Colloque international
American Literature and Therapeutic Cultures
Littérature américaine et cultures thérapeutiques

14-16 juin 2023
Maison de la Création et de l’Innovation (MaCI)
Université Grenoble Alpes

Organisation: Nicholas Manning (UGA-IUF)
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Université Grenoble Alpes  Université Grenoble Alpes  institut universitaire de France

S SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ  VALE  US  GAMES  UGA  RESEARCH FOUNDATION CUNY
Wednesday June 14

8:15-8:45 Coffee
8:45 Welcome address

Session 1
Literary Criticism and the Limits of Therapeutic Knowledge

Moderator: Nicholas Manning, Université Grenoble Alpes/Institut universitaire de France
9:00-9:45: Beth Blum, Harvard University
“Unlearning”: The Rise of an Aesthetic-Therapeutic Imperative
9:45-10:30: Adam Frank, University of British Columbia
A Survey of Motives for Criticism
10:30-10:45 – Coffee Break

Session 2
The State of Fiction: From Alienation to Detachment

Moderator: Marie Mianowski, Université Grenoble Alpes
10:45-11:30 David James, University of Birmingham
Therapeutic Generalization
11:30-12:15 Peter Boxall, University of Sussex
I Was the Prosthesis: Philip Roth and Therapeutic Fiction
12:15-13:30 – Lunch Break

Session 3
Therapeutic Feminisms

Moderator: Véronique Molinari, Université Grenoble Alpes
13:30-14:15 Aubrey Jones, Weber State University
Resistance, Transformation and Therapeutics: Representations and Treatments of Mental Illness in American Women’s Writing Across the 20th Century
14:15-15:00 Juliette Bouanani, Université Paris Nanterre
Confessions, Shame and Bravery: the Feminine Lyric and Therapeutic Cultures
15:00-15:15 – Coffee Break

Session 4
Catharsis or Anti-Catharsis?

Moderator: Estelle Rivier Arnaud, Université Grenoble Alpes
15:15-16:00 Julie Vatain, Sorbonne Université
From Catharsis to Resilience? Contemporary Reconfigurations in American Theater
16:00-16:45 Michaëla Cogan, Université de Franche-Comté
Mythopsychosis, or Catharsis Unbound in Jerome Charyn’s Autofictions

Session 5: Roundtable
What Future For Therapeutic Cultures? Rethinking Literature’s Relationship to Psychology and Psy Discourses

17:00-18:15 Moderator: Peter Boxall, University of Sussex
Participants: Timothy Aubry, Baruch College, CUNY
Beth Blum, Harvard University
Adam Frank, University of British Columbia
David James, University of Birmingham
Trysh Travis, University of Florida
Thursday June 15

8:30-9:00 Coffee

Session 6
Representing Psychotherapy and Behavioral Health

Moderator: Catherine Bortolon, Université Grenoble Alpes

9:00-9:45: Trysh Travis, University of Florida
Behavioral Health and the Narrative Arts

9:45-10:30: Yasna Bozhkova, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle
Psychotherapy and its Limits in Ben Lerner’s The Topeka School

10:30-10:45 – Coffee Break

10:45-11:30: Béatrice Pire, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle
The Depiction of Psychotherapy in Jonathan Franzen’s Crossroads: the “Depressed” Wallace Effect

12:00-14:00 – Lunch Break

Session 7
Pathogenic and Postgenomic Cultures: Utopian and Dystopian Worlds

Moderator: Jean-Daniel Collomb, Université Grenoble Alpes

14:00-14:45: Jean-Paul Rocchi, Université Gustave Eiffel
“Save My Mind – and Yours”: Pathogenic Culture and Psychoanalysis in Colson Whitehead’s The Nickel Boys and African-American Literature

14:45-15:30: Martin Halliwell, University of Leicester
Embryonic Entanglements: Postgenomic Life Cultures in the United States

15:30-16:00 – Coffee Break

Session 8
“Physical” or “Mental” Health: Medical Sciences in the Nineteenth Century

Moderator: Mark Niemeyer, Université de Bourgogne

16:00-16:45: Thomas Constantinesco, Sorbonne Université
Blood Sugar: Food, Health, Race, and Literature in the Nineteenth-Century United States

16:45-17:30: Michael Jonik, University of Sussex
“To restore your lost energy”: Medical Science and Vitalism in Herman Melville’s The Confidence-Man

18:00-20:00 – Theatrical Workshop
Julie Vatain, Sorbonne Université
Friday June 16

8:45-9:00 Coffee

Session 9
The Critique of Therapeutic Categories

Moderator: Samuel Lézé, École normale supérieure de Lyon

9:00-9:45: Timothy Aubry, Baruch College, CUNY
Therapy in Public: Lionel Trilling and the Power of Neurosis

9:45-10:30: Nicholas Manning, Université Grenoble Alpes/Institut universitaire de France
Against a Diagnostic Criticism? On the “Pathologizing” of Fictional Characters

10:30-10:45 – Coffee Break

Session 10
Therapeutics of Reception: Reading, Talking, Translating

Moderator: Sébastien Scarpa, Université Grenoble Alpes

10:45-11:30: Isabelle Blondiaux, LIPHA – Paris-Est
Pratiques de la lecture et culture thérapeutique

11:30-12:15: Jean-Christophe Cloutier, University of Pennsylvania
The Therapeutics of Self-Translation: The Case of Jean-Louis “Jack” Kerouac

12:15-14:00 - Lunch Break

Session 11
Modernist Poetics of Therapeutics

Moderator: Vincent Bucher, Université Grenoble Alpes

14:00-14:45: Célia Galey, Université Gustave Eiffel
What’s Happening? Poetry Performance as Social Therapy

14:45-15:30: Samantha Lemeunier, École normale supérieure – Ulm
“Art was Williams’s Therapy”: William Carlos Williams’s Maieutic Process

15:30-15:45 – Coffee Break

Session 12
From Vulnerability to Influence

Moderator: Christine Vandamme, Université Grenoble Alpes

15:45-16:30: Alwena Queillé, Sorbonne Nouvelle
“My Year of Rest and Relaxation”: Vulnerability and Therapeutic Imaginations in the Contemporary Fiction of Ottessa Moshfegh

16:30-17:15: Victoria Robert, Sorbonne Université
Self-Help, New Religions, Cults: Therapeutic Cultures of Influence in Coming-of-Age Novels by Emma Cline, Jeffrey Eugenides, R.O. Kwon and Alison Wisdom