

Masterclass with Peter Stockwell (University of Nottingham)

Cognitive Approaches to Modern and Contemporary Prose and Poetry

U-Residence VUB | Generaal Jacqueslaan 271 | 1050 Brussels

Over the last three decades, much work has been done on the development of cognitive methodologies for the analysis of literary texts. Bringing together elements from cognitive linguistics, cognitive psychology and the philosophy of mind, this so-called 'cognitive turn' in literary studies has allowed researchers to approach their subjects from a viewpoint in which questions regarding stylistic features, mental processes and embodiment are interlinked. Texts from a wide range of genres and periods, including avant-garde, modernist and postmodernist texts, have been studied with the help of theories about for example mental schemata, conceptual metaphors and the extended mind. Taking what Lisa Zunshine has called a 'dialogic, decentralized' view of cognitive literary studies, this masterclass will bring together PhD-students from Flemish universities who apply various cognitive methods to twentieth-century prose and poetry. It seeks the participation of researchers (MA-students, PhD-students, postdocs and professors) who wish to discuss the theoretical footing of the presented research projects, and to address the challenges which the researchers face. Peter Stockwell will provide feedback, and will deliver a keynote lecture about language use in surrealist texts.

Peter Stockwell (University of Nottingham) edited several volumes on stylistics, and authored a seminal introduction to Cognitive Poetics (2002). His broad expertise in cognitive literary studies and linguistics led him to publish about schema poetics, literary resonance, mind-modelling and conceptual metaphors in a wide array of texts. Science fiction and surrealism are among his preferred objects of study. His new book about the language of surrealism will appear with Palgrave later this year.

Participation is free of charge, but you will need to register with Elke.Depreter@vub.ac.be

9.00	Welcome
9.35	Introduction
9.45	Olivier Couder (UGent - VUB) Absurdist Humour in Absurd Literature from a Cognitive Perspective
10.45	Break
11.00	Thomas Thoelen (VUB) Dance first, think afterwards...think again: Samuel Beckett and the Cognitive Loop
12.00	Lunch
13.00	Olga Beloborodova (UA) Evocations of the (Extended) Mind in Beckett's Fiction: a Genetic - Narratological Approach
14.00	Break
14.15	Elke Depreter (VUB) Surrealism and the 'Arbitrariness' of Metaphor. A Cognitive Approach to the Poetry of Two Experimental Generations of Flemish Poets
15.15	Break
15.30	Keynote Peter Stockwell What did the Surrealists Think about Language?
16.30	Concluding Remarks
16.45	End