14-16 June 2021

**The South, West and Wales
Doctoral Training Partnership**

FUTURES

Summer Research Festival Programme

MONDAY 14 JUNE

09.00 – 09.30 **Festival Welcome**

A welcome event for the launch of our first research festival, including a few remarks from SWWDTP Director Robert Vilain, and a brief showcase of creative work from three of our students on the theme of 'Futures'.

⤤ Book your ticket here – 'Day 1 Morning Panel Events' This ticket will give you access to all of our morning panel events on the first day (from 09.00 to 13.00).

09.30 – 11.00 **Panel 1: Ecological Futures**

Poetry and Ecologically Sustainable Futures
Domonique Davies, University of Reading

Considering the Future, with Moss, in our Troubled Atmosphere
Hester Buck, Cardiff University

Stress testing the climate: designing scenarios for sustainable development goals
Stavros Pantos, University of Reading

11.30 – 13.00 **Panel 2: Agency and Uncertainty**

New Like Adam: Alasdair Gray's Lanark, Lefebvre, Soja and the Third Space
Alex Hubbard, Aberystwyth University

Divining the Future with Syriac Books of Magic
Abigail Pearson, University of Exeter

Minors Driving Through Major Change: Marisol looks to the future in Tómbola (Lucía, 1962)
Rachel Beaney, Cardiff University

14.00 – 15.00 **Break the Archive: What is the future of archives?** Workshop

In this fast pace design thinking workshop we will deconstruct the archive and create possible alternatives. Using design thinking tools such as mapping and scenario building we will explore how the role of the archive can be reimagined in today's society. This workshop encourages all thinking outside of the box and anything weird or wonderful that might come along. The overall aim of the workshop is not to find a concrete solution, but rather to start a conversation around how we might want to rethink the very idea of the archive and the role it plays in preserving our history. Led by Hannah James Louwerse, Newcastle University.

⤤ Book your ticket here for 'Break the Archive'

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http://bit.ly/
FuturesFestival

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15.00 – 16.30	**Creativity in Research Cluster Showcase**

How can creative practice-based research methodologies help shape different futures in academia and society?

A series of mini-presentations from members of the SWWDTP Creativity in Research Cluster, showcasing their work, some of which will be available to view online a week before the festival. Followed by discussion with Q&A.

↪ Book your ticket here for 'Creativity in Research Cluster Showcase'

17.00 – 18.15 Panel Discussion: Equal, Diverse and Inclusive Futures Keynote

What might an equal, diverse and inclusive future look like? And how can creativity and the arts help us as we seek to bring about such changes?

Presentations, discussion and Q&A with Martin Spafford (Trustee and Volunteer at Journey to Justice), Andrew Ogun (Agent for Change at Arts Council Wales) and Professor Hannah Thompson (Professor of French and Critical Disability Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London).

↪ Book your ticket here for 'Equal, Diverse and Inclusive Futures'

18.15 – 19.30 Short Film and Social Event: Was there machine translation back in the USSR?

In the Soviet Union in the early 1960s, the technological future really seemed to be arriving in the present. The first computers were being designed, and the USSR had been competing with the USA to develop atomic weapons and go into space. Machine translation (MT) was being developed too – but it was nothing like Google Translate! A massive computer could be programmed to translate a single sentence. This approach was unsuccessful; the future held new types of MT, as we will see. Those early MT theorists could see into the future in some ways, though: they anticipated predictive text!

Come along to watch this short film, followed by Q&A with researcher Suzanne Eade Roberts and an informal social event.

↪ Book your ticket here for 'Was there machine translation back in the USSR?'

TUESDAY 15 JUNE

09.00 – 10.30 Panel 3: Family, Community and Society

Anxiety about the future: Emotions in the Canning Family Correspondence
Rachel Smith, Bath Spa University

Backwards into the future: Retrospection in nineteenth-century historical pastimes and the value of looking back to get ahead in today's games industry
Gavin Davies, University of Exeter

Only Time Will Tell: The ethical dilemma of oral histories
Hannah James Louwerse, Newcastle University

↪ Book your ticket here – 'Day 2 Morning Panel Events' This ticket will give you access to all of our morning panel events on the second day (from 09.00 to 14.00).

