

OPEN GRAVES, OPEN MINDS & SUPERNATURAL CITIES PRESENT:

THE URBAN WEIRD



*Conference
Schedule*

**6-7 April
2018**

University of
Hertfordshire

www.opengravesopenminds.com

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University of
Hertfordshire **UH**

Open Graves,
Open Minds



Supernatural Cities
Narrated Geographies
and Spectral Histories

Conference Schedule

06 April 2018

09:00 - 09:45	Registration Coffee and pastries	Atrium
09:45 - 10:00	Welcome	Dr Sam George, Dr Karl Bell, Dr Kaja Franck Lecture Hall
10:00 - 11:00	Boggart Workshop	Dr Ceri Houlbrook Lecture Hall N003
11:00 - 12:20	Parallel Session 1	

1	Urban Myths and Fairy Tales	Chair: Ceri Houlbrook Seminar Room M015
14	Fairy Tales of the Neoliberal Gothic City: Michael Cunningham's <i>The Snow Queen</i>	Dr Carina Hart (University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus)
35	Mind the doors! Folk horror on the London Underground	David Powell (University of Birmingham)
36	Hell Finding Cabs Round Here: Taxi Rides through the Urban Weird	Dr William Redwood (Supernatural Cities)

2	Weird Victoriana	Chair: Karl Bell Seminar Room M021
5	The Urban Turn: Gothic Cityscapes before <i>The Mysteries of London</i>	Dr Joseph Crawford (University of Exeter)
23	Beyond the Text: The influence of George MacDonald's Robert Falconer upon the urban spaces of Huntly	Rebecca Langworthy (University of Aberdeen)
24	Big Bug in the Big City: Richard Marsh's Beetle in Late Victorian London	Janette Leaf (Birkbeck, University of London)

3	Ghosts and Spectrality	Chair: Sam George Seminar Room M031
26	The City That Was Not There: Space in British Ghost Stories	Dr Anastasia A. Lipinskaya (St Petersburg University, Russia)
29	The Urban Ghost: Spectres in Early Modern London	Dr Charlotte-Rose Millar (University of Queensland, Australia)
33	'That's a hell of a lot of ghosts': the haunting of <i>Doctor Who</i>	Dr Ivan Phillips (University of Hertfordshire)

12:20 - 13:20	Lunch	Atrium
13:20 - 14:40	Parallel Session 2	

4	China Mieville	Chair: Carina Hart Seminar Room M015
9	The space out of joint: haunted urban spaces in China Mieville's <i>Un Lun Dun</i>	András Fodor (University of Szeged, Hungary)
30	'Up's no longer out of bounds, and down's nothing to fear': Verticality and Locomotion in China Mieville's <i>Urban Fantasy</i>	Sarah Neef (TU Dortmund University, Germany)

5	The Virtual Weird	Chair: Kaja Franck Seminar Room M021
17	"Welcome Home, Good Hunter": The Gothic and Environmental Storytelling in From Software's <i>Bloodborne</i>	Dr Madelon Hoedt (University of South Wales)
20	Ghosts of the Shadow City: adventures in the CGI dreamscapes of urban development	Debbie Kent (Goldsmiths, University of London)
21	"Everything is True" A Weird Tale: Urban Gothic meets Urban Myth in Multiplayer Online Game, <i>The Secret World</i>	Prof. Tanya Krzywinska (Falmouth University)

6	Nineteenth-Century Europe and the Weird	Chair: Andrew Maunder Seminar Room M031
11	Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's 'Spalatro' (1843) and the remapping of the Gothic mode	Marine Galiné (University of Reims Champagne Ardenne, France)
34	The Esoteric Flâneur: Steps Towards a Theory of Initiatic Walking (and Reading)	Dr Hannu Poutiainen (University of Tampere, Finland)

14:40 - 15:00	Tea/Coffee Break with Urban Weird Iced Biscuits	Atrium
	Plenary: <i>Dark City, Daemonic</i>	
15:00 - 16:00	Architectures: Towards a Cartography of the Urban Weird	Dr Karl Bell Lecture Hall N003
16:00 - 16:20	Tea/Coffee Break	Atrium
16:20 - 17:40	Parallel Session 3	

7 Paranormal Romance		Chair: Sam George Seminar Room M015
8	Betwixt and Between: (Sub)Urban Space in Young Adult Supernatural Romance	Meghanne Flynn (University of Cambridge)
10	The Troll in the City: Urban Fey, Environmentalism and Holly Black's <i>Valiant</i>	Dr Kaja Franck (University of Hertfordshire)
18	Tales of two cities: heteroglossia, heterogeneity, and decay in Aliette de Bodard and Kate Griffin's urban fantasies of Paris and London	Dr Bill Hughes (OGOM)

8 Killers of London		Chair: Charlotte Rose Millar Seminar Room M021
2	'Here he is again, in flesh': the haunted city in the Whitechapel series	Dr Barbara Braid (University of Szczecin, Poland)
13	A Scottish Inspector in London: The uncanny city in Ian Rankin's <i>Tooth and Nail</i>	Dr Siân Harris (University of Bristol)
40	Lookout in the Blackout: Spatiality and the serial killers of WWII London	Olivia Steen (University of Hertfordshire)

