

CoSciLit 2026

Day One - Wednesday 17 June

08:00	Registration with coffee and pastries			
09:00	Welcome from organisers and the Commission on Science and Literature			
09:30	Keynote - Jean Walton: Honey Money, Round-ups, and Political Murmurations: Some Metabolic Speculations			
10:30	Coffee break			
11:00	Panels 1			
	<p>Panel 1A Nineteenth-Century Science: Mystery, Complexity, and Discovery Chair: Megan J. Callaghan</p> <p>Helen Goodman - The Evolution of the Psychopath in International Psychiatry, Crime, and Literature</p> <p>Zhu Yanchang - Recapitulating the Industrial Revolution: Jules Verne's The Mysterious Island as a Didactic Epic of Applied Science (ONLINE)</p> <p>Blažena Pavlovkinová - From Triumph to Mockery: Science in Fin-de-Siècle Newspaper Snippets</p>	<p>Panel 1B At the Borders of the Human: Fembots, AI, and Illusions of Enhancement Chair: Wibke Schniederermann</p> <p>Faye Lynch - The failure of metaphor: Fembot Girlfriends in Contemporary Fiction</p> <p>Timothy Ryan Day - AI, Fermentation, and the pursuit of Immortality: From Paracelsus to Brian Johnson</p> <p>Dustin Hellberg - Not Even False: The Semiotic Distinction between Human and AI Generated Texts (ONLINE)</p>	<p>Panel 1C Literary Digestion: Biology, Metabolism, and Excretion Chair: Jean Walton</p> <p>Liliane Campos - Metabolism as Metalepsis in Contemporary Literature</p> <p>Thomas Constantinesco - Metabolic Dis/orders and Regionalist Fiction</p> <p>Ulta Hvejsel - A New Spin on the Same Old Shit</p>	<p>Panel 1D Endless Forms Most Beautiful: Science Fiction, Time, and Evolution Chair: Jordi Serrano-Muñoz</p> <p>Sean Yeager - "I have seven limbs, so that was very relatable": Interviewing Autistics About Time, Kinship, and Science Fiction</p> <p>Zhang Yang - The May Fourth Literary Revolution and Science: Mapping New Trajectories of Chinese Science Fiction</p>
12:30	Lunch			
13:30	Panels 2			
	<p>Panel 2A Climate Change: Imagination, Communication, and Action Chair: Jordi Serrano-Muñoz</p> <p>Dipayan Dutta - Disseminating Environmental Concerns through Literary and Non-literary Activities - Evidence from the Aravalli Region, Gurgaon, India (ONLINE)</p> <p>V.S. Sruthi - Surveillance, Climate Scarcity, and Gendered Futures in South Asian Dystopian Imaginaries (ONLINE)</p> <p>Abioseh Michael Porter - Cli-lit in West Africa: A Tool for Science and Literature in Dialogue.</p>	<p>Panel 2B Science and Visual Storytelling: Communication, Counter-Knowledge, and Pedagogy Chair: Adele Guyton</p> <p>Francisco Saez de Adana - Current Trends in Comics as a Vehicle for Scientific Communication</p> <p>Athmika Tarun - Counter-Knowledges in Graphic Memoirs of Madness</p> <p>Alvaro Pons & Noelia Ibarra-Rius - Nonfiction Comics to Explain Science: From its Origins in the Press to Today's Classroom (ONLINE)</p>	<p>Panel 2C Grand Unified Theories: Synthesising Knowledge Across History and Disciplines Chair: Zoë Lehmann Imfeld</p> <p>Alice Jenkins - Writing About the Unity of Knowledge in an Authoritarian Age</p> <p>Jerome de Groot - 'Neanderthal Mud: Towards a Biomolecular Hamlet'</p> <p>Douglas Basford - "The Weather Was the Great Fact": The Mode of Literary Allusion in Behavioral Science</p>	
