

University of Hertfordshire Sea Changes: The fairy tale Gothic of mermaids, selkies, and enchanted hybrids of ocean and river



6 September, 2025 to 8 September, 2025

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Presenter					
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2	Shabnam Ahsan (University of Hertfordshire)	Transgression And transformation: Mer-human relationships in the tales of Ruth Manning-Sanders	29 Parallel Session: Panels 22 and 23	22	
3	Andrin Albrecht (Friedrich Schiller University Jena,)	Sirens in the city: On river spirits, politics, and the collapse of spatial limitations in Ben Aaronovitch's Rivers of London series	15 Parallel Session: Panels 9 and 10	10	
4	Dr Antonio Alcalá González (Tecnológico de Monterrey, Santa Fe Mexico City)	Tlaloc and Chac Mool over Mexico City: The haunting of Aztec water deities on Mexico City	7 Parallel Session: Panels 5 and 6	5	
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6	Dr Barbara Barrow (Lund University)	Water, desire, and crisis in the Southern Bayou: Alice Dunbar-Nelson's 'Natalie' as a modern mermaid tale	9 Parallel Session: Panels 7 and 8	8
7	Dr Karl Bell (University of Portsmouth)	Remaking the mermaid: Comparing nineteenth-century depictions at sea and ashore	20 Parallel Session: Panels 15 and 16	15
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9	Dr Tina Burger (Heinrich-Heine University of Düsseldorf)	The constant selkie and the changing sea: Fluid queer identities, interspecies kinship and ambivalent seascapes in Molly Knox Ostertag's The Girl from the Sea	29 Parallel Session: Panels 22 and 23	23
10	Dr Daisy Butcher (University of Hertfordshire)	Tentacular Defiance: An exploration of Hans Christian Andersen's Sea Witch and female sexuality in 'The Little Mermaid' (1837)	19 Parallel Session: Panels 13 and 14	13
11	Dr Anna Casablancas-Cervantes (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)	Habitat-fluid and water-bound: metamorphic characters in Mercè Rodoreda's 'The Salamander' and 'The River and the Boat' (1967)	15 Parallel Session: Panels 9 and 10	10
12	Dr Monika Class (Lund University)	From sea horror to queer grief: Representations of the sperm whale and the colossal squid, 1851–2021	15 Parallel Session: Panels 9 and 10	9
13	Dr Maria-Silvia Cohut (Brunel University London)	The Sirens' silence: Uneasy matriarchy in Lucile Hadžihalilović's Evolution	26 Parallel Session: Panels 19 and 20	19

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14	Dr Joseph Crawford (University of Exeter)	'The girl whose eyes were like the ocean': yuri manga and queer monstrosity in This Monster Wants to Eat Me	27 Session: Panel 21 (2 papers)	21
77	Claire Cunningham (Lancaster University)	Wet brown graves: Irish Gothic bog bodies in Seamus Heaney and Miranda Carr	30 Parallel Session: Panels 24 and 25	25
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17	Dr Ryan Denson (University of Silesia in Katowice)	Wittgenstein's family resemblances and the hybridity of ancient sea monsters	2 Parallel Session: Panels 1 and 2	1
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20	Mariateresa Esposito (University of Iceland)	The Nykur: An Icelandic water spirit in folklore and cultural memory	23 Parallel Session: Panels 17 and 18	17
21	Dr Kathryn Franklin (University of Toronto)	A Mari Usque Ad Mare: Phyllis Brett Young's Undine and the female grotesque in the popular Canadian imaginary	23 Parallel Session: Panels 17 and 18	17
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27	Marci Heatherly (Pittsburg State University, KA)	Femme fatale, occult waters, and siren Silencing in Louise Erdrich's 'Fleur'	19 Parallel Session: Panels 13 and 14	14
28	Dr Lizanne Henderson (University of Glasgow)	Preternatural phocids: seals, selkies and the imagined sea	7 Parallel Session: Panels 5 and 6	6
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35	Alex Judkins (University of Sheffield)	Dis/enchantment and Enlightenment: Fish-men, folklore and fact in eighteenth-century Spain	20 Parallel Session: Panels 15 and 16	16
36	Alexa Keough (University of Hampshire.)	Slipping off the sealskin: Examining the nuances of intimate partner violence in selkie mythology	9 Parallel Session: Panels 7 and 8	7
37	Shahrukh Khan (The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)	Indian ocean studies: Transoceanic memory in postcolonial Gothic sea fiction	29 Parallel Session: Panels 22 and 23	22
38	Jubby Kumar (Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya)	Breaking the shell: How modern mermaid fiction rewrites the Disney Princess	9 Parallel Session: Panels 7 and 8	7
39	Scarlette-Electra LeBlanc (University of Hull)	Changelings in the water: Folktales, folk beliefs and a literary afterlife	20 Parallel Session: Panels 15 and 16	16
40	Beth Lettington (University of Hull)	'Touch with chaste palms moist and cold, / Now the spell hath lost his hold': Sabrina, Nymph of the River Severn in Milton's A Maske Presented at Ludlow Castle (1634)	17 Parallel Session: Panels 11 and 12 (2 papers each)	11
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44	Helena McBurney (King's College, London)	Submersive subversives: Encoded sexual fluidity in Hans Christian Andersen's other mermaid story	23 Parallel Session: Panels 17 and 18	18
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54	Raymond Rugg (Bridgewater State University)	Love, Atlantean style: Portrayals of merfolk sex, love and marriage in adult cartoon series	2 Parallel Session: Panels 1 and 2	2
55	Madelaine Sacco (University of Newcastle, NSW)	Making waves: The fluidity of gender in merfolk mythology	2 Parallel Session: Panels 1 and 2	2
56	Dr Francesca Sawaya (College of William & Mary)	Mermaid ballets in the twentieth century	32 Session: Panel 26	26
79	Dr Elena Emma Sottilotta (University of Cambridge)	Cola Pesce and the Gothic Mediterranean: Hybrid bodies and haunting waters in contemporary reimaginings	17 Parallel Session: Panels 11 and 12 (2 papers each)	12
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60	Dr Maria Szafrańska-Chmielarz (University of Warsaw)	An impossible outsider: Singaporean mermaid in Amanda Lee Koe's Siren	29 Parallel Session: Panels 22 and 23	22

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63	Dr Kwasu Tembo (Lancaster University)	The machine in the monster and the monster in the machine: Towards a teratology of technology through the techno-monstrosity of Nemo's Nautilus	2 Parallel Session: Panels 1 and 2	1
65	Prof. Judith Thompson (Dalhousie University)	Let 'brooks and echoing falls repeat': John Thelwall's Fairy of the Lake	5 Session: Panel 3	4
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67	Sinead Tobin (Lancaster University)	Mysterious fathoms below: Exploring the depths of Disney's Gothic mermaids	19 Parallel Session: Panels 13 and 14	13
68	Georgia Toumara (Independent Scholar)	'[O]h, love, at last!': Dangerous nereids and deadly encounters in George Horton's Aphróessa: A Legend of Argolis, and Other Poems (1897)	23 Parallel Session: Panels 17 and 18	18
69	Amanda Trainham (SUNY)	'Farewel, ye Fair Illusions': The Distorted siren's song in Dryden's King Arthur and Shadwell's Psyche	7 Parallel Session: Panels 5 and 6	5
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