9 The Politics of Horror		Chair: Justin Sausman Seminar Room M031
6	Rotten Borough: the biological reterritorialization of urban space in horror texts as counter hegemonic resistance	Ralph Dorey (Northumbria University)
28	Tainted Cities: Adam Nevill's Austerity Gothic	Dr Simon Marsden (University of Liverpool)
44	'Fucking yuppies are ruining my whole neighborhood': the psychodynamic environment in Charlie Huston's <i>Already Dead</i> (2005)	Jillian Wingfield (University of Hertfordshire)

18:00 - 20:00	Bar meal and drinks	Club de Havilland
20:00 - 22:00	Film Screening Haxan: Witchcraft Through the Ages	Dr Mikel Koven Lecture Hall N003

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09:30 - 10:00	Tea/Coffee mini pastries	Atrium
10:00 - 11:20	Parallel Session 4	

10 The East and the Weird		Chair: Bill Hughes Seminar Room M015
22	Behind Gilded Walls: The Islamic Gothic in S. A. Chakraborty's <i>The City of Brass</i>	Meriem Lamara (University of Northampton)
37	Death Wears a Dress	Tania de Rozario (Lasalle College Singapore of the Arts)
41	The City-as-Hell: Horror, Dystopia and Orientalism in Anglo-American Literary Constructions of Urban Manila 1852-2011	Dr Tom Sykes (University of Portsmouth)

11 Weird London		Chair: Karl Bell Seminar Room M021
1	Jonathan Stroud's <i>The Golem's Eye</i> : Magical class conflict in an alternative London	Alison Baker (University of East London)
7	'Funeral Theater': The Whimsy and Weird Foundations of Steampunk London	Helena Esser (Birkbeck, University of London)
16	Tracing the Supernatural City in E. F. Benson's London Tales	Dr Ruth Heholt (Falmouth University)

12 The Urban Weird in Fantasy		Chair: Anna Tripp Seminar Room M031
12	Gothic silence and urban Welshness in Mary Ann Constantine's <i>Star-Shot</i>	Dr Jessica George (Cardiff University)
25	Misty Bruges: the resurrected city that became a fantastic character	Pascal Lemaire (Independent Scholar)
43	The spectral city, posthumanism and the blurring of human boundaries in Gustav Meyrink's <i>The Golem</i>	Adam Teall (University of Hertfordshire)

11:20 - 12:20	Plenary: City Demons: urban manifestations of the Pied Piper and Nosferatu Myths	Dr Sam George Lecture Hall N003
12:20 - 13:40	Parallel Session 5	

13 Weird Archaeology		Chair: Jillian Wingfield Seminar Room M015
4	'The Pharaoh-cious feminine': Archaeologists and princesses in the city in Universal's <i>The Mummy</i> (2017)	Daisy Butcher (University of Hertfordshire)
27	Cyclopean ruins and albino penguins – The weird urban archaeology of H.P. Lovecraft's <i>At the Mountains of Madness</i>	Dr Ken Lymer (Wessex Archaeology)
38	Wolvesey, Winchester, and Wolves: Multi-Species Cosmopolitics, the Unearthing of Urban Folklore, and Archaeological Perspectivism	John G. Sabol (Interpretive Performance Excavation Research Center)

14 The Weird Resistance		Chair: Owen Davies Seminar Room M021
15	It's an Animal City: Johannesburg as Gothic Space in Lauren Beukes's <i>Zoo City</i>	Kate Harvey (University of Stirling)
32	'Infernal Machine[s]': Understanding Diabolical Depictions of Incendiarism in Nineteenth-Century Britain	Eilís Phillips (University of Portsmouth)
39	'Whispers of witchcraft and haunting': Haweswater, reservoir noir and the ghosts of Mardale	Dr Justin Sausman (University of Hertfordshire)

13:40 - 14:40	Lunch	Atrium
14:40 - 15:40	Plenary: Supernatural beliefs in nineteenth-century asylums	Prof. Owen Davies Lecture Hall N003
15:40 - 16:25	Travel to St Albans	
16:25 - 18:25	Spectral St Albans Urban Weird Tour	Dr Sam George, Dr Kaja Franck
18:25 - 19:25	Spooky Drinks in St Albans & Closing Remarks	
19:25 - 20:55	Conference Dinner, St Albans	

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The Open Graves, Open Minds Project unearthed depictions of the vampire and the undead in literature, art, and other media, before embracing shapeshifting creatures (most recently, the werewolf) and other supernatural beings and their worlds. OGOM opens up questions concerning genre, gender, hybridity, cultural change, and other realms. The Project now extends to all narratives of the fantastic, the folkloric, the fabulous, and the magical.

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Supernatural Cities is an interdisciplinary network of humanities and social science scholars of urban environments and the supernatural. We aim to encourage the conversation between historians, cultural geographers, folklorists, social psychologists, anthropologists, sociologists, and literary scholars as they explore the representation of urban heterotopias, otherness, haunting, estranging, the uncanny, enchantment, affective geographies, communal memory and the urban fantastical. We will share calls for papers, work on collaborative funding bids and promote relevant research.

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