



UNIL | Université de Lausanne  
Section d'anglais

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

## Staff News

**Isis Giraldo** has been awarded an Institute of Advanced Studies Vanguard Fellowship by the University of Birmingham, where she will be next semester. This fellowship will allow her to collaborate with colleagues in various departments at the University of Birmingham part of the Stuart Hall Archive Project (SHAP). Her own subproject, and for which she obtained a Tremplin subsidy for her research leave, is transdisciplinary and involves cultural studies, the history of ideas, translation studies, and the digital humanities.

### PhD Soutenance

**Amy Player** successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled “New Nature Writing in the Anthropocene: Jay Griffiths, Kathleen Jamie and Robert Macfarlane” on 26 April. Many congratulations!



## Research and Publications

**Martine Hennard Dutheil** gave a joint paper with **Vanessa Joosen** entitled “Bending, breaking, mending, mended? Childhood and adulthood in Angela Carter’s children’s books” at “The Child and the Book International Conference” (IBBY) organised by **Virginie Douglas** at the University of Rouen (2-4 May).

**Isis Giraldo** has a new chapter – “The Far Right from the Underside of History: Decolonising Far Right Studies” – in the book *The Ethics of Researching the Far Right* just published by Manchester University Press (April 2024).

The Paris African American Study Trip organised by **Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet** took place from 19 to 21 April and involved 20 students, from 1st year to MA, and **Isis Giraldo**. The workshop and guided tour were a great success and they all learned a lot about writers like James Baldwin, Richard Wright and the French Black writer Alexandre Dumas.



On 16 April, **Laura Tresch** invited **Paul V. Kroskrity** (University of California, Los Angeles) to give a talk on “Understanding Language Ideological Assemblages: Their History and Utility”.



**Matthew Scully** was invited by **Patrick Vincent** to offer a guest lecture at the University of Neuchâtel on Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys*. The lecture took place on Tuesday 30 April with students in the "Contemporary American Fiction" seminar.

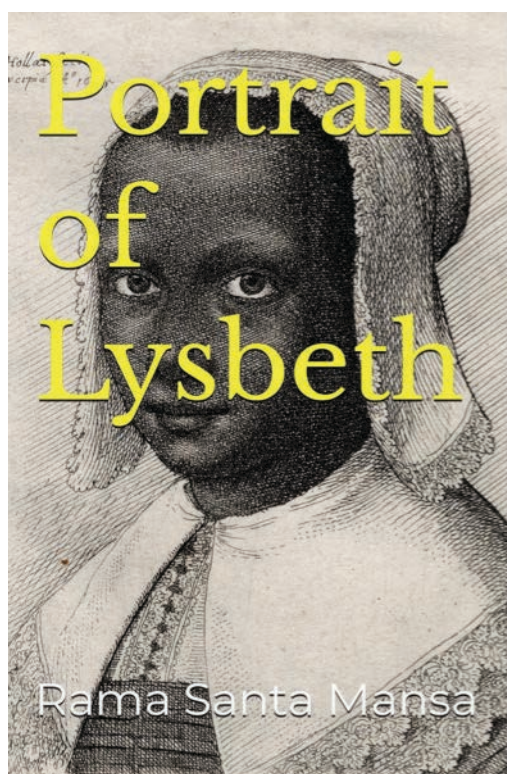
**Matthew** also organized two trips with students from his "Ethnic American Literature" BA seminar to the recently opened Lausanne Cinémathèque to see two films in the current Spike Lee retrospective: *Get On the Bus* and *Jungle Fever*. It proved to be a great experience, and the students had a number of astute reactions and insights following the viewings.

From 11 to 12 April, **Matthew Scully** and **Nell Wasserstrom** were invited to Virginia Tech's Steger Center for International Scholarship in Riva San Vitale, Ticino, to speak with students and staff. The Center is for Virginia Tech's study abroad students, who spend a semester taking courses, traveling, and participating in programming that helps integrate the Center within the broader Riva San Vitale community.

On 24 April, **Nell Wasserstrom** gave an invited paper at the Sorbonne University for a round table celebrating a new book, *Le Palimpseste mémoriel : Entendre la mémoire au fil des Modernismes*, recently published by her colleague, Anne Marie Smith-Di Biasio (l'Institut catholique de Paris), through Sorbonne Université Presses.

