



International Conference *The Body, Outpost of the Mind: Corporeal Temporalities, Aging, Literature, and the Arts*

14-15 May 2026

Thursday May, 14th

Aula Baratto, Ca' Foscari

9.15-9.30 **Institutional greetings**

9.30-10.30 **1st Keynote**

Chair: **Mena Mitrano**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Jean-Michel Rabaté, University of Pennsylvania
The "Age of Modernism": Modernism between obsolescence and juvenescence

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 **STRAND 1 - Emotional embodiment and temporality**

Chair: **Julien Zanetta**, Ca' Foscari University Venice

Jade Elizabeth French, Loughborough University
Smiles, Shame, and Staging: Aging and emotional embodiment in Paul Bailey's At the Jerusalem (1969)

Leslie De Bont, Nantes Université
"A perfect demon of juvenility": Affective Ageing and the Crisis of Embodied Dependency in May Sinclair's "Superseded"

Ioanna Ragoussi, Université Paris Nanterre
Djuna Barnes's Late Poetics: Reclusion, Pain, and the Body

Lunch break

14.15-15.45 **STRAND 2 - Immunitas and Vulnerability**

Chair: **Lucio De Capitani**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Caroline Pollentier, Sorbonne Nouvelle University
Please Do Not Touch: Still Life, Immunitas, and Haptic Temporalities

Mario Martino, Sapienza University of Rome
The 'silly' vestments of the body: the metaphoric dialectic of permanence and impermanence in Auden's "In Memory of Yeats"

Andrea Lupi, University of Pisa
"The Artist as an Old Man": Survival, Vulnerability, and Queer Temporalities in Thom Gunn's 1990s Poems

15.45-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.45 **STRAND 3 - Life writing**

Chair: **Marina Morbiducci**, Sapienza University of Rome

Carole-Anne Sweeney, Goldsmiths University of London
'A still cruising mind': Ageing and anullment in Christine Brooke-Rose's Life, End Of (2006)

Cynthia Port, Coastal Carolina University

"A lot of gestures to unlearn": Narrating the Aging Body in Christine Brooke-Rose's Life, End of

Xinyi Yee Zhao, Loughborough University
Refusing to Disappear: Ageing and Embodiment in Contemporary Women's Life Writing

Yaqian Zu, University of Warwick
Breast Cancer and Middle-aged Femininity in The Cancer Journals and Spence + Lila

17.45-18.30 **POETRY READING** (Public Engagement)

20.00 Conference Dinner

Friday, May 15th

Sala Ba, Ca' Bernardo

9.30-11.00 **Strand 4 - Dramaturgies of the Body**

Chair: **Mario Martino**, Sapienza University of Rome

Siân Adiseshiah, Loughborough University
'Joining the Queue': Time, Boredom, and Old Age in Caryl Churchill's Here We Go (2015)'

Ulrika Maude, University of Bristol
'Samuel Beckett's Corporeal Temporalities: Ageing, Illness and Spectrality

Jonathan P. Eburne, Washington University in St. Louis

Physical Training as Detox: Devised Theatre and Embodied Resistance

Davide Crosara, Sapienza University of Rome
Hors crâne: the Face, the Skull, and the Gaze in Beckett's Late Style

11.15-11.45 Coffee Break

11.45-12.45 **2nd Keynote**

Chair: **Simone Francescato**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Liz Barry, University of Warwick
Touch Hunger: Ageing, Attunement, and Intercorporeal Body

Lunch break

15.00-16.45 **Strand 5 - Disciplining the Aging Body**

Chair: **Jade French**, Loughborough University

Wei Zhou, University of Leeds
Not Ageing like a Fine Wine: Performing and Resisting Social Normality in Jean Rhys's Good Morning, Midnight (1939)

Baptiste Canard-Hourçourigaray, EMMA

laboratory at Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier
"A Problem to Be Solved": The Disciplining of Bodies in Will Self's Dorian and Deborah Moggach's These Foolish Things

Amalia Cotoi, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca

Enactivism and the Somatic Negotiation of Care: The Aging Body and Illness in Mother-Daughter Relationality in Contemporary Anglophone Literature Amalia

16.45-17.15 Coffee break

17.15-18.30 **Strand 6 -**

Aesthetic Potential of the Aging Body

Chair: **Livia Sacchetti**, John Cabot University

Roya Liu, Sichuan International Studies University

Aging Ornamentalism: Border-Crossing Witnessing of Aging Asiatic Femininity with(in) Luka Yuanyuan Yang's Chinatown Cha-Cha (2024)

Yige Bao, Loughborough University
'Impotential' Bodies: Posthuman Artistic Resistance and the Refusal of Function

Ilaria Serra, Florida Atlantic University
Florida and the Aesthetics of Wrinkles

Elena Gewrgiou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

"What is age anyway? Something you don't understand, My Love:" Aging as Transformation in Leonora Carrington's The Hearing Trumpet

18.30 Reception (Ca' Bernardo, Sala Riunioni, 3rd floor)

Organized by

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