15:00	Coffee break			
15:30	Panels 3			
	<p>Panel 3A Bodies of Knowledge: Aesthetics, Embodiment, and Epistemology Chair: Barbara Bienias</p> <p>Muskaan Katiyar - (Un)Feeling Between Pain and Pleasure: Reading Asexuality in Emma Bolden's The Tiger and the Cage</p> <p>Anne Thell - "Living in Pleasure and Delight": Cavendish's Aesthetic View of Nature</p> <p>Sangeetha Balakrishnan and Latha R - Narrating Paradigm Shift: Copernican Insight through an Enactivist Lens in John Banville's Doctor Copernicus (ONLINE)</p>	<p>Panel 3B Ballooning: Literature, Science, and Technologies of Transportation Chair: Wibke Schniederermann</p> <p>Xia Zijian - Domesticating the Other: the Cultural and Technological Negotiation of Trains and Balloons in the Late Qing and the Early Republican China Speculative Fiction</p> <p>Abhishek Sarkar - Technoscientific Wonder and Comic Topos: Ballooning in Nineteenth-Century Bengali Literature (ONLINE)</p> <p>Steven McLean - A Matter of Levity: Science, Satire, and Perspective in Early Balloon Narratives (ONLINE)</p>	<p>Panel 3C Who Speaks Now? Foucault's Author-Function across Materiality, Matter, and Machines (org. Leonie Bradbury) Chair: Leonie Bradbury</p> <p>Leonie Bradbury - Artist-Object Entanglements: How Networked Artworks Generate New Modes of Authorship</p> <p>Shana Dumont Garr - New Materialist Authorship: Artistic Alliances with Forests, Beetles, Salt, and Air</p> <p>Jason Hoelscher - The Diffraction of the Author: Textual Swarms and Skeuomorphic Intelligence in Large Language Models</p>	<p>Panel 3D Figuring Flora: Literature and the Botanical Imaginary Chair: Elly McCausland</p> <p>Jasmine Tan Hui Jun - "Enduring Connections Found in All Flesh": Biological Organisation, Form and Poetic Taxonomies</p> <p>Michael Wainwright - Pharmakon, Pharmakeus, Pharmakos: John Dos Passos's Vignette of Luther Burbank</p>
17:00	Panels 4			
	<p>Workshop 4A Science Stories: A Conversation with Daniel A. Newman on Narrative as "Common Ground" Between Literature and Science Chair: Shannon Lambert</p>	<p>Panel 4B Mediated Life: Digital Minds, Archival Experience, and Inherited Fictions Chair: Faye Lynch</p> <p>Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer - "'Many of each kind of them are living'": Gertrude Stein and Turn-of-the-Century Monadology</p> <p>Sowon S Park - Print Minds (ONLINE)</p> <p>Reshma Sanil - Tracing the Sympoietic and Technological Paradigms of Evolution through Select Works of Science Fiction (ONLINE)</p>		
18:30	END OF DAY 1			

