

RE-READING

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE
LITERATURE AND TRANSLATION
2025 POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE



22-23 MAY 2025 | UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

"I, too, feel the need to reread the books I have already read," a third reader says, "but at every rereading I seem to be reading a new book, for the first time. Is it I who keep changing and seeing new things of which I was not previously aware? Or is reading a construction that assumes form, assembling a great number of variables, and therefore something that cannot be repeated twice according to the same pattern? Every time I seek to relive the emotion of a previous reading, I experience different and unexpected impressions, and do not find again those of before. [...]"

Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*



OVERVIEW

Re-reading | Research Centre for Comparative Literature and Translation Annual PG Conference

Date & Time | Day 1: Thursday 22 May 2025, 9:00am-6pm (in-person registration begins at 12:30 pm) | Day 2: Friday 23 May 2025, 9:00am-6pm

Location* | Day 1: Wolfson Medical School Building – Yudowitz Seminar Room and Room 248 Gannochy | Day 2: Wolfson Medical School Building – Room 248 Gannochy

Remote Access | Participants joining online can do so via Zoom:
<https://uofglasgow.zoom.us/j/87221592264?pwd=Q4ydGUvBQZ31gelrLGZb1mrcA62uJ9.1>
Meeting ID: 872 2159 2264 | Passcode: 264167

Theme | If reading and comparing, interpretation and translation are regular keywords in our discipline, re-reading is a concept that goes often unexplored, even though it endows them all with new and enhanced meaning. That 're' necessarily asks us to position that reading and its repetition (or repetitions) within time and space: in the short term, re-reading is essential to any intensive, critical engagement with text; but re-reading in the longer term entails revisiting more than just text – it means an active comparison between now and then, necessarily locating ourselves within that action and renegotiating both cultural and personal awareness. Re-reading can take different forms as it happens over time, sometimes a seasonal or cyclical action to find something familiar – yet never quite the same – sometimes taking the shape of cumulative, palimpsestic reading. And what if we extend that act of reading outside of ourselves, and choose to read and understand with others, inscribing our own interpretive effort within a history of reading? We become part of an interpretive community where reading and re-reading – across time and space, borders and languages, cultures and media – contribute to a tapestry of meaning.

Keynote Address by Professor David Damrosch (Harvard)

SCHEDULE | DAY 1

Thursday 22 May

9:00-10:00	<p>Session I (Online)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franziska Rauh (Mainz) – Rewritings as Catalysts for Rereading • Merve Sevtap Süren (Istanbul) – Frankenstein’s Legacy in <i>Cleopatra and Frankenstein: Rewriting the Monstrous in Modern Relationships</i>
10:00-10:30	Coffee/Tea Interval and In-Person Registration
10:30-12:30	<p>Session II (In person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Dold (Highlands and Islands) – Intertwining Chronologies and Narrative Foreshadowing in Diana Gabaldon’s <i>Outlander</i> Novels • Luna Lindberg (Glasgow) – “I still read fairy tales, they’re just dirtier now”: Investigating Teratophilia in Contemporary Paranormal Romance Novels • Mohammad Aboomar (Dublin City) – Re-reading Darwin: Arabic Translations of Darwin in the 21st Century • Limeng Xiong (Edinburgh) – Re-reading with the Manuscripts to Find Her Name: A Case Study of Chinese Women’s Autobiographical Writing in the 1920s
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:00	<p>Session III (In person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kateřina Segeřov (Sorbonne & Masaryk) – Re-reading Tradition: Marie Nol and Francis Jammes Between Heritage and Transformation • Ishika Rishi (Oxford) – Mothers and Modes: Reading and Re-imagining Hindu Nationhood • Tias Basu (Jadavpur) – Re-reading as Resistance: Comparative Literature and the Transformation of Reading Practices in Indian Academia
3:00-3:30	Coffee/Tea Interval
3:30-5:00	<p>Session IV Comparative Literature in Glasgow Twenty Years on... (In person) <i>Chaired by Dr Elwira Grossman, UG Comparative Literature Programme Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mirna řolić (Glasgow) – Disturbed Waters and Homerivers: Representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Postwar Riverscapes • Dr Paul Castro (Glasgow) – Between Nations, Empires and Cultures: Re-reading Jos da Silva Coelho’s <i>Gentle Vision</i> • Dr Julia Hartley (Glasgow) – ‘More Audacious than the Classics’: Jane Dieulafoy’s Gendered Rewritings of Ancient Persian History
5:00-6:00	Reception at the Wee G (Gilchrist Postgraduate Club)

SCHEDULE | DAY 2

Friday 23 May

9:00-10:00	<p>Session V (Online)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estera Federiciuc (UAIC) – Revisiting C. S. Lewis, Re-Translating Metaphors • Maya Hollander (Oxford) – “I know the Word”: Re-reading the Bible in Louise Erdrich’s <i>Future Home of the Living God</i>
10:00-10:30	Coffee/Tea Interval
10:30-12:30	<p>Session VI (In person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Guzikowska (Edinburgh) – Queer Re-reading and Fluid Interpretations in the Comparative Reading of Elfriede Jelinek’s <i>Die Liebhaberinnen (Women as Lovers)</i> and Angela Carter’s <i>The Passion of New Eve</i> • Maria Raluca Hanea (Sorbonne-Nouvelle & Babes-Bolyai) – Mircea Cărtărescu: Re-readings of Self-Generative Writing • Roberta Passaghe (Durham) – ‘à la manière de moi-même’. Reinterpretation of Petronius’s <i>Satyricon</i> in the work of Italian Poet Edoardo Sanguineti (1930-2010) • Yuan Liu (Glasgow) – Translating Self, Performing Migrancy: Ha Jin’s Transnational Poetics in <i>A Distant Center</i>
12:30-1:30	Lunch and ‘Working Lunch’ Poster Session
1:30-3:00	<p>Session VII (In person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yifan Lyu (Durham) – Retranslation and Reception: A Study of Ah Cheng’s <i>Three Kings</i> Series • Zoe Hansford (Glasgow) – Race, Territory, and Narrative Control in Postcolonial Translation: A Case Study of the Desmichels Treaty of 1834 • Yidan Hu (Glasgow) – Reframing Imperial Spectacle: Censorship and Theatrical Revision of <i>Mr Wu</i> (1912-1923)
3:00-3:30	Coffee/Tea Interval
3:30-5:00	<p>Session VIII Keynote (In person)</p> <p>Prof David Damrosch (Harvard) – The Seim Anew: Towards A Map of Re-reading Prof Susan Bassnett (Glasgow) – Response</p>
5:00-6:00	Drinks nearby (venue TBC)