Children's Book* by A.S. Byatt (2009)"
  2. Jean-Michel Ganteau (Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3, France), "Historical Fiction, Material Realism and the Poetics of the Inventory"
  3. Chi-min Chang (University of Taipei, Taiwan), "The Space of Light and Shadow in Kazuo Ishiguro's *An Artist of the Floating World*"
- **17.00-18.00 : Lucy Caldwell, winner of the 2023 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction with These Days. (Talk, Q&A)**
- 19.30 : Dinner - L'Avenue 21 <sup>(2)</sup>

## FRIDAY OCTOBER, 18

- **9h-10h30 : Session 4 - Neo-Mythical fiction**(chair : Jean-Michel Ganteau)
  1. Elsa Cavalié (Avignon université, France), "The concept of anachronism is the historian's truth" "Uses of Anachronism in Retellings of Greek Myth"
  2. Ingibjörg Ágústsdóttir (University of Iceland), "Greek Myth Rewritings in the #MeToo Era: A Move Towards a 'Neo-Mythohistorical' Subgenre Within Historical Fiction?"
  3. Justine Gonnaud (Avignon Université, France), "A Neo-Mythical Gaze on Medusa: Filling in the Blind Spots of Cultural Memory"
- 10h30-11h : Coffee break
- **11h00-12h : "Ought it not all to be re-written instantly'?: modernism and the re-invention of historical fiction", Diana Wallace, University of South Wales, UK**
- 12h-14h : Lunch – Le Pavillon <sup>(3)</sup>
- **14h-15h30 : Session 5 - Neo-Victorian Biofictional narratives** (Chair : Charlotte Wadoux)
  1. Jana Valová (Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic), "Unveiling the Ordinary "Other" in Neo-Victorian Biofiction"
  2. Barbara Braid (University of Szczecin, Poland), "Reclaiming apparitional lesbians in neo-Victorian biofiction: *Gentleman Jack versus Learned by Heart*"
  3. Isabelle Roblin (Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, France), "Graeme Macrae Burnet's *His Bloody Project* (2015): a Slippery Neo-Historical Novel"
- 15h30-16h : Coffee break
- **16h-17h00 : Session 6 - Feminist neo-historical** (chair: Elsa Cavalié)
  1. Irina Rabinovich (Holon Institute of Technology, Israel), "Feminist Chronicles of Forgotten Voices: Exploring Female Lexicography, Gendered Language and Friendship in Pip Williams' *The Dictionary of Lost Words*"
  2. Claire Hélie (Université de Lille, France), "The Pendle Witch Trials: Exorcising Witches in Neo-Historical poetry"
- 17.00 : Concluding remarks

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<sup>(1)</sup> Table de l'acadiane : 20 Av. d'Edimbourg, Caen

<sup>(2)</sup> L'Avenue 21 : 21 Rue du Vaugueux, Caen

<sup>(3)</sup> Le Pavillon : 80, rue de la Délivrande, Caen