

Fri 25 Jun - Fri 2 Jul

Critical Poetics Summer School 2021: Care Of...

How has the global pandemic changed care? What does care now mean in light of the social injustices and inequalities foregrounded by Black Lives Matter? What does it mean to be charged with the care of animal, vegetal and mineral lifeforms during the sixth mass extinction and the care of the environment in the ongoing climate crisis? And how has care, both as a concept and an experience, changed for writers, artists, critics and readers? In 2021, the Critical Poetics Summer School will be delivered care of a group of internationally recognised artists, writers and thinkers whose work addresses current and pressing issues of care and caring.

Online Programme

**Fri 25 Jun, 7-8.30pm
Care in the Time of Covid: Michael Rosen**

**Mon 28 Jun, 7-8.30pm
Care for the Stranded: Astrida Neimanis**

**Tue 29 Jun, 7-8.30pm
Care and Waiting: Marion Coutts in conversation with Laura Salisbury**

**Wed 30 Jun, 7-8.30pm
Inter-species Care: Maya Chowdhry and Mama D Ujuaje in conversation with Eva Giraud**

**Thu 1 Jul, 7-8.30pm
Troubling Care: Raymond Antrobus, Bhanu Kapil, and Nat Raha**

**Fri 2 Jul, 7-8.30pm
Freedom and Care: Maggie Nelson in Conversation with Seán Hewitt**

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Care in the Time of Covid: Michael Rosen on *Many Different Kinds of Love: A Story of Life, Death and the NHS*

Fri 25 Jun, 7-8.30pm

Poet, broadcaster, children's author and columnist, Michael Rosen is a prodigious talent. His new work *Many Different Kinds of Love: A Story of Life, Death and the NHS* explores his experiences contracting coronavirus and spending seven weeks in intensive care at Whittington Hospital, six of them on a ventilator. Combining stunning new prose poems and the moving coronavirus diaries of his nurses, doctors and wife Emma-Louise Williams, this remarkable book celebrates the power of community, the importance of kind gestures in dark times, and the indomitable spirits of the people who care for us and keep us well.

In this talk, featuring a reading from the author, Michael will be joined by Barbara Matthews and Sandeep Mahal to discuss care in times of crisis.

This event is part of the 2021 Critical Poetics Summer School, organised by the Critical Poetics Research Group at Nottingham Trent University in partnership with Nottingham Contemporary and Curated & Created at NTU, with broadcast technical support by Metronome.

Michael Rosen is one of Britain's best loved writers and performance poets for children and adults. He is currently Professor of Children's Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London where he co-devised and teaches an MA in Children's Literature. Michael is also a popular broadcaster and has presented BBC Radio 4's acclaimed programme about language, *Word of Mouth* since 1998, as well as regularly presenting documentary programmes for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 3, including the Sony Gold Award-winning *On Saying Goodbye*. Michael has published in the region of 200 books for children and adults and appears regularly at literary festivals all over the UK and Ireland. For outstanding contribution to children's literature he received the Eleanor Farjeon Award and was Children's Laureate 2007-2009. In recognition of his contribution to the profile of French culture in the UK, he was made Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Care for the Stranded: Astrida Neimanis

Mon 28 Jun, 7-8.30pm

Under conditions of anthropogenic climate change, colonialism, militarism, and global capitalism, the oceans are seriously distressed. This includes populations of cetaceans worldwide, caught in fishing gear, led astray by acoustic pollution, or otherwise stranded outside of their natural habitats. Cetacean bodies, dying or already dead, wash up on human shores, and ask of us some kind of response. In some cases, dead animals will come into the care of scientists, who perform necropsy or virtopsy. Drawing on preliminary research undertaken with international artist Patty Chang and wildlife pathologist Aleksija Neimanis, this talk considers care for the dead in a time of endings. What can the dead teach us about their often inaccessible worlds, about scientific practice as ritual and spiritual connection, and about caretaking as proxy kinship? What might we learn from cetaceans about endings, at a time when so many beings are stranded, far from the times, places or conditions that they had come to know as home? What can we, the living, give back?

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Astrida Neimanis is a cultural theorist working at the intersection of feminism and environmental change. Her research focuses on bodies, water and weather, and how they can help us reimagine justice, care, responsibility and relation in the time of climate catastrophe. Her most recent book, *Bodies of Water: Posthuman Feminist Phenomenology*, is a call for humans to examine our relationships to oceans, watersheds and other aquatic life forms from the perspective of our own primarily watery bodies, and our ecological, poetic and political connections to other bodies of water. Often in collaboration with other researchers, writers, artists and scientists, Astrida's work features in academic publications, gallery exhibitions and catalogues, and as part of public workshops and events. Astrida recently joined UBC Okanagan on the unceded Syilx and Okanagan lands, in Kelowna, BC, Canada, as an Associate Professor in Ecofeminism and Environmental Humanities.

