

University of
Hertfordshire



Celebrating
SIXTY YEARS
1952 - 2012

Open Graves, Open Minds: Bram Stoker Centenary Symposium

Conference Schedule



John Keats
keats house
Hampstead London

20-21 April 2012
Keats House, Hampstead

This symposium arose from the *Open Graves, Open Minds: Vampires and the Undead in Modern Culture* Research Project, led by Dr Sam George at the University of Hertfordshire. Initiated by a prominent and exciting conference in April 2010, the *Open Graves, Open Minds* project relates the undead in literature, art, and other media to questions concerning gender, technology, consumption, and social change.

Delegates will investigate the most famous vampire narrative of all — *Dracula* — on the centenary of Bram Stoker's death and interrogate its relationship to new developments in interdisciplinary research, drawing on nineteenth-century vampire archetypes. *Dracula*, of course, is the seminal vampire novel (though it has its antecedents); a gripping narrative that dramatises anxieties over sexuality, new technologies, foreignness, and modernity. Invited speakers will debate the evolution of *Dracula* from novel to theatre, film to comic book

The symposium boasts an innovative and exclusive programme of talks and discussions in the period setting of the house of Keats, who explored forbidden vampiric pleasures in his *Lamia*. We will be joined for a centenary address by Sir Christopher Frayling, author of *Vampires: Lord Byron to Count Dracula*; and Dacre Stoker, great-grand-nephew of Bram, and author of *Dracula: the Un-Dead*. Dacre, will collaborate with Prof. Dr Elizabeth Miller, co-editor of the *Dracula* notebooks, to shed further light on Bram's notebook writings.

Delegates will be invited to do some vampirizing themselves on a trip to Golders Green Crematorium to pay their respects to Bram on the centenary of his death. In this celebrity-packed resting place, Stoker's ashes eerily share company with Marc Bolan ('Girl, I'm just a vampire for your love'); Sigmund Freud and his disciple, Ernest Jones, who theorised the uncanny (Jones wrote on the significance of the vampire in 'On the Nightmare'); Philip Burne-Jones, painter of *The Vampire*; Isaac Pitman (inventor of Mina Harker's shorthand); and Martita Hunt (who acted in *Brides of Dracula*).

The symposium will also anticipate the publication of *Open Graves, Open Minds: Representations of Vampires from the Enlightenment to the Present Day* (Manchester: MUP, 2012). Sam George and Bill Hughes will introduce the OGOM research project. Select contributors to the book such as Stacey Abbott, Catherine Spooner, Marcus Sedgwick and Ivan Phillips will investigate Gothic tropes and vampire archetypes more widely, drawing on their fields of expertise (celluloid vampires, twenty-first-century Gothic, digital culture, young adult fiction and nineteenth-century vampire narratives).

Vampires, of course, haunt contemporary culture, and novelists such as Marcus Sedgwick, Paul Magrs and Kim Newman will demonstrate how they are resurrecting the myth in inventive new ways. Meanwhile, current research in Gothic studies is adapting creatively to this phenomenon, as our speakers will reveal.

The symposium will bring together writers, academics, and critics in a number of in-conversation sessions. The novelist Kim Newman will offer up a dialogue on *Dracula* and vampiric concepts in his own writing in '*Dracula and Anno Dracula*'. In 'Necrophilia to Technophilia', the writer Marcus Sedgwick will look at the folkloric origins of the vampire; and Kevin Jackson, author of the *Vampire Handbook*, will investigate the vampire's progress from fiction onto celluloid. The two talks combine to show how, very often, technological and practical expediency has driven the artistry of this most crepuscular creature. In the third of these collaborative panels, Paul Magrs (the 'Brenda' novels and *666 Charing Cross Road*) will share the stage with Gothic specialist Dr Catherine Spooner in '"I never drink - wine": comic vampires from *Dracula* to *Alucard*'. And with great felicity, the calendar reveals that there will be a full moon!

