



# Trends in Contemporary Fiction: Gender and History

17 and 18 June 2010



## Conference Programme:

Thursday, 17 June 2010

13.00 **Conference Opening**

Eveline Kilian and Sandra Müller

**Panel 1**

**Ingrid von Rosenberg (Dresden/Berlin)**

“If...: Bernardine Evaristo’s Reconstructions of Black European History”

**Eveline Kilian (HU Berlin)**

“Queering the Victorians: Sarah Waters”

*Chair: Elahe Haschemi Yekani*

14:40 Coffee break

**Panel 2**

15.10 **Elahe Haschemi Yekani (HU Berlin)**

“Body-Topia: Queer Notions of History and Embodiment in Jeanette Winterson’s *Sexing the Cherry* and *The Passion*”

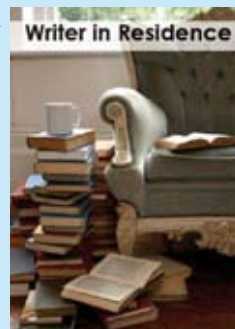
**Helga Schwalm (HU Berlin)**

“International History in Nicholas Shakespeare’s *Snowleg*”

*Chair: Georgia Christinidis*

16.30 Coffee break

- 17.00 **Bernardine Evaristo**, acclaimed author and ‘Writer in Residence’ at the Centre for British Studies, will read from her novels. The reading is followed by a reception. All are welcome. Admission free.



Friday, 18 June 2010

**Panel 3**

10.00 **Stephan Lieske (HU Berlin)**

“Compassionate Men: Julian, Arthur, and George”

**Georgia Christinidis (HU Berlin/GBZ)**

“Ghosts of the Past: The Trope of Possession in Margaret Atwood’s *Alias Grace*”

*Chair: Sandra Müller*

11.20 Coffee break

11.40 **Roundtable: Gender and History in Contemporary Fiction**

*Chair: Eveline Kilian and Sandra Müller*

## Short description:

Explorations of history through fiction (or film) have reached a high degree of popularity in recent years. Through the lens of postmodernism, historical fiction has experienced a number of inflections that have led to the foregrounding of a decidedly self-reflexive stance as to the processes, limits and possibilities of historical reconstruction. The end of the ‘grand narrative’ has paved the way for the emergence of a variety of histories and new perspectives on the past. Moreover, the impact of Gender Studies on contemporary historical fiction has produced a number of literary investigations of the relationship between gender and power in societies of the past, of female views on history, as well as literary queerings of the past. It is specifically the interaction between gender, sexuality, race, history and contemporary fiction that the conference focuses on.

**Venue:** Centre for British Studies, Mohrenstr. 60, Room 105

**Please register until 10 June 2010:** [gbz@gbz.hu-berlin.de](mailto:gbz@gbz.hu-berlin.de)

**Conference fee:** 5 Euros (students and unwaged), 10 Euros (everybody else)

**Organisation:** Prof. Dr. Eveline Kilian, Sandra Müller, Prof. Dr. Gesa Stedman

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