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Care and Waiting: Marion Coutts in conversation with Laura Salisbury

Tue 29 Jun, 7-8.30pm

Marion Coutts' award-winning memoir *The Iceberg* was written in response to the diagnosis, illness and death of her husband, the art critic, Tom Lubbock, who died of a brain tumour in January 2011. The tumour was located in the area controlling speech and language and would eventually rob him of the ability to speak. In short bursts of beautifully textured prose, fury, selfishness, grief, indignity and impotence are brought to light. Yet out of this comes a rare story about belonging and a celebration of the 'adventure of being and dying'.

During this event, Marion Coutts will be joined in conversation by Professor Laura Salisbury to reflect on healthcare, waiting times, and contemporary art, writing and thinking.

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Marion Coutts is an artist and writer. Her work has been exhibited widely nationally and internationally, including solo shows at Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, Chisenhale Gallery, London, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Foksal Gallery, Warsaw. She has held fellowships at Tate Liverpool and Kettle's Yard, Cambridge and was a Rome Scholar at the British School at Rome. Her first book, *The Iceberg* (2014) won the Wellcome Book Prize in 2015. It was shortlisted for the Costa Book Award, the Samuel Johnson Prize and was a finalist in the US National Book Critics Circle Awards, 2017. In 2018 she was the recipient of The Islands Arts Writing Residency, Fogo Island, Canada. A new publication, *Pluton*, will come out with Art Metropole, Toronto in 2021. She is a Reader in Art at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Laura Salisbury is Professor of Modern Literature and Medical Humanities at the University of Exeter, where she works in the Department of English and Film and in the Wellcome Centre for the Cultures and Environments of Health. Laura is currently co-PI with Lisa Baraitser from Birkbeck on a 5-year Wellcome-funded project called *Waiting Times*. This multi and interdisciplinary project examines what it means to wait in and for healthcare. She is President of the Samuel Beckett Society.

Inter-species Care: Maya Chowdhry and Mama D Ujuaje in conversation with Eva Giraud

Wed 30 Jun, 7-8.30pm

For this event, researcher and facilitator Mama D Ujuaje and writer and multidisciplinary artist Maya Chowdhry will come together to explore relationships between the human and more-than-human. Looking at how humans have navigated the world of rice, what canvas and damask cotton have to do with human nourishment, why there are bananas in the Caribbean, and how coffee drinkers are colonised, this multimedia performance will illuminate the complex environments of food, nourishment and interspecies care.

After the performance they will be joined by Dr Eva Giraud and for a discussion on how we become so entangled with, and how we can care for, other species.

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Maya Chowdhry is a writer and a multidisciplinary artist. Her work explores issues such as seed sovereignty and climate justice. Maya's poetry collections are *The Seamstress* and the *Global Garment and Fossil* (2009). She creates immersive and democratic live art experiences for participants, drawing from creating work in poetry, radio, video and installation. Recent work utilises the online space for transmedia storytelling and augmented reality artworks. Maya's award-winning writing includes *Butterfly Orchid*, highly commended in the Forward Poetry Prizes, 2017. *Tales from the Towpath*, an immersive story for Manchester Literature Festival, was shortlisted for the International New Media Writing Prize, 2014. *Galvanising Change*, an interactive audio installation which utilises sensors to examine climate change, is currently exhibited online with Digital Art Studios and The British Council.

Eva Haifa Giraud is a Senior Lecturer in Media at Keele University. Her research has two strands. In empirical terms, she is interested in the ways that activists negotiate tensions associated with the media platforms they

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use, particularly the challenges posed by social media. Her work has engaged with this theme in the context of environmental, animal, and food activism, with more recent research focusing on anti-racist politics. She also has a broad conceptual interest in non-anthropocentric theoretical work, which explores ways of thinking and acting in the world that move beyond the treatment of (some) humans as exceptional. Her publications include *What Comes After Entanglement? Activism, anthropocentrism and an ethics of exclusion* (2019), *Veganism: Politics, Practice, and Theory* (2021) and articles in journals such as *Theory, Culture & Society*, *New Media & Society* and *Social Studies of Science*.

Mama D Ujuaje is a Community Researcher and Facilitator whose background is in Food and Nourishment Practice and artistic advocacy around Food Justice. She currently curates, within Community Centred Knowledge, Learning Journeys, exploring the interfaces of community, modernity and systemic justice through the routes of art and culture. She uses embodied and action research methods to interrogate the interfaces of community and academic knowledge construction. She is interested in how humans navigate justice issues over time and space and manage personal and social trauma in embodied ways, across the territories of the Anthropocene. In traversing from the physiology to the psychology of nourishment, Mama D encourages storytelling and the coaxing out of withheld stories from a wide range of bodies, bringing them to the loom. She encourages each participant to pick up the threads and interweave with each other, even getting beneath the skin of the everyday. Mama D is an alchemist of the ordinary.

