

# DECADENCE AND THE SENSES

Department of English and Comparative Literature  
Goldsmiths, University of London  
10 - 11 April 2014

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**Thursday 10 April 2014     New Academic Building (NAB LG. 01)**

**9.00-9.30**                      Registration:     NAB LG foyer

**9.30-9.45**                      Welcome: Jane Desmarais

**9.45-10.45**                      **Conference Keynote Lecture**

Professor Catherine Maxwell (Queen Mary, University of London), TITLE tbc

**10.45-11.00**                      **Refreshments – NAB LG foyer**

**11.00-12.45**                      **Panel A: Scents and Sights**

**Chair: Chris Baldick (Goldsmiths)**

Melanie Hawthorne (Texas A&M), Nice Smells: Renée Vivien and the Olfactory

Nick Freeman (Loughborough University), Symons, Whistler and Ways of Seeing

Patricia Pulham (University of Portsmouth), Poetry, Tactility and Eroticism in Arthur O'Shaughnessy's *Thoughts in Marble*

Alex Murray (University of Exeter): 'A mad carnival of the senses': James Huneker and the Illusion of Synaesthetic Decadence

**12.45-1.45**                      **Lunch - NAB LG foyer**

1.45-3.30

**Panel B: Suffering and sexuality**

**Chair: Alice Condé (Goldsmiths)**

Sara Lyons (University of Kent), 'I am Fire and Burn Myself': Heraclitus and Swinburne's Firebrand Poetics in *Atalanta in Calydon*

Sarah Parker (University of Stirling), Bittersweet: Michael Field's Sapphic Palate

Petra Dierkes-Thrun (Stanford), Oscar Wilde and French Decadence: Rachilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and *Salomé*

Ery Shin (University of Oxford), Bowing Down as Rising Up: Decadence and Spatiality in *Nightwood*

3.30-4.00

**Tea break – NAB LG foyer**

4.00-5.45

**Panel C: Music, dance, movement**

**Chair: tba**

Katharina Herold (Oxford University), Dancing the Image – A comparative study of the dance metaphor and kinaesthetics in the poetry of Stéphane Mallarmé and Arthur Symons

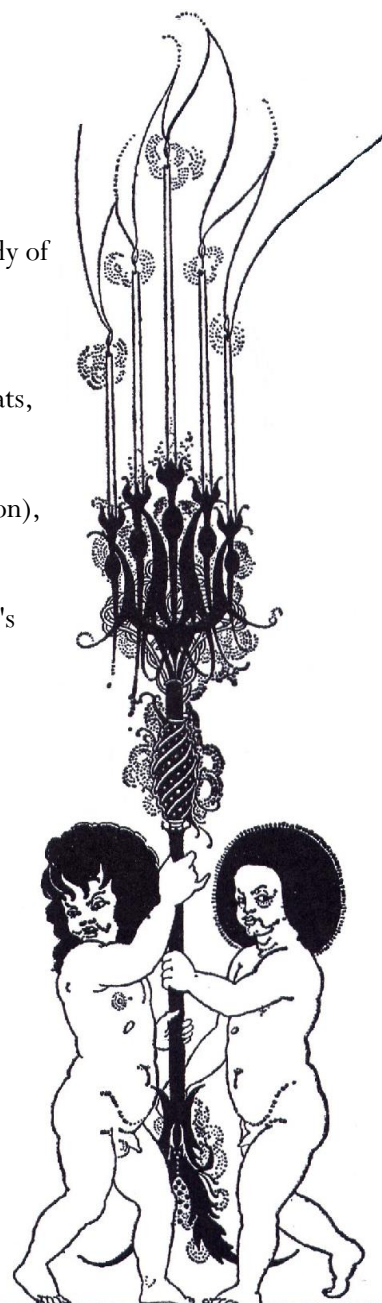
Adrian Paterson (National University of Ireland, Galway), A sense of music: Yeats, Symons, Mallarmé

Jad Adams, (Institute of English, School of Advanced Study, University of London), 'Yesternight': The Alexandrine and Memory in Dowson's Cynara poem

Angela Dunstan, 'All the senses would melt into one': Theodore Watts-Dunton's 'Aylwin' and the Decadent Sensorium

6.00-8.00

**Black Buffet**



**Friday 11 April 2014 New Academic Building (NAB LG. 01)**

**9.00-9.30** Registration: NAB LG foyer

**9.30-11.15 Panel D: Wilde and the Aesthetic Object**

**Chair: Petra Dierkes-Thrun (Stanford)**

Robert Stilling (Florida State University), 'A Dead Art': Oscar Wilde, Agha Shahid Ali, and the Dacca Gauzes

Winnie M Li (Goldsmiths), 'A Lamp of Moorish Workmanship': Illuminating Sexual Otherness through Orientalism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Rita Dirks Heath (Ambrose University College, Calgary, Alberta), Second-Hand Sacramentalism: Dorian's Borrowed Sensations

Katharine Easterby (University of Liverpool), 'Unnecessary things are our only necessities': Male Narcissists' Obsession with Objects in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Diary of a Nobody*

**11.15-11.30 Refreshments – NAB LG foyer**

**11.30-1.15 Panel E: Decadent Spaces**

**Chair: Isobel Hurst (Goldsmiths)**

Hellen Giblin-Jowett (Newcastle University), Orchids that can knock you in a fight: hot-house flowers and Darwin at the fin de siècle

Jessica Gossling (Goldsmiths), 'Things worldly and things spiritual': The motif of the hot-house in J.-K. Huysmans's *A rebours*

Robert Thomson Pruett (independent scholar), *Le démon de l'Analogie*: The Faustian Contract of Artifice in Rodenbach's *Bruges-la-Morte*

Kate Hext (University of Exeter), Ben Hecht and the Fragments of Decadent Dreaming in 1920s Chicago

**1.15-2.30 Lunch - NAB LG foyer**

1.44-2.15                      **Poetry readings - NAB LG. 02**

2.30-4.15                      **Panel F: Decadence and the Body**

**Chair: tba**

Liz Renes (University of York), 'The Mystery of White Things': Aestheticism, Obsession and Female Corporeal Whiteness

Matthew Brinton Tildesley (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea), Decadent Sensations: Art, the Body and Sensuality in the "Little Magazines" (1885-1897)

Kostas Boyiopoulos (Durham University), 'Sexy Sentences': Decadence, Fetishism and the Eroticised Text

David Rose (Oscholars, Paris), Voluptuousness and Nature

4.15-4.45                      **Tea break – NAB LG foyer**

4.45-6.00                      **Final Paper: Taste**

**Chair: - Jane Desmarais (Goldsmiths)**

David Weir (Cooper Union), Decadent Taste

6.00                      **Close of Conference**