Day Two - Thursday 18 June

08:30	Coffee and pastries			
09:00	Panels 5			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable 5A The Affordances of Fungi (org. Rhona Trauvitch, the Mycelial Working Group) Chair: Shannon Lambert</p> <p>Bryan Dewsbury Rhona Trauvitch Nicholas R. Cabezas Yonina Hoffman Premea Mohamed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 5B Alternative Knowledges: Zodiacs, Horoscopes, and Homeopathy Chair: Annalisa Volpone</p> <p>Divna Manolova - Twelve Verses on the Zodiac and Their Diagrams.</p> <p>Naomi Wynter-Vincent - This Proves Nothing: Exploring Homeopathic 'Provings', Repertorisation, and Ultradilution as Precursors of the Digital Humanities and Large Language Model GPTs</p> <p>Xueying Zhou - From Horoscope to Soundscape: Virginia Woolf's Cosmic Listening in The Waves (ONLINE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 5C Illuminating: Error, Gender, and Performance in Early Modern Literature and Science Chair: Şima İmşir</p> <p>Barbara Bienias - Terror Errorum: The Culture of Error in the Literature and Science of Seventeenth Century England</p> <p>Alessio Mattana - Theorising Early Modern Women, Scientific Knowledge and Literary Genre</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 5D Engineered Imagination: Literature, AI, and Cognition Chair: Lou Braibant</p> <p>Elona Zhana - Engineering Memory: Literature as a Counter-Archive to the "Science" of Socialism</p> <p>Jennifer Edmond - Engineered Imaginaries: On the Unconstructedness of AI in Literature</p> <p>Constantin Canavas - The Book of the Ingenious References: Repercussions of Medieval Arabic Techno-Scientific Texts in Modern Turkish Literature</p>
10:30	Coffee break			
11:00	Panels 6			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 6A Women: Reproduction, Regeneration, Writing Chair: Eloise Forestier</p> <p>Bela Gligorova - Artificial Affection: Childhood, Care, and Posthuman Narrative in Kazuo Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun (ONLINE)</p> <p>Annalisa Volpone - Cosmic (Re) generation: Poetic Birth in Blake's Milton</p> <p>Nathan Tillman - Women Writing/Riding the Tram: Student Authors, Community, and Seoul's Public Transportation in the late 1930s (ONLINE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 6B Literary Histories of Evolution: Case Studies (org. John Holmes) Chair: John Holmes</p> <p>Ian Hesketh (online) - A Great Evil? Rethinking the "Abstract" Nature of Darwin's Origin of Species</p> <p>Koen Tanghe (in person) - Charles Darwin and the vera causa doctrine: A diachronic approach</p> <p>Maria Zarimis (online) - Investigating Nikos Kazantzakis' The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel as an Evolutionary Epic</p> <p>Lara Choksey (online) - Stephen Jay Gould's Maverick Theme: Revisiting The Structure of Evolutionary Theory</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 6C Collections and Collectives: Romanticism, Poetry, and Science Chair: Paul Hamann-Rose</p> <p>Sharon Ruston - Humphry Davy's Poetry</p> <p>Pauline Lescar - Whitman and Modern Times</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 6D Between Page and Screen: Control, Adaptation, and Recovery in Film Chair: Wibke Schniederermann</p> <p>Isabel Jaen Portillo & Julien Jacques Simon - Time Traveling with Cervantes</p> <p>Avril Tynan - Recovery: Concepts, Contexts and Challenges</p>
12:30	Lunch			
13:30	Keynote - Sadiya Qureshi: Narrating the Unnatural Histories of Extinction and Empire			
14:30	Coffee break			
15:00	Panels 7			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 7A Spaces of Knowing: Domestic, Professional, and Natural "Laboratories" Chair: Sharon Ruston</p> <p>Gemma Curto - Entering the Thicket: a Space of Moral Complexity in Iris Murdoch's The Bell (1958) (ONLINE)</p> <p>Anna Dijkstra - "Painting green on green": The Anti-Scientist Mathematics of H.D.'s HERmion</p> <p>Helena Ifill - The Business of Science: Charlotte Riddell's Chemists (ONLINE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 7B Posthumanist Narratives: Complexity, Enhancement, and Collectivity Chair: Jerome De Groot</p> <p>Marco Caracciolo - Playgrounds of Complexity in the Contemporary Novel</p> <p>Simona Adinolfi - Written in The Body: Genomic Writing and Technologies of Happiness in Contemporary American Literature</p> <p>Merin John - Commoning Care in Multispecies Futures: Children as Posthuman Mediators in Speculative Climate Fiction (ONLINE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 7C Poetics of Knowledge Across History Chair: Vittorio Govahian</p> <p>Abraham Enefu - Poetics of Knowledge: A Digital Literary Analysis of Scientific Imagery in Francophone African Poetry</p> <p>Michael H. Whitworth - The Now, The Once, and The This in W. H. Auden and Other Poets</p> <p>Muqadas Batool - The Biophilic Imagination: A Reading of Pashto Poetry (ONLINE)</p>	
16:30	Drinks reception - at the Guislain Museum			
18:00	END OF DAY 2			

