

Border Crossings II

14-15 December 2023

MIDEX: Representations Strand

UCLAN

INNOVATION ROOM EIC317

(Room 317, Engineering & Innovation Centre (EIC), Fylde Rd, Preston PR1 2XS)

Border Crossings II will focus on poets, poetic practices (including translation), and creative approaches to the theme of Border Crossings, broadly understood. We recognise that many thinkers and makers may cross borders between scholarship and art. We hope to offer literary artists the freedom to present their work, and interdisciplinary practitioners the opportunity both to perform and to reflect.

This conference marks the second iteration of the theme of Border Crossings, hosted at UCLAN. December 2022 saw the successful launch of the theme, with our academic conference on 'Representations of Border Crossings in Literature, Media and the Arts'. These events are part of the activities of the UCLAN MIDEX Centre (Research Centre for Migration, Diaspora and Exile). Our speakers included both academics and poets, who read poetry that touched on or illuminated the conference theme.

This event is the next step to build on the success of our academic conference in 2022. This year, the focus shifts from academic to poetic discourse: to poetry, poets, and poetry translators. We believe that poetry can engage with reality more effectively (and with its readers -- more directly) than scholarship can alone. We thus hope to unfold the thematic potential of 'Border Crossings' more profoundly, in and through our poetic gathering.

Day 1

Thursday, December 14

9:00: Arrivals | Welcome Address by **Prof StJohn Crean**, Pro-VC, UCLan | Registration

10:00: Greetings by the Conference Organisers

10:15: Panel 1

1. **Sarah Hymas** is a writer, maker, performer, and facilitator, who focuses on ecologies, moving outwards from the site-specificity of Morecambe Bay. Her individual and collaborative work extends through print, multimedia exhibits, dance videos, lyrics, pyrotechnical installations, stage, and improvised opera. Sarah's work has been recognised with a Hawthornden Fellowship and AHRC funding. Her publications include *melt* (Waterloo Press, 2020), shortlisted for the Ledbury Munthe Second Collection Prize, *the hispering*, which won the Black Sunflowers Poetry Prize in 2020, and artistbooks such as *Lune* (2013), runner-up in the Sabotage Awards.
2. **Kate Davis** is a poet and storyteller. She was born in 1951 on the Furness peninsula of south Cumbria and has always lived there. Her poems have been published in *Iota* and *Butcher's Dog*, implanted in audio-benches, sung throughout a 12-hour tide cycle, embroidered on clothes, remixed by a sound artist and printed on shopping bags. In 2013 she received a Northern Writers' Award, New Poets Bursary.

11:15: Coffee Break

11:30: Panel 2

1. **Shash Trevett** is a Tamil from Sri Lanka who came to the UK to escape the civil war. She is a poet and a translator of Tamil poetry into English. An acclaimed poet, reader, and reviewer, she has published *From a Borrowed Land* (Smith|Doorstop, 2021), and in anthologies and journals including *Poetry*, *Poetry London* and *The North*. Winner of a Northern Writers' Award, Shash has served on judging panels for the PEN Translates awards and the London Book Fair, and is a Board Member of Modern Poetry in Translation. She is co-editor with Vidyan Ravinthiran and Seni Seneviratne of the anthology *Out of Sri Lanka* (Bloodaxe Books, 2023), a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation.
2. **Seni Seneviratne**, a writer of English and Sri Lankan heritage, is published by Peepal Tree Press - *Wild Cinnamon and Winter Skin* (2007), *The Heart of It* (2012), *Unknown Soldier* (2019), *The Go-Away Bird* (2023). *Unknown Soldier* is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, a National Poetry Day Choice and was highly commended in the Forward Poetry Prizes 2020. She is currently touring an Arts Council Funded project based on the book. Her poem 'A Wider View' is included on the AQA GCSE poetry syllabus. She is particularly interested in the relationship between therapeutic healing and creative/expressive arts. Seni Seneviratne is co-editor with Vidyan Ravinthiran and

Shash Trevett of the anthology *Out of Sri Lanka* (Bloodaxe Books, 2023), a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation.

12:30: Lunch Break

13:30: Panel 3

1. **Polly Atkin FRSL** is a poet and nonfiction writer, living in the English Lake District. Her first poetry collection, *Basic Nest Architecture* (Seren, 2017), is followed by 'Much With Body' (Seren, 2021), supported by a 2020 Northern Writers Award. She also has published three pamphlets. Her nonfiction includes the Barbellion-longlisted biography *Recovering Dorothy: The Hidden Life of Dorothy Wordsworth* (Saraband, 2021), the first to focus on Dorothy's later life and illness, and a memoir exploring place, belonging and disability, *Some Of Us Just Fall: On Nature and Not Getting Better* (Sceptre, 2023).
2. **Zoe Skoulding** is an award-winning poet and literary critic interested in translation, sound and ecology. She is Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing at Bangor University. Her latest collection of poems is *A Marginal Sea* (Carcenet Press, 2022). Her previous collections (published by Seren Books) include *Footnotes to Water* (2019), which won the Wales Book of the Year Poetry Award (2020) and was a Poetry Book Society recommendation. She is the recipient of the Cholmondeley Award (Society of Authors), a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and former editor of *Poetry Wales*.