Troubling Care: Raymond Antrobus, Bhanu Kapil, and Nat Raha

Thu 1 Jul, 7-8.30pm

Featuring three of the most exciting writers working in the UK – Nat Raha, Bhanu Kapil and Raymond Antrobus – this event explores the possibilities for a poetics of care. Troubling the concept of care in the context of intersecting histories of disability, gender, sexuality and race, these poets discuss and perform the political, ethical and aesthetic imperative of taking care with writing.

This event is part of the 2021 Critical Poetics Summer School, organised by the Critical Poetics Research Group at Nottingham Trent University in partnership with Nottingham Contemporary and Curated & Created at NTU.

Raymond Antrobus was born in London to an English mother and Jamaican father. He is author of *The Perseverance* (2018), *To Sweeten Bitter* (2017) and the children's picture book *Can Bears Ski?* (2020) illustrated by Polly Dunbar. In 2019 he was a recipient of the Ted Hughes Award and won the Sunday Times/University of Warwick Young Writer of the Year Award, and became the first poet to be awarded the Rathbone Folio Prize. His next poetry collection *All The Names Given* is published in September by Picador (UK) and Tin House (US).

Bhanu Kapil is the author of six full-length collections, most recently *How To Wash A Heart* (2020), and *Incubation: a space for monsters* (2006), forthcoming in a new edition with essays on performance and shame, and a preface by Eunsong Kim.

Nat Raha is a poet and activist-scholar based in Edinburgh. She is the author of three collections and numerous pamphlets of poetry, including *sirens, body & faultlines* (2018), *countersonnets* (2013), *Octet* (2010) and *four dreams* (2020). Her creative and critical writing has appeared in *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Third Text*, *Poetry Review*, *MAP Magazine*, *The New Feminist Literary Studies* (2020), and in the 2020 anthologies *ON CARE*, *The Weird Folds: Anthropocene in the Everyday*, and *We Want It All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics*. Her writing has been translated into French, Galician, German, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Slovenian. Nat co-edits *Radical Transfeminism Zine*

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Freedom and Care: Maggie Nelson in conversation with Seán Hewitt

Fri 2 Jul, 7-8.30pm

Maggie Nelson is the author of several books of poetry and prose, most recently the *New York Times* bestseller and National Book Critics Circle Award winner *The Argonauts*. In her new work, *On Freedom: Four Songs of Care and Constraint*, she examines the ‘practices of freedom’ by which we negotiate our interrelation with – and our inseparability from – others, while accepting difference and conflict as integral to our communion. For Nelson, thinking publicly through the knots in our culture – from the turbulent legacies of sexual liberation to the lure of despair in the face of the climate crisis – is itself a practice of freedom, a means of forging fortitude, courage, and company.

In this talk, which will feature a reading from the author, Maggie Nelson will be in conversation with Seán Hewitt to explore ideas of queerness, care and freedom.

This event forms part of the 2021 Critical Poetics Summer School, ‘Critical Poetics: Care Of...’, organised by the Critical Poetics Research Group at Nottingham Trent University in partnership with Nottingham Contemporary, Curated & Created at NTU.

Maggie Nelson is the author of several books of poetry and prose, most recently *On Freedom: Four Songs of Care and Constraint* (2021). Other nonfiction titles include the *New York Times* bestseller and National Book Critics Circle Award winner *The Argonauts* (2015), *The Art of Cruelty: A Reckoning* (2011), *Bluets* (2009), *The Red Parts* (2007), and *Women, the New York School, and Other True Abstractions* (2007). Her poetry titles include *Something Bright, Then Holes* (2007) and *Jane: A Murder* (2005). She has been the recipient of a MacArthur “genius” Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an NEA Fellowship, an Innovative Literature Fellowship from Creative Capital, and an Arts Writers Fellowship from the Andy Warhol Foundation. She currently teaches at USC and lives in Los Angeles.

Seán Hewitt was born in 1990. He is a book critic for *The Irish Times* and teaches Modern British & Irish Literature at Trinity College Dublin. He won a Northern Writers’ Award in 2016, the Resurgence Prize in 2017, and an Eric Gregory Award in 2019. In 2020, he was chosen by *The Sunday Times*

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as one of their '30 under 30' most promising artists in Ireland, and his debut collection, *Tongues of Fire*, was shortlisted for The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award, 2020. His book *J.M. Synge: Nature, Politics, Modernism* (2021) is published with Oxford University Press, and his memoir, *All Down Darkness Wide*, is forthcoming from Jonathan Cape in the UK and Penguin Press in the USA in 2022. He is currently the first poet-in-residence at the Irish Queer Archive, in partnership with National Library of Ireland and Cúirt International Literature Festival.

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Colophon

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