

Happiness: Enlightenment to Present
King's College, Cambridge, 19th-20th October 2019



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Saturday 19th October

9-10 am Welcome and registration

10-11.30am Panel 1: Environments of Happiness

Chair: tbc

Alex Hobday (University of Cambridge), 'Uncertain Happiness: Knowledge and Well-Being in Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*'

Matthew McConkey (University of Sussex), 'Still repeated circles: William Cowper and the temporality of happiness'

Sam Kemp (University of Plymouth), 'Negotiating narrative tensions of pastoral nostalgia in Radical Landscape Poetry'

11.30-12am **Coffee break**

12-1.15pm Adam Potkay (College of William and Mary Williamsburg),
'*Frankenstein* in the History of Happiness: From Ancient Ethics to Richard Wright'

1.15-2.15pm **Lunch**

2.15-3.45pm Panel 2: Happiness and Conflict

Chair: Megan Beech (University of Cambridge)

Alexandra Huang (University of Edinburgh), 'Happiness in Sweet Death: A Positive Reading of Virginia Woolf's *Jacob's Room* and *The Waves*'

Birgit Breidenbach (University of East Anglia), 'Happiness in an Age of Discontent? Collective Feeling in Contemporary Culture and the (Im)Possibility of Happiness in Diana Evans and Arundhati Roy'

Hannah Tran (UCL), 'New Modes of Living: Radical Sociability in the 1790s'

3.45-4.15pm **Coffee break**

4.15-5.45pm Panel 3: Happiness and Humour

Chair: Fred Parker (University of Cambridge)

Matthew Ward (University of Birmingham), "'Keats with "mickle time to grieve"'

Eliza Haughton-Shaw (University of Cambridge), 'Charles Lamb's Imperfect Solitudes'

Matthew Bevis (University of Oxford), 'Edward Lear's Happiness'

5.45-6.30pm **Break**
Viewing of art exhibition, in conversation with the artists

6.30-7.30pm Adam Phillips, in conversation with Matthew Bevis

7.50pm **Conference dinner at Sala Thong**

Sunday 20th October

9-11am Panel 4: Self-Help and Bibliotherapy

Chair: Hannah Tran (UCL)

Lucy Sixsmith (University of Cambridge), 'Making Scripture fun: what the Bible says about the camel (or, why I'd far rather be happy than right, any day)'

Megan Beech (University of Cambridge), 'Self-Help: The Victorians and Ourselves'

Raul Barcelona (University of Plymouth), 'The Awakening of Cinema: Daily Filmmaking and Well-being'

Claire Going (De Montfort University), 'A new joy in life by reading': The bibliotherapeutic vision of Sir Arthur Pearson'

11-11.30am **Coffee**

11.30-1pm Panel 5: Happiness, Politics and Liberalism

Chair: tbc

Ed Brooker (QMUL), "'St. Lubbock' and the Gospel of Happiness: character, eudaimonia and socio-evolutionary thought in the works of John Lubbock, c.1865-1911'

Peter Halton (University of Sussex), ‘‘What is the object of Revolution? Surely to make people happy’ – Happiness and unhappiness in William Morris’s *News from Nowhere*’

Mary O’Rawe (Ulster University), ‘Exploring a Right to Happiness’

1-2pm **Lunch**

2.00-3.15pm Kirsty Martin (Exeter University), ‘‘The mind reaches out’:
Creating Happiness’

3.15-3.45pm **Coffee**

3.45-5.15pm Panel 6: Gender, Sex, Maternity

Chair: Laura Davies (University of Cambridge)

Mary Kate Azcuy (Monmouth University), ‘Louise Glück’s Happiness’

Gill Moore (University of Cambridge), ‘‘I made a resolution this year that I would be happy’’: Time, choice and chance in Sheila Heti’s *Motherhood*’

Hannah Parker (University of Sheffield), ‘The Problem of Happiness: Gratitude and Gender in Women’s Letters to Soviet Authorities, 1924-1945’

5.15-5.25pm Closing remarks

5.45-6.45pm Poetry in performance (Megan Beech, Imogen Cassels)

7pm **Casual dinner** at The Punter