

Layers: *Physical and Cultural Constructions of Space in the English-Speaking World*

Provisional programme

Thursday 16 October 2025

9:00: Welcome

9:30 – 10:30: Keynote lecture.

Jeremy Davies (University of Leeds): “The Layers of the Land: Stratigraphy and Interpretation”

10:30 – 11:00: coffee break

11:00 – 12:45 : Panels 1 and 2

Panel 1 – Visualizing natural and human temporalities

Camille Adnot (Ecole Normale Supérieure) : “ Volcanic Strata and the Tracings of Deep Time”

Diane Coppens (ECHELLES, Université Paris Cité) : “Romantic Layers of the Past:

Romantic landscape paintings as palimpsests of Earth’s story in the age of geology”

Emerence Hild (IUT Henri Poincaré de Longwy) : “L’essor du street art comme levier de mutation urbaine en Écosse”

Panel 2 – Cultural palimpsests in colonial and postcolonial contexts

Cristina Benicchi (Università degli Studi Internazionali – UNINT Rome, Italy) :

“Palimpsestic Spaces: Linguistic, Spatial, and Cultural Layering in *Wide Sargasso Sea*”

Joshua Physick (Université d’Orléans) : “Une lecture décoloniale de l’anthropocène à travers les strates épistémologiques et temporelles de *Carpentaria* d’Alexis Wright”

Jillian Royal (Université Paris Cité) : “A ‘Wild Erratic Fancy’: Unsettling the Bush and the Legacy of a National Myth”

12:45 – 14:30: Lunch break

14:30 – 16:15: Panels 3 and 4

Panel 3 - Layers as epistemological models

Beatrice Laurent (Université Bordeaux-Montaigne) : “Sopwith, Strata and Schemata”

Richard Somerset (Université de Lorraine) : “Layers of being, trajectories of becoming: ontological tensions in the natural and cultural exploration of deep time”

Panel 4 – Ecopoetry and ecofiction

Chloé Bour-Lang (Université de Strasbourg): “Layers of Spectrality in Barbara Kingsolver’s Novels”

Klara Machata (University of Freiburg) : “ ‘Living with Water’: Constructed Landscapes, Adaptation, and Environmental Catastrophe in Anthropocene Fiction”

Anne-Sophie Letessier (Université Jean Monnet-Saint Etienne): “‘Earth measure, / rock measure’: Geological Poetics in Don McKay’s *Strike/Slip* (2006) and *Paradoxides* (2012)”

16:15-17:00: Coffee break

17:00: Musical layers/ Strates musicales – Jeannemarie quartet/ Quartette Jeannemarie

Friday 17 October 2025

9:15 – 10:15: Keynote lecture

Laurent Olivier, Conservateur en chef du Patrimoine, Musée d'Archéologie nationale de Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

10:15-10:45: Coffee break

10h45-12h30: Panels 5 and 6

Panel 5 – Extractivism

Gwen Cressman (Université de Strasbourg): “Visualizing the layers of oil extraction”

Lucie Genay (Université de Limoges): “Layered Soil, Buried Waste, Contaminated Water, and Inhabited Caves: A Study per Stratum of the Idaho National Laboratory”

Inna Hakkinen: (University of Helsinki): “Layering as a Decolonial Act: Decoding ‘Layers’ of Fictionalizing Laguna Pueblo Uranium Mining in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Almanac of the Dead*”

Panel 6 – Resurfacing layers, alternative ontologies

Garin Hay (University of California, Davis): “‘Space is a stand-in for complexities of relations among ‘things’ that happen:’ Reading for Animism’s Cosmic Ecology in Mei-mei Berssenbrugge’s *A Treatise on Stars*”

Max Kaario (artist-researcher): “Clam Garden Renaissance: the aesthetics of reemergence on the Pacific Northwest coast”

Céline Planchou: “(Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris Nord): The Indian Child Welfare Act and Tribal Rights over Dependent Minor Members: Unearthing Legal Layers of Tribal Authority in the Best Interest of Tribal Children”

12:30-14:00: Buffet lunch

14:00-15:45: Panels 7 and 8

Panel 7 – Conflicting memories

Effie Yiannopoulou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): “The eerie landscapes of post-imperial Englishness in Olivia Manning’s *The Rainforest*”

Ercan Gürova (University of Ankara): “Buried Histories and Resurfacing Memory in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *The Buried Giant*”

Nour Dakkak (Gulf University of Science and Technology, Kuwait): “‘I have seen you, I have touched you, I belong to you’: Unearthing the Layers of Soil and Self in Elizabeth-Jane Burnett’s *The Grassling* (2019)”

Panel 8 – Temporal intersections and reconstructions

Léa Fourure (Aix-Marseille University, Tübingen University): “Layers of meaningful substance: how bodies mean and matter in Charles Dickens’s *David Copperfield*”

María Jesús Perea Villena (Camilo José Cela University, Madrid): “The Brain as a Meaning maker: Historical and literary layers in the representation of archaeological landscapes in Peter Ackroyd’s *First Light*”

Danielle van der Merwe (Heidelberg University): “Isolation and Confinement: Reinterpreting Space in *Lady Macbeth*”