10.45 – 12.15 Panel 4: Class and Social Mobility

No future?: Youth, work and mobility on 1980s Sheppey
Matt Beebee, University of Exeter

Frightening, immobile, and ambiguous: Futures of the precariat
Jonathan Jones, Cardiff University

The Future Of The Past: Futures as Promised by Teen Films of the '80s
Megan Mitchell, University of the West of England

12.30 – 14.00	**Panel 5: Capitalism and Modernity**

"A True Child of the Industrial Revolution"? Distilled Spirits and Early Modernity
Tyler Rainford, University of Bristol

Capitalism and the Very Long Term
Nikhil Venkatesh, University College London

The plural futures of Kiluanji Kia Henda and Edson Chagas
Catriona Parry, University of Oxford

14.00 – 15.00	**Obsidian Foundation Events Presents the Future of Black Poetry**

Nick Makoha will host five alumni poets from the Obsidian Foundation as they read poetry and talk about the future of poetry.

Obsidian Foundation is a new foundation launched by award-winning poet Nick Makoha, currently a Creative Writing PhD student at King's, which runs a one-week retreat for Black poets of African descent, to help them grow as writers. Obsidian Foundation's mission is to create a safe space for Black poets in the UK and beyond to write with complete freedom but without the burden of identity. The retreat is a long-term, sustainable programme based on the successful model of Cave Canem in the USA. The retreat is open to poets of Black African, Caribbean, Afro-Latinx and African-American heritage and mixed-Black heritage living in the UK.

Book your ticket for 'Obsidian Foundation presents the Future of Black Poetry'

15.00 – 16.00	**Understanding Change: Futures Imagined and Realised** Roundtable

How does change happen, and why? And can understanding one process of change help us better understand others? Join the SWW DTP Understanding Change research cluster for an eclectic, interdisciplinary roundtable discussion on how notions of change and the future play out in cluster members' research. Bringing together perspectives from linguistics, literature and music, we will explore examples of change ranging from Arthurian glossaries and morphological mystery in Old English to equine encounters in seventeenth-century London and the twenty-first-century evolution of dubstep. We will question wider theories and approaches to understanding intellectual, political, linguistic, cultural, personal and societal change, and will ask how the future is conceived and realised.

Book your ticket here for 'Understanding Change'

16.00 – 16.45	**Question: Creating a PGR space in Academic Publishing**

Question, the official postgraduate-run journal of the SWW DTP, is now into its fourth year of publication. Since 2017, Question has provided a platform for Arts & Humanities students across the UK and beyond to share their research – from essays to creative writing to visual art collections – all supported by a rigorous peer review process delivered by a dedicated team of SWW DTP students.

This event brings together editors and writers from the team behind Issue 6: 'Community' (summer 2021) to share their experiences of Question. Panellists will discuss the aims behind this issue, the significance of the 'Community' theme and the challenges faced in producing a journal during a pandemic. Most importantly, they will share their ideas for the future of the journal, exploring how Question can continue to pioneer methods of sharing PGR research within the often rigid and hierarchical world of academic publishing.

Book your ticket here for the Question event

17.00 – 18.00 **Caring for the Future: Developing a Sustainable Future for our Historic Environment** Keynote

Historic England is the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's historic environment.

There is a developing realisation that potential impacts of long-term threats to the historic environment are severe and, to some extent, uncertain. For example, even as we work to understand the impacts of predicted climate change, new as yet unknown impacts are likely to emerge as a result of action taken to mitigate or adapt to it.

How do we build a sustainable future for heritage in the face of such uncertainty? This talk will examine how we are increasing our understanding of threats and opportunities, working strategically to develop tools and flexible strategies, and carrying out research, for example developing adaptive policy approaches, to help us account for future uncertainty.

Speaker:
Kate Guest is a Senior Policy Adviser in the Strategy and Listing Department at Historic England. She has worked at Historic England for ten years and her current role focuses on threats to the historic environment. She holds an MA in Latin and Ancient History and an MLitt in Ancient History from the University of St Andrews, and an MSc in Museum Theory and Practice from the University of Glasgow.

 Book your ticket here for Caring for the Future

18.00 – 19.30 **Engaging Futures: Games and Play as Critical Method** Workshop

Feeling innovative? Interested in creative-academic collaborations? And how analogue games can bring research and academic ideas to wider audiences?