14:30: Coffee Break

14:45: Panel 4

1. **Ghazal Mosadeq** is an award-winning poet, editor, and translator. She is the winner of the Bayhaqi Short Fiction Prize and was shortlisted for the Khorshid Poetry Prize. Widely published in innovative magazines, Ghazal is the author of three poetry collections, *Dar Jame Ma* (2010), *Biographies* (2015), and *Supernatural Remedies for Fatal Seasickness* (2018). She is the founder of Pamemar Press, an independent publisher of poetry, translation, hybrid and critical writing, and a member of the editorial advisory board for the *Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetry*.
2. **Stav Poleg**'s debut poetry collection, *The City* (Carcenet, 2022) was chosen for the Financial Times' Best Summer Books 2022 and was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Poetry Prize for a First Collection, 2023. Her poetry has appeared on both sides of the Atlantic, in the New Yorker, Kenyon Review, Poetry London, Poetry Ireland Review, PN Review and elsewhere. Her interdisciplinary work includes a graphic novel collaboration, and theatre writing.

15:45: Coffee Break

16:00: CONCERT: Yuri Kalnits (violin) and Elena Artamonova (viola)

- Michael Haydn Duo No. 1 in C major for violin and viola
- W.A. Mozart Duo No. 2 KV 424 in B flat major for violin and viola



Yuri Kalnits is a recipient of two prestigious Diapason d'Or awards for his recording of Weinberg's Violin Sonatas. He was described by reviewers as 'an interpreter of the highest order'. Kalnits has participated in festivals throughout the world such as Festival Musicales Internationales Guil-Durance (France), Young Artist Peninsula Music Festival (USA), Festival Cziffra (France), Waterford International Music Festival (Ireland), Irina Kandinskaya and Friends (Russia), Pharos Trust Festival (Cyprus), Festival "Musica da camera" (Germany), Festival International Ciudad de Ubeda (Spain), Beyond the music Festival (Spain), Loch Shiel Spring Festival (Scotland), Ljubljana International Festival and has played at many important venues including The Purcell Room, Kings Place, St. John's Smith Square, Barbican, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Small Hall of Moscow Conservatoire, Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center and Suntory Hall. Tours have taken him to Russia, Ireland, Germany, Israel, France, Switzerland, Spain, Greece, USA, Hong Kong and Cyprus.

Elena Artamonova (PhD), violist and researcher, has presented her research at many international conferences and published worldwide on the history of the viola and of twentieth century music and culture. Elena successfully combines her performing, teaching and scholarly activities. She performed at prestigious concert venues and international festivals as a soloist, chamber musician and viola leader in the UK, Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Russia, the USA and South Korea. Elena's Cd recordings on Toccata Classics received a high critical acclaim, describing her playing as 'excellent with smooth and well-focused tone' (Fanfare) and 'highly admirable' (American Record Guide) and her notes as 'a superb introduction to the composer and the music' (DSCH Journal).

16:45: Coffee Break

17.00: Keynote Lecture | Walking the Riddle of Freedom: what Martin Carter tells us

Anthony Vahni Capildeo FRSL is a Trinidadian Scottish poet and interdisciplinary artist. Writer in Residence and Professor at the University of York, Capildeo is also a member of Lay Dominican Fraternity (Edinburgh) and a Trustee of the Charles Causley Trust. *Measures of Expatriation* (2016) won the Forward Poetry Prizes Best Collection award. Their ninth full collection, *Polkadot Wounds*, is due from Carcanet in 2024.

Gemma Robinson in Conversation with Anthony Vahni Capildeo

Gemma Robinson is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Stirling. She edited Martin Carter's *University of Hunger: Collected Poems & Selected Prose* (Bloodaxe Books, 2006), and co-edited the anthology *Out of Bounds* (Bloodaxe Books / Newcastle University, 2012) with Jackie Kay and James Procter, which led into a UK-wide project of digital poetry maps, recordings, and educational resources. She edited *Over Seas: A Transnational Caribbean*, *The Arts Journal Special Issue*, 2.2 (March 2006), and contributes internationally to mainstream academia and academic outlets.

