

New RUG-wide Seminar in Literature

Dear Colleagues,

David Ashford and I are pleased to announce a new research venture at RUG: a University-wide, non-specialist, seminar in literature for scholars at PhD level and above.

Literature is a medium, and has never been confined to specialists in the field. We want to reach out to all interested parties at the University, in the Arts Faculty and beyond: scholars in the social sciences, for example (and even the physical ones); in psychology, anthropology, philosophy, media and cultural studies, art history, history, regional studies, political science, and so forth. In short, we invite attendance and contributions from anyone who shares our interest — and there are fruitful inter-disciplinary connections between imaginative literature and countless fields, including medicine and law.

The stress is on literature as an imaginative and dramatic art, but that is by no means inconsistent with approaches of a more cultural persuasion, or contributions from cognate fields or with a more inter-disciplinary turn. The format is similarly flexible: short papers, longer lectures, discussion panels: just as people prefer. Research students are warmly invited, as are scholars at every stage in their careers.

We have times booked for the months of February, March, April, May, and June, before the summer break. Our first meeting is on a special date, but thereafter we settle into a ‘third Monday’ regular fixture. The time is always 3-5 in the afternoon, and if anyone wishes to continue the discussion we can resort to a local café if we wish.

Here are the dates:

Wednesday 19 February, Academie A7: ‘A carefree exchange of information and experience’: papers on post-war Anglo-American and Latin-American avant-garde print networks by Dr Jèssica Pujol Duran and Dr Richard Parker (Universitas de Santiago de Chile)

Monday 16 March, Academie A2 (that’s A2)

Monday 20 April, Academie A12

Monday 18 May, Academie A12

Monday 15 June, Academie A12

We launch our series on 19 February with a pair of guest speakers from Chile, and in the future we would love to continue such contributions from outside Groningen. But we also very much want to build a population of local scholars at the outset. So we need to fill our meetings from March onwards, and interested parties are encouraged to contact Richard and David as soon as possible. All potential contributions are gratefully requested. Let’s see if we can build a community of literary scholars at RUG and then take it in any direction the seminar chances to grow.

The most important thing right now is for us to reach that community! So if you get this announcement, please, please distribute it as widely as you can and think fit, and invite friends and colleagues to come along and, indeed, stand up and talk. We’ll collect e-mail addresses as we go to keep interested parties in touch.

Any questions/ideas/proposals, any time, to richard.lansdown@rug.nl

We look forward to seeing you!

Richard Lansdown
David Ashford
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