Girl, I'm just a vampire for your love-and I'm gonna suck you!
(Marc Bolan, *Jeepster*)

Conference Schedule

Friday 20 April 2012

10:00-10:30 Registration/Coffee/Welcome

10:30-12:00 Session 1: Stoker on Stoker

Dacre Stoker and Prof. Elizabeth Miller
'Bram Stoker's Dublin Journal'

12:00-13:30 Session 2: Bram Stoker's Literary Connections

Dr Catherine Wynne
'Bram Stoker and the Dublin theatres in the 1870s'

Prof. William Hughes
'A quiet act of plagiarism: Bram Stoker, Wallis Budge and
The Jewel of Seven Stars'

13:30-14:15 Lunch served in Keats House

14:15-15:15 Visit to Golders Green Crematorium

We pay our respects to Bram Stoker on the centenary of his death and explore some eerie vampiric connections

15:15-16:45 Session 3: Dracula in Television and Film

Dr Stacey Abbott
"So who's got a case of Dark Prince envy?":
The Televisual Dracula'

Prof. Peter Hutchings
'In Search of the 1970s *Dracula*'

16:45-17:00 Tea & Dracula cup cakes

17:00-18.30 Session 4: Dracula's Legacy

Dr Ivan Phillips
'The vampire in the machine: exploring the undead interfac'

Kim Newman in Conversation:
'*Dracula* and *Anno Dracula*'

Saturday 21 April 2012

9:30-10:30 Coffee and Tour of Keats House

We find out about Keats and vampires and examine a first edition of Polidori's *The Vampyre* from the archive

10:30-12:00 Session 5: The Elusive Vampire

Dr Kevin Jackson and Marcus Sedgwick in Conversation:
'From Necrophilia to Technophilia'

12:00-12:45 Lunch served in Keats House

12:45-14:15 Session 6: Open Graves, Open Minds

Dr Sam George

'Undead aesthetics: nineteenth-century vampire narratives and beyond' (introducing the Open Graves, Open Minds project)

Dr Bill Hughes

"I, too, can love": Genre, Knowledge, and Dracula's Romantic Progeny' (Open Graves, Open Minds continued)

14:15-14:30 Tea & vampire cup cakes

14:30-16:00 Session 7: Comic Vampires: A Question and Answer Session

Dr Catherine Spooner

"I never drink - wine": comic vampires from Dracula to Alucard'

Dr Paul Magrs

'The Brenda novels and 666 *Charing Cross Road*'

16:00-17:00 Sir Christopher Frayling

'From Literature to myth: the visualisation of the Gothic'

17:00-18:00 'I never drink - wine'

Dracula-themed wine reception and toast to Stoker on the centenary of his death

When from this wreathed tomb shall I awake!
When move in a sweet body fit for life,
And love, and pleasure, and the ruddy strife
Of hearts and lips!

(John Keats, *Lamia*)

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/keatshousehampstead

Keats House is where the poet John Keats lived from 1818 to 1820, and is the setting that inspired some of Keats's most memorable poetry. Here, Keats wrote '*Ode to a Nightingale*', and fell in love with Fanny Brawne, the girl next door. It was from this house that he travelled to Rome, where he died of tuberculosis aged just 25.



Keats House, Hampstead

For further information please contact Dr Sam George, Convenor of the *Open Graves, Open Minds* Project, Senior Lecturer in Literature University of Hertfordshire
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MA English Literature: Modern Literary Cultures

The MA in Modern Literary Cultures offers you the opportunity to explore culturally charged themes and critical debates across a diverse range of texts. This year we will be focusing on: fin-de-siècle beliefs and obsessions; sex, class and violence in film and literature, and the representation and significance of the figure of the vampire.

Whether your principal reason for studying is for pleasure and personal development, or to achieve a further qualification, we can offer excellent facilities and flexible timetabling to suit your needs:

- One year full-time or two years part-time
- Evening-only study
- All assessment is by coursework
- Outstanding online support via StudyNet, our virtual learning environment
- Convenient location for access to major research libraries and activities in Central London (roughly 25 minutes by train).

Modules this year include:

- Dandies, Decadents and New Women: Fin de siècle Literary Culture 1880 - 1900
- Reading the Vampire: Science, Sexuality and Alterity in Modern Culture
- Sex, Class and Violence: Studies in Literature and Film

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