**Patrick Durdell** participated in the Seminar "Shakespeare and Textual Failure" at the Shakespeare Association of America's Annual Meeting in Portland, OR (10-13 April) with a paper entitled "On Making Mistakes".

**Patrick** also presented a paper on "White Othello: Representations of Race in *This is Venice* (Burgtheater, 2020)" as part of the Shakespeare Seminar at this year's German Shakespeare Association conference "Diversity and Community" in Bochum (19-21 April).

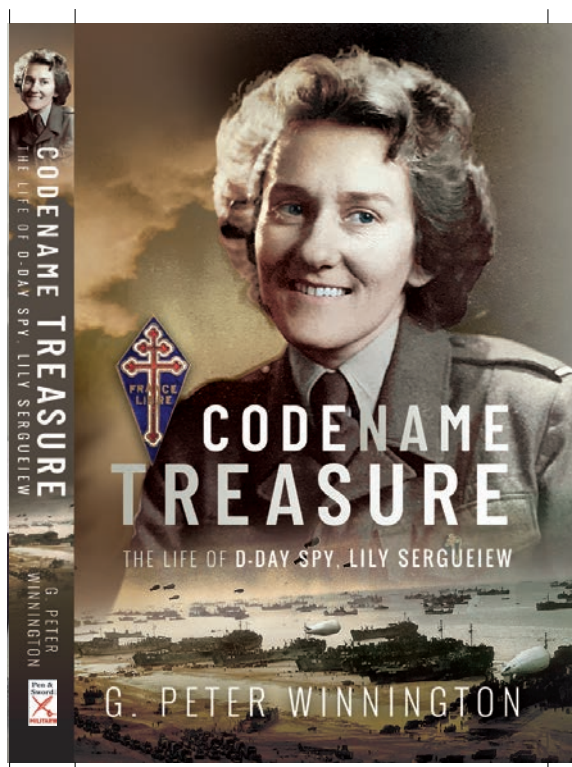


**Ramatu Musa**, who is a PhD student working under the supervision of **Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet**, sees creative writing as part of her academic praxis to address silences in the archives. Under a pen name, Rama Santa Mansa, she has published *Portrait of Lysbeth*, a supernatural murder mystery set in Early America in the mid-1600s. In a departure from the norms of the genre, her Gothic novella centers on the Africans and Lenape Indians of Anglo-Dutch New York and New Sweden. *Portrait of Lysbeth* is available on [Google Play](#). *Black History Month Norway* published a [book review](#) of her novella in Norwegian and *Decolonial Dialogues* published her [essay](#) about how art inspired her creative writing process.

On 15 April, **Chen Cui** gave a talk entitled “Spatial Narrative and the *Mandeville*-Author’s Vision of World System: Reading *Mandeville’s Travels* as a Universal History” as part of Denis Renevey’s MA Seminar “Space and Environment in Late Medieval Literature”, attended by students from UNIL and Lancaster University.

**Chen Cui**’s [book review](#) for Nicolas Meylan’s *The Pagan Earl: Hákon Sigurðarson and the Medieval Construction of Old Norse Religion* (University Press of South Denmark, 2022) has been published by the journal of *ASDIWAL: Revue genevoise d’anthropologie et d’histoire des religions*.

As we are just five weeks from the 80th anniversary of D-Day, **Peter Winnington** is pleased to remind you of his recent biography of the fifth D-Day spy, Lily Serguéiew. She was in Aleppo (Syria), on her way to Saigon by bicycle when the outbreak of WWII put an end to her ride. She returned to Beirut where she trained as a first-aid nurse. The fall of France shocked her deeply, and she determined to do what she could to help drive the Nazis out of France. So she decided to get enlisted by the Nazis as a spy, and get herself sent to England where she would betray the Nazis and work for the British. It took a long time, but by the end of 1943 she was in London, working for counter-intelligence as one of the spies misleading the Nazis as to where the D-Day landings were to take place. **Peter** says: “I stumbled on her remarkable story, and have been entrusted with writing it by her family. Readers love it!”