With a persuasive power of their own, games offer a unique opportunity to engage others at all stages of our research. In this session we will discuss the potential of games and play in terms of both research methods and as research outputs. The workshop, led by Dr Paul Wake (Co-Director of the Manchester game Studies Network at Manchester Metropolitan University and designer of *Carbon City Zero*) and Matteo Menapace (educator and co-designer of *Daybreak*), will offer participants the opportunity to design games based on their own research within just 90 minutes. At the end of the session, designers will have playable prototypes and ideas about how to develop them further.

 Book your ticket here for 'Engaging Futures'

WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE

09.00 – 10.30 **Panel 6: Progress and The Nation**

Our moral future: human nature and the philosophy of moral progress
Benedict Lane, University of Exeter

"There is no present in Wales/ And no future": R.S. Thomas, Derrida and learning to live with Wales's ghosts
Martha O'Brien, Cardiff University

"Race" and "Declinism" in the Midlands, c.1958-1981
William Noble, University of Nottingham

 Book your ticket here – 'Day 3 Morning Panel Events' This ticket will give you access to all of our morning panel events on the third day (from 09.00 to 14.00).

10.45 – 12.15 **Panel 7: Methods for the Future**

Writing Requiem: Reimagining ancient texts for the future using the text/musical structure interface
Peter Relph, University of Bristol

Quantum Cuts – Dis/continuous practices
Andrew Philip, University of Reading

The value of scenario planning as a futures method in policy making
Panayiota Georgiou, Cardiff University

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12.30 – 14.00 **Panel 8: Technology and Digital Futures**

Reimagined Museum Imaginaries: Post-Covid 19 museum practice, futures, and new media
Sebastian Bustamante-Brauning, University of Bristol

The Future-Image: Imagination and Technology from Deleuze to Stiegler
Glen Melville, Durham University

The Future is Now: Virtual Music Performance in the 21st Century
David Cotter, University of Cambridge

14.00 – 15.00 **ISCRI - an AI Coded by an Octopus**

Wales-based Digital Research and Design partnership Etic Lab discuss their collaborative project in progress with artist collective 0rphan Drift. The goal is to create an artificial intelligence (AI) that can communicate with an octopus. They will talk about how they aim to do this by using artwork based on their research into octopus cognition combined with a non-goal-directed form of machine learning called reinforcement learning, and following a whole-systems approach. This talk will introduce Etic Lab's design philosophy and methods for building collaborative, cross-disciplinary projects.

↪ Book your ticket for 'ISCRI – An AI coded by an Octopus'

15.00 – 16.00 **Scoping Your Collaborative Digital Project**   Workshop

Are you interested in finding out how to involve digital technology in your research? Come along for a consultation with Etic Lab to find out what the possibilities for your research might be! Etic Lab are offering consultations to help researchers develop and scope out their ideas for collaborative projects that involve digital technology or creative use of data in some way. Whether you haven't got a clue, have a barely-legible sketch or a fully developed dream project, we will work with you in a small group to start scoping a possible project out. This will include technical and practical advice, drawing on the breadth of the team's expertise in building collaborative, cross-disciplinary projects enabled or enhanced by digital technology. We pride ourselves on our ability to plan and execute ideas that everyone around you keeps telling you is impossible – test us!

↪ Book your consultation here.

15.30 – 16.30 **Memory and the Future: Accounting for the past**   Roundtable

Members of the SWW DTP Memory Studies Research Cluster introduce themselves and their research in a roundtable discussion, showcasing the cluster's strengths and diversity.

↪ Book your ticket here for 'Memory and the Future'

17.00 – 18.00 **The Future of Museums: Culture is Ordinary**   Keynote

Raymond Williams, the son of a railway worker, wrote, "Culture is ordinary, in every society and every mind."

The UN Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 states that "Everyone has the right freely to participate in the culture life of the community, to enjoy the arts, and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits."

An EU 2001 publication states, "A Museum has been described as a way of looking and a way of thinking, a place of stories and ideas. It is a natural and cultural history; a world of objects, memories and the art of living; and a place for debate of all the issues connected with the society we actually live in. The Museum in this sense may exist to some small degree in the building we call a Museum, but most of its resources, it's nourishment, is to be found outside its walls, mostly in the people in the community in which it is part."

Suppose these statements are true . . . .

David Anderson, Director of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, will give a short talk on this topic, followed by Q&A.

↪ Book your ticket for 'The Future of Museums'.

18.00 – 18.10 **Festival Close**