Day Three - Friday 19 June

08:30	Coffee and pastries			
09:00	Keynote - Paul Hamann-Rose: Originality in the Age of the Genome			
10:00	Coffee break			
10:30	Panels 8			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 8A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Action: Narrating Medical Practice Chair: Marianne Van Remoortel</p> <p>Robert Ponge and Vanessa Schmitt - Medical Practice and Research by the Eponymous Protagonist in Doctor Pascal, a Novel (1893) by Émile Zola (ONLINE)</p> <p>Ilia Chalimourda - Doctors of Uncertainty: The Limits of Medical Knowledge in Sheridan Le Fanu's "Green Tea" and Alasdair Gray's Poor Things (ONLINE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 8B</p> <p style="text-align: center;">From Theory to Practice: Literature, Science, and Pedagogy Chair: Vittorio Govahian</p> <p>Yusuf Suleiman - The Role of Indigenous Language Literature in the Popularization of Scientific Knowledge in Nigerian Universities (ONLINE)</p> <p>Megan Callaghan - Bridging Lab and Lyric: A Practical Poetics Workshop for Scientists</p> <p>Jenny Edvardsson - Short stories, individual reflections and joint discussions to open up for diverse perspectives on purposes for science education (ONLINE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable 8C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Literary Histories of Evolution: Roundtable (org. John Holmes) Chair: Richard Delisle</p> <p>Richard Delisle Maurizio Esposito David Ceccarelli (Online) John Holmes Kirsten Shepherd Daniel Abdalla</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable 8D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Currents of Change: The Literary Imagination of Science and Technology from the Ottoman Fin de Siècle to the 1920s (org. Şima İmşir) Chair: Şima İmşir</p> <p>Şima İmşir - Dancing in the Electric Light: Uneven Powers of Illumination in the Ottoman Novel</p> <p>Fatih Altuğ - Translating and Staging Karel Čapek's R.U.R. in Early Republican Turkey</p> <p>Fatma Damak - Wired World: The Imagination of Electricity and World Literature in Servet-i Fünun</p>
12:00	Lunch			
13:00	Panels 9			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 9A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Medical Margins: Addiction and Contagion in Literature and Science Chair: Louise Benson James</p> <p>Sadaf Mehmood - Biopolitics of Syphilis: Women, Contagion and Urdu Literary Imagination (ONLINE)</p> <p>Noemie Robert - Dying for Opium in George Eliot's Silas Marner and Middlemarch</p> <p>Nicholas Griffin - "A Factual Approach is the Worst Possible": Forging Prescriptions in Junkie (1953)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 9B</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Environmental Entanglements: Speculative Fiction and Science Chair: Jonas Vanhove</p> <p>Myles Chilton - Yoko Tawada's The Emissary: The World after Big Science (ONLINE)</p> <p>Jade Arbo - Science Fiction as Regenerative Epistemology: Literary Interventions into Knowledge and Power (ONLINE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 9C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interdisciplinary Equations: Literature, Mathematics, and the Human Chair: Sharon Ruston</p> <p>George N. Vlahakis, Panagiotis Lazos and Iraklis Vogiatzis - Theoretical Considerations for the Relationship between Science and Literature. The Case of Mathematics and Physics. (ONLINE)</p> <p>Simona Bartolotta - Science and Anthropocentrism in Mathematical Short Fiction</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 9D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brain: Narrative, Cognition, and Identity Chair: Simona Adinolfi</p> <p>Emma-Louise Silva - Towards a Neuroliterary Approach to Detail Recall across the Lifespan</p> <p>Protichi Chatterjee - Reconceptualising Brain Plasticity during a Psychic Event in Narratives of Mental Illnesses</p>
14:30	Coffee and close			
15:00	END OF DAY 3 - Optional visit to the Ghent University Museum (GUM) and Botanical Gardens			