The second week of the UNIL-Lancaster block-course “Space and Environment in Late Medieval Literature” took place from 14 to 19 April in Switzerland. In addition to classes taught in Anthropole with presentations by **Chen Cui** and **Emilie Badoux**, texts linked to travel literature (John Mandeville), anchoritic culture (*Ancrene Wisse*), wilderness/forests (*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and Robin Hood ballads) and prison literature (James I’s *King’s Quair*) were read and discussed in situ, in the Lausanne Cathedral, the Grottes de la Madeleine, Les Diablerets and the Château de Chillon. We



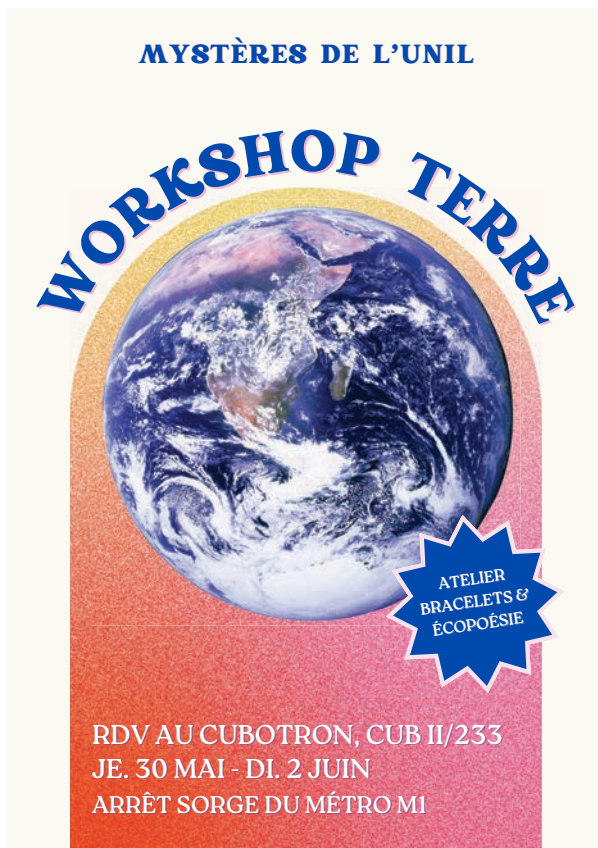
were also able to offer our Lancaster guests Summer on Sunday (with a swim in the Lake), Spring weather on Monday and Tuesday, and Winter from Wednesday to Friday, with the need to snowshoe in order to be able to explore wilderness at Les Diablerets.



## Forthcoming Events

### Cake T-Days

The next Cake T-Day will take place on [Wednesday, 22 May](#), at 16:15, in [Anthropole 5033](#). This is going to be a special session that will combine this Cake T-Day and the Research Methodologies class into a single informal event. As usual, we will share our thoughts and experiences related to MA thesis writing in a friendly environment while enjoying some cake and tea. All MA and PhD students are cordially invited. Feel free to contact [kirill.melnikov@unil.ch](mailto:kirill.melnikov@unil.ch) if you have any questions.



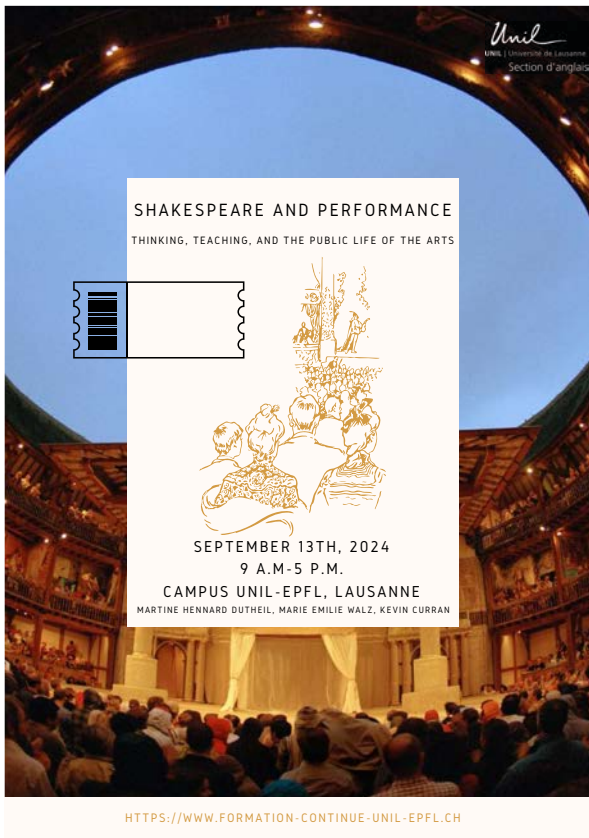
### *Mystères de l'UNIL – Je fais partie de la Terre : éco-poétique et bricolage*

