



The Centre for Research into Gender and Otherness in the Humanities
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University

2nd Joint GOTH-Health & Wellbeing NetWorkshop 18 March 2021, 10.30am – 4pm

The NetWorkshop and Critical Reading Group events will be hosted on the MS Teams platform. Please register to receive your link and readings [here](#)

**10.30-12.00 GOTH Critical Reading Group 3
Pavel Drábek (Hull): The Enigma of the English Essay.
Chair: Peg Katritzky**

The English critical essay is unlike any other. This academic genre has developed out of a tradition of experiment and the cultivation of empirical knowledge. In this seminar, we will borrow Foucault's approach and look at the archaeology of the critical essay as a genre stemming from the philosophy of the Royal Society of London. Established shortly after the Stuart Restoration, it put into practice a project to consolidate a reliable, stable foundation of knowledge. In so doing, the Royal Society vetted the English language and adopted specific methods of experiment and documentation, which have ossified in the critical essay as its prominent genre. The seminar will start with a short talk setting the context, followed by a discussion of the implications and the two readings.

12.00-12.45: Lunch break

12.45-1.35: Chair's introduction & introductory lightning networking session, concluding with:

1.35-1.45 Catherine Pestano (WELS, OU): New Research interest group- Menopause
Menopause is a growing area of inclusion which hits several protected characteristics (sex, disability, age) and affects many OU colleagues and students. The topic is at the start of its lifecycle in terms of policy and potential future funding. Menopause activist and collaboration-seeking researcher Catherine Pestano summarizes what the OU is up to across a range of disciplines.

Keynote session chaired by Alex Tickell (English and Creative Writing, OU)

1.45-2.15: Siobhan Campbell (English and Creative Writing, OU): 'Communities of Practice and the writer-activist: Meaning, Practice, Community and Identity humanities'

Siobhan Campbell will talk about her work that led up to the AHRC funded project she has just begun with her Lebanese NGO partners. She will explore the creation of 'community of practice', the implications for humanities-based activism, and the development of

frameworks for ethical engagement.

2.15-2.45: Naomi Barker (Music, OU): ‘To lighten the cares resulting from the misery of human misfortune’: Music, medicine and religion at the Ospedale di Santo Spirito in Sassia.

Musical activity at the Ospedale di Santo Spirito and its collegiate church in the early modern period has long been recognised. However, there has been little attempt to interpret the archival evidence alongside musical sources in the light of the intellectual activity – religious, scientific, medical and musical - for which the hospital supplied a locus. This paper presents some results of a research project that aims to synthesise evidence from various archival sources relating to music, medicine and concepts of healing in the Ospedale during the seventeenth century. Focussing on musical and archival sources from the period 1620-1650, this presentation will offer a glimpse of the complex interrelations between the religious and secular activities within the institution.

2.45-3pm: Tea break

3-4pm: Impact Panel

Moderator: Gemma Allen (Director of Research, FASS)

Panellists: Sally Blackburn-Daniels (GOTH & Impact Consultant for FASS), Esther Brown (Impact, Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise Manager, FASS), and Lesley Hoggart (Deputy Associate Dean Research, WELS).

Date for your diaries: The GOTH Symposium 20-21 May 2021 (Online)