

**Katherine Mansfield Society Postgraduate Day**

**‘Katherine Mansfield and her Circle’**

**23 November 2013 at Birkbeck, University of London**

**Keynote speaker: Dr Andrew Harrison**



Organised by Aimee Gasston (Birkbeck, University of London)

and Chris Mourant (King's College London)

## Programme

### **REGISTRATION / COFFEE: 10-10.30**

#### **Session 1: 10.30-12.00**

Elizabeth Syrkin (Muenster), 'Foreign Soil: Exilic Consciousness in Katherine Mansfield's Early Writing'

Rachel Anna Hynes (Limerick), 'Hot Stuff from Paris: Cosmetics, Fashion and Performance in Modernist Writing'

Alexandra Bartol (University College London), 'Taking Form: Mansfield's work in *The Athenaeum*'

### **LUNCH: 12-1.00**

#### **Session 2: 1-2.30**

Jessica Whyte (Sussex), 'Through a Glass Darkly: Mirror Images in the Domestic Interiors of Katherine Mansfield and Walter Sickert'

Alan Saeed (Brunel), 'Stream of Consciousness and Katherine Mansfield, 1918-23'

Andrew Dean (Oxford), 'Caught in the Act: Mansfield, Writing, and the Self'

#### **Session 3: 2.30-4.00**

Wendy Gillett (Edge Hill), '"A flower that is fresh unfolded": Katherine Mansfield's use of floral motifs'

Annalise Grice (Nottingham), '"Pushing a green spear through the dead leaves": Characterisation and Maternity in Katherine Mansfield's "Prelude" (1918) and D. H. Lawrence's "Odour of Chrysanthemums" (1914)'

Natasha White (Goldsmiths), 'The Modern Appeal of Lawrence'

### **COFFEE: 4-4.30**

### **Keynote: 4.30-5.30**

Andrew Harrison (Nottingham), 'Ambivalence, Language and the Uncanny in Katherine Mansfield's *In a German Pension*'

### **Closing Roundtable Discussion**

Andrew Harrison (Nottingham)

Gerri Kimber (Northampton)

Janet Wilson (Northampton)

### Speaker biographies

**Elizabeth Syrkin** is a Ph.D. candidate in the English Department at the University of Muenster and a Marie Curie Research Fellow within the EU-funded Initial Training Network (ITN), Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging (CoHaB) project. Her doctoral work considers locality and the sedentary in contemporary Black British literature. She received an M.St. from the University of Oxford and a B.A. from the University of Virginia and her research interests include diaspora studies, postcolonial literature, utopian and dystopian studies, and theories of space, place, and the city.

**Rachel Anna Hynes** is a second year PhD student at the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication at the University of Limerick in the Republic of Ireland. The title of Rachel Anna's dissertation is "'Cosmetic Consciousness": The effects of pre and post war fashion and beauty culture on female psychic identification and fragmentation in the modernist novel'.

**Alexandra Bartol** is originally from the United States, where she completed her undergraduate degree at Cornell University, majoring in English and Comparative Literature. She is currently a postgraduate student at University College London, finishing her Masters degree in English: Issues in Modern Culture. Her dissertation for this course, titled 'The Question of Form: Katherine Mansfield and the Modernist Short Story', looks at the short story form through the lens of Katherine Mansfield's work and her own interest in the form.

**Jessica Whyte** is a postgraduate MA student at the University of Sussex, researching her dissertation on Katherine Mansfield and Fauvist Art. She received her BA in English & Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University. Her Katherine Mansfield-inspired short story 'Sunday' was recently published in the *Katherine Mansfield Studies Journal* and she is currently writing a novel.

**Alan Saeed** is studying on the doctoral program in English Research at Brunel University in Uxbridge, London. His research is about Bergson's impact on twentieth-century modern English literature by women writers between 1918 - 1929, including Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf, Dorothy Richardson and May Sinclair.

**Andrew Dean**, originally from New Zealand, has an honours degree in English from the University of Canterbury. With the assistance of a Rhodes Scholarship he moved to the UK in 2012 and completed a Masters in English at the University of Oxford. Continuing his studies at Oxford, he is

now studying toward a D. Phil. on post-1945 life-writing, especially in the works of Janet Frame, J. M. Coetzee, and Philip Roth.

**Wendy Gillett** is a first year PhD student at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, Lancashire having just completed an MA in Popular Culture. Her PhD research focuses primarily upon how Katherine Mansfield's writing occupies the liminal space in relation to her discussions of female sexuality, the female body and how she has created a multi-sensory experience for the reader within her writing which transcends the boundaries between literature, reality and actual experience. Her interests also include the portrayal of women in periodical magazines and the female 'singleton' culture.

**Annalise Grice** is currently completing an MA in English Literature at the University of Nottingham. She is a Research Scholarship student working on projects within the D. H. Lawrence Research Centre. In October 2013 she will begin an AHRC-funded PhD research project on the early writings of D. H. Lawrence and the literary marketplace.

**Natasha White** completed her English Literature BA at Lincoln University in 2010. Her dissertation entitled 'Female Desire in the Modernist Short Story' explored Mansfield, Woolf and Lawrence in relation to Lacanian Psychoanalysis. She qualified as a Secondary English Teacher in 2011. In September 2013, she started a full-time MA in Comparative Literature: Pathway in Modern Literature at Goldsmiths University.

**Dr Andrew Harrison** lectures in twentieth-century literature and is Director of the D. H. Lawrence Research Centre in the School of English at the University of Nottingham. He has published widely on Lawrence and is currently under contract to write a new critical biography of the author. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Katherine Mansfield Studies*.

**Dr Gerri Kimber** is a Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Northampton. She is co-editor of the journal *Katherine Mansfield Studies* and is the author of *Katherine Mansfield's Early Years* (2015), *Katherine Mansfield: The View from France* (2008), and *A Literary Modernist: Katherine Mansfield and the Art of the Short Story* (2008). She is deviser and Series Editor of the four-volume *Edinburgh Edition of the Collected Works of Katherine Mansfield*, comprising two volumes of fiction (2012), co-edited with Vincent O'Sullivan, and the diaries and non-fiction (2014-15), co-edited with Angela Smith. Gerri is Chair of the Katherine Mansfield Society and has co-organised several Mansfield conferences and events. She is also on the committee of the British Association for Modernist Studies (BAMS).

**Professor Janet Wilson** is Professor of English and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Northampton, UK and Director of Research in its School of the Arts. Her research interests are in New Zealand and Australian literature and cinema, and especially in the diaspora writing of white settler societies. She has published the coedited volumes, *Katherine Mansfield and Literary Modernism* (2011), *Katherine Mansfield: A Centenary Volume of Essays* (2011), and *Katherine Mansfield and the (Post)Colonial*, volume 5 of *Katherine Mansfield Studies* (2013). She is co-editor of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* and Deputy Chair of the Katherine Mansfield Society and the New Zealand Studies Network.