30 May-2 June, Cubotron

The English department is proposing a workshop at the Mystères de l'UNIL: *Je fais partie de la Terre : éco-poétique et bricolage*, which is about eco-poetics and involves making a bracelet that will help kids remember the ideas discussed during the workshop, notably the idea that we are an integral part of earth and not

separate from it/her. The workshop is conceived by **Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet** and the team of students includes: **Maxime Pellaton** (PhD), **Corey Heimlich** (PhD), **William Flores** (MA), **Hélène Martin** (MA), **Donjeta Sokoli** (MA), **Millie Andrews** (BA) and **Antonella Cimone** (BA). They will have eco-poems and haiku in French, English, Italian and Albanian. More [here](#).





## *Formation Continue – Shakespeare and Performance: Thinking, Teaching, and the Public Life of the Arts*

13 September, 09:00-17:00, UNIL-EPFL

This Formation Continue was sold out after only two weeks!

Poster by **Fanous Aminfar**.

## *Troilus & Cressida*

29 May, 19:00, Vortex

This adaptation, envisioned by **Andy Reilly** and **Alisa Steinhauser**, is part of L'Atelier Shakespeare's programme! **Andy** and **Alisa** are joined by **Corinne Clark**, **Meg Duell**, **Andrea Grütter**, **Kateryna Gults**, **Céline Magada**, **Hannah Sellers** and **Liz Watson** to bring this project to the stage! The performance is sold out, but there will be a waiting list on the evening of the show if you haven't already booked your tickets!



Deadline for inclusion in June newsletter: 1 June. Contact [Céline](#)



## Departmental Research Seminar Series

This month, we will have the last three events of this spring semester Departmental Research Seminar Series, don't miss them!

**May 7** ○ **Kathleen Jamie (Makar, Poet Laureate for Scotland)**  
*Géopolis*  
 2227  
 17h15  
 “Conversations toward Nature”  
 Q&A Moderated by Amy Player (University of Lausanne)

**May 16** ○ **Thomas Claviez (University of Bern)**  
*Anthropole*  
 5196  
 16h15  
 “The Blues: Material Culture, Myth and Business”

**May 23** ○ **Nell Wasserstrom (University of Lausanne)**  
*Anthropole*  
 5196  
 16h15  
 “‘L'imperfection incurable dans l'essence même du présent': Modernism, Belatedness, and the Drive to Translate”

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## CUSO Doctoral Workshop: Literary Forms

17 May, Synathlon 2420

**Rory Critten** and **Matthew Scully** are co-organized a CUSO workshop on literary form and close reading with **Prof. Eric Weiskott** (Boston College). Eric will deliver a lecture in the morning, entitled “Reflections on Close Reading: Scale and Ontology,” followed by a workshop, entitled “Reading Poems for Verse Form.” The event is meant to appeal to anyone working across medieval and modern literature, so we encourage you to attend if you're able to do so. It promises to be an engaging set of discussions, and we look forward to seeing many of you there!

# Literary Forms

## Prof. Eric Weiskott (Boston College)

**Synathlon 2420**  
**May 17th**

### Schedule:

9.15-10.30: “Reflections on Close Reading: Scale and Ontology” (Lecture)  
 10.30-11.00: Coffee  
 11.00-12.30: “Reading Poems for Verse Form” (Workshop)  
 12.30-14.30: Lunch  
 14.30-16.00: Doctoral Presentations



Organized by Prof. Rory Critten & Dr. Matthew Scully

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## *CUSO Doctoral Workshop: Altered States and Literature*

5-7 June, Crêt-Bérard

**Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet**, **Denis Renevey** and **Juliette Vuille** are organising a CUSO English Doctoral School workshop on “Altered States of Consciousness and Literature” at Crêt-Bérard. There will be two plenary guest speakers: **Juliana Dresvina** (Cultural Historian at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Oxford), speaking on “Literary Alterity: Three Ways (Moving from Psychology to Mysticism to Fantasy)”, and **Hermann Herlinghaus** (Professor of Modern Literature and Latin American Studies, University of Freiburg-in-Breisgau), speaking on “Psychoactive Modernity.” There will also be a public lecture by a psychiatrist from Rolle, **Dr. Ansgar Rougemont**, on “The Vampirocene – or the Crises of Consciousness of our Epoch”. The workshops are open only to PhD students but the lectures are public and you are all welcome to attend any or all!