19.30: Conference dinner in town

Day 2

Friday, December 15

10:00: Panel 1

1. **Mary Jean Chan** is the author of the award-winning poetry collection *Flèche*, published by Faber & Faber (2019), recognized by the Costa Book Award among others. Chan's second collection *Bright Fear* (Faber, 2023), a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, was shortlisted for the 2023 Forward Prize for Best Collection. Chan, who co-edited the acclaimed anthology *100 Queer Poems* (Vintage, 2022) and served a judge for the 2023 Booker Prize, is the 2023-2024 Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellow at the University of Cambridge.
2. **Olga Tabachnikova** is an award-winning poet and poetry translator, with two books of poetry (in Russian): *'One can burn paper with the power of angst...'* (Folio, 2002) and *Circumstances of time* (Helicon-Plus, 2012). She is a Reader in Russian and the founding Director of the Vladimir Vysotsky Centre for Slavonic Studies at the University of Central Lancashire (Preston, England). She has published widely on Russian cultural and literary history, with a special focus on Russian cultural continuity and history of ideas.

11:00: Coffee Break

11:30: Panel 2

1. **Jason Allen-Paisant** is a Jamaican scholar, award-winning poet, and writer, works as a senior lecturer in Critical Theory and Creative Writing at the University of Manchester. His work is deeply concerned with the overlaps between poetry and philosophy, especially how Afro-diasporic artists and communities shape their futures. His début collection, *Thinking with Trees* (Carcanet Press, 2021), won awards including the poetry category of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. His second collection, *Self-Portrait as Othello* (Carcanet Press, 2023) is the winner of the Forward Prize for Best Collection 2023, was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, and is a Poetry Book Society Choice. His non-fiction book, *The Possibility of Tenderness*, will be published by Hutchinson Heinemann in 2025.
2. **Yvonne Reddick** is a writer, researcher, editor, ecopoetry scholar, and climber. Her debut collection *Burning Season*, published by Bloodaxe, won the Laurel Prize for Best UK First Collection of Ecopoetry. Her pamphlet *Translating Mountains* (Seren, 2017) won the *Mslaxia Magazine* Pamphlet Competition. Widely published, her work has been recognized with Northern Writers' Awards for memoir and poetry and a Hawthornden Fellowship. Her books *Ted Hughes: Environmentalist and Ecopoet* and *Anthropocene Poetry* are published by Palgrave Macmillan.

12:30: Lunch Break



13:30: Panel 3

Maria Sledmere is an artist and writer based in Glasgow. She is Lecturer in English and Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde, Managing Editor of SPAM Press and facilitator of community writing workshops with the87press and Beyond Form Creative Writing. Work has been highlighted in places such as BBC Radio 3, Dazed, The Guardian, It's Nice That, Scottish Contemporary Artists Network, The Scotsman and The Poetry Project. Maria was recently included in the Saltire Society's '40 under 40' list celebrating Scottish creatives. Recent books include *An Aura of Plasma Around the Sun* (Hem Press), *Cocoa and Nothing* (SPAM Press) – with Colin Herd and *Visions & Feed* (HVTN Press), which was shortlisted for the ASLE-uki Creative Writing Best Book Prize. Their next poetry collection, *Cinders*, is forthcoming from the Bay Area press KRUPSKAYA Books in 2024.

1. **Rommi Smith** is winner of the Northern Writers' Prize for Poetry. A Cave Canem and Hedgebrook Fellow, she is recipient of numerous prestigious residencies and commissions from institutions ranging from the British Council to the BBC. Rommi is the inaugural British Parliamentary Writer-in-Residence and Poet-in-Residence for Keats' House, Hampstead. In 2022, Rommi was Poet-in-Residence for the Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere. Rommi has a doctorate in English and Theatre. Her academic work is published by Routledge, New York University Press and Roof. She is a broadcaster, appearing on BBC Radio 3 & 4 on programmes including: The Verb, Front Row, Poetry Please and Woman's Hour. Her radio essay on Ralph Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending, is part of the BBC Radio series: *The Essay*. In 2023, *Forever?*, Rommi's new choral work in collaboration with composer and Baritone Roderick Williams, received its world premiere. It was profiled in the Guardian/Observer.

14.30: Coffee Break

15:00: FILM SCREENING ON POETS AND POETRY

16.00: Coffee Break

16:30: Keynote Lecture | *Plural* and *Vuelta*: after Octavio Paz's magazines

Michael Schmidt is Mexican-born and remains a Mexican citizen, also naturalised English. He studied in the United States and England and has taught in several universities in Great Britain. A literary historian, his principal books are *Lives of the Poets*, *Lives of the Ancient Poets*, *The Novel*: a biography, and *Gilgamesh*: the life of a poem. He is a translator, anthologist, poet and quondam novelist. In his lecture he will reflect on the geography and borders in the rapidly changing world of Anglophone writing and publishing since he started Carcanet Press in 1969 and PN Review in 1973.