Black British Women’s Writing: Tracing the Tradition and New Directions

University of Brighton
Wednesday 9th July 2014

With support from
Centre21: Centre for research in Twenty-First Century Writings

Conference Schedule

9.15-9.45 Registration (outside Westlain, 219)

9.45-10.00 Welcome: Vedrana Velickovic and Sheree Mack (Westlain, 219)

10.00-11.15 Parallel Sessions

Panel 1: Beyond Narratives of Unbelonging? (Westlain, 217)
Chair: Vedrana Velickovic

‘Ruin and Recovery: A Spatial Reading of Diana Evans’s Fiction
Suzanne Scafe (London South Bank University)
‘Beyond Narratives of Unbelonging in Black British Women’s Writing: Aminatta
Forna’s The Memory of Love’
Irene Perez Fernandez (University of Oviedo)
‘Vicariously Thatcher: Questioning Critical Cosmopolitanism in Zadie Smith’s
White Teeth
Henghameh Saroukhani (University of Leeds)

Panel 2: Beyond the Black Atlantic (Westlain, 216)
Chair: Sheree Mack

‘Multi-axial Englishness in Bernardine Evaristo’s Lara’
Samantha Reive (University of Leeds)
‘Politics, Polarities and the Geographical Poles: Mojisola Adebayo’s Black
Ant/arctic’
Nicola Abram (University of Reading)
‘English Literary Belonging in the novels of Helen Oyeyemi’
Helen Cousins (Newman University, Birmingham)

11.15-11.30 Coffee Break (Westlain, 219)
11.30-12.15 Keynote: Bernardine Evaristo (C218 The Checkland Building)
‘Black British Women Writers: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future’

12.15-1.00 Lunch (Westlain, 219)

1.00-2.15 Parallel Sessions

Panel 3: Teaching Black British Women’s Writing (Westlain, room 219)
Chair: Vedrana Velickovic

‘Why I Teach Black Women’s Literature’
Tracey Walters (Stony Brook University)
‘Embodiment and Embedding: the MA in Black British Writing; Through a Pedagogy of Blackness’
Deirdre Osborne (Goldsmiths University)
‘Queer No More: Reading Mr Loverman’
Maria Helena Lima (SUNY Geneseo)

Panel 4: Rewriting the Canon (Westlain, 217)
Chair: Deborah Philips

‘Virginia Woolf: Room for Discussion?’
Claire Hynes (writer)
‘I am a Black Woman…. And I don’t bite: Contemporary (self) representations of Black British Women’
Desiree Reynolds (writer)
‘Black British women’s theatre in the 1980s’
Giovanna Buonanno (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

Panel 5: Rewriting the Nation (Westlain, 216)
Chair: Katy Shaw

‘Manifestos of Intent and Disavowal: Anthologizing Black British Women’s Writing in the Twenty-first Century’
Sarah Lawson Welsh (York St John University)
‘Configurations of the Nation in Andrea Levy’s Fiction’
Elif Öztabak-Avcı (Middle East Technical University, Turkey)
‘A Project of Ambivalent Inclusiveness: Mobile Nationalism in the Transatlantic British Novel’
Priya Purohit (Indiana University, Bloomington)

2.20-3.35 Parallel Sessions
Panel 6: Generations (Westlain, 216)
Chair: Sheree Mack

‘Re-imagining History and Shaping Cultural and Collective memory’
  Chris Weedon (Cardiff University)
‘In Search of My Father’s Garden: Diana Evan’s The Wonder’
  Pilar Cuder-Dominguez (University of Huelva)
‘Exorcising violence against women in the poems of Malika Booker, and Warsan Shire’
  Monica A Hand (University of Missouri -Columbia)

Panel 7: Questions of Identity and Place I (Westlain, 217)
Chair: Kate Aughterson

‘Fostering and Adoption: A Case To Be Read’
  Kadija Sesay (writer and founder of SABLE LitMag)
“‘I am making a new dance and practising in the garden’: Bodies in motion and performance in place in Diana Evans’ The Wonder’
  Patricia Noxolo (University of Birmingham)
‘Deconstruction of Performative Black Sexuality in Bernardine Evaristo’s Mr Loverman’
  Sebnem Toplu (Ege University, Turkey)

3.40-4.15 Screening of Valerie Mason-John’s talk ‘We are what we think’.
Followed by a Q and A with the author via Skype (C218 The Checkland Building)

4.15-4.30 Coffee Break (Westlain, 219)

4.30-5.45 Parallel Sessions

Panel 8: The Black Woman in the Mirror: Reflections and Conversations
(Westlain, 219)
Chair: Dora Carpenter-Latiri

Laura Fish, University of Newcastle
Ingrid Pollard, artist and photographer
Yaba Badoe, writer and film-maker

Panel 9: Questions of Identity and Place II: Regional Identities (Westlain, 217)
Chair: Sheree Mack

‘Irksome ‘Irki’: Home and Belonging in Kadija Sesay’s Irki’
  Harald Leusmann (Ball State University)
‘Let we sing the song again’: the significance of form in Jean ‘Binta’ Breeze’s The Fifth Figure and The Lamplighter by Jackie Kay
   Irralie Doel (University of Brighton)
‘The triple knot? Black Scottish Women’s Writing’
   Jessica Homberg-Schramm (University of Cologne)

Panel 10: The Politics of Form (Westlайн, 216)
Chair: Vedrana Velickovic

‘Re-writing and Re-righting History: Neo-Slave Narratives and the Literary Imagination’
   Stephanie Iasiello (Emory University) – Presented by Maria Helena Lima
‘Like Having a Malt Whisky’: The Strong Taste of Anxiety in Jackie Kay’s Short Fiction’
   Elisabeth Bekers and Veerle Piëtte (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
‘Characters in quest of their identity in Bola Agbaje’s play Gone Too Far!’
   Hildegard Klein (University of Malaga)

15min Break

6.00-7.30 Wine Reception and Evening Readings: Dorothea Smartt, Katy Massey, Kadija Sesay and Sheree Mack (C218 The Checkland Building)