



# International Conference *The Body, Outpost of the Mind: Corporeal Temporalities, Aging, Literature, and the Arts*

14-15 May 2026

## Thursday May, 14<sup>th</sup>

Aula Baratto, Ca' Foscari

9.15-9.30 **Institutional greetings**

9.30-10.30 **1<sup>st</sup> Keynote**

Chair: **Mena Mitrano**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Jean-Michel Rabaté**, University of Pennsylvania  
*The "Age of Modernism": Modernism between obsolescence and juvenescence*

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 **STRAND 1 - Emotional embodiment and temporality**

Chair: **Julien Zanetta**, Ca' Foscari University Venice

**Jade Elizabeth French**, Loughborough University  
*Smiles, Shame, and Staging: Aging and emotional embodiment in Paul Bailey's At the Jerusalem (1969)*

**Leslie De Bont**, Nantes Université  
*"A perfect demon of juvenility": Affective Ageing and the Crisis of Embodied Dependency in May Sinclair's "Superseded"*

**Ioanna Ragoussi**, Université Paris Nanterre  
*Djuna Barnes's Late Poetics: Reclusion, Pain, and the Body*

Lunch break

14.15-15.45 **STRAND 2 - Immunitas and Vulnerability**

Chair: **Lucio De Capitani**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Caroline Pollentier**, Sorbonne Nouvelle University  
*Please Do Not Touch: Still Life, Immunitas, and Haptic Temporalities*

**Mario Martino**, Sapienza University of Rome  
*The 'silly' vestments of the body: the metaphoric dialectic of permanence and impermanence in Auden's "In Memory of Yeats"*

**Andrea Lupi**, University of Pisa  
*"The Artist as an Old Man": Survival, Vulnerability, and Queer Temporalities in Thom Gunn's 1990s Poems*

15.45-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.45 **STRAND 3 - Life writing**

Chair: **Marina Morbiducci**, Sapienza University of Rome

**Carole-Anne Sweeney**, Goldsmiths University of London  
*'A still cruising mind': Ageing and anullment in Christine Brooke-Rose's Life, End Of (2006)*

**Cynthia Port**, Coastal Carolina University

*"A lot of gestures to unlearn": Narrating the Aging Body in Christine Brooke-Rose's Life, End of*

**Xinyi Yee Zhao**, Loughborough University  
*Refusing to Disappear: Ageing and Embodiment in Contemporary Women's Life Writing*

**Yaqian Zu**, University of Warwick  
*Breast Cancer and Middle-aged Femininity in The Cancer Journals and Spence + Lila*

17.45-19.00 **POETRY READING** (Public Engagement)

20.00 Conference Dinner

## Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

Sala B, Ca' Bernardo

9.30-11.00 **Strand 4 - Dramaturgies of the Body**

Chair: **Mario Martino**, Sapienza University of Rome

**Siân Adiseshiah**, Loughborough University  
*'Joining the Queue': Time, Boredom, and Old Age in Caryl Churchill's Here We Go (2015)'*

**Ulrika Maude**, University of Bristol  
*'Samuel Beckett's Corporeal Temporalities: Ageing, Illness and Spectrality*

**Jonathan P. Eburne**, Washington University in St. Louis  
*Physical Training as Detox: Devised Theatre and Embodied Resistance*

**Davide Crosara**, Università Pegaso  
*Hors crâne: the Face, the Skull, and the Gaze in Beckett's Late Style*

11.15-11.45 Coffee Break

11.45-12.45 **2<sup>nd</sup> Keynote**

Chair: **Simone Francescato**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Liz Barry**, University of Warwick  
*Touch Hunger: Ageing, Attunement, and Intercorporeal Body*

Lunch break

15.00-16.45 **Strand 5 - Disciplining the Aging Body**

Chair: **Jade French**, Loughborough University

**Wei Zhou**, University of Leeds  
*Not Ageing like a Fine Wine: Performing and Resisting Social Normality in Jean Rhys's Good Morning, Midnight (1939)*

**Baptiste Canard-Hourçourigaray**, EMMA

laboratory at Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier  
*"A Problem to Be Solved": The Disciplining of Bodies in Will Self's Dorian and Deborah Moggach's These Foolish Things*

**Amalia Cotoi**, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca  
*Enactivism and the Somatic Negotiation of Care: The Aging Body and Illness in Mother-Daughter Relationality in Contemporary Anglophone Literature*

16.45-17.15 Coffee break

17.15-18.30 **Strand 6 - Aesthetic Potential of the Aging Body**

Chair: **Livia Sacchetti**, John Cabot University

**Roya Liu**, Sichuan International Studies University  
*Aging Ornamentalism: Border-Crossing Witnessing of Aging Asiatic Femininity with(in) Luka Yuanyuan Yang's Chinatown Cha-Cha (2024)*

**Yige Bao**, Loughborough University  
*'Impotential' Bodies: Posthuman Artistic Resistance and the Refusal of Function*

**Ilaria Serra**, Florida Atlantic University  
*Florida and the Aesthetics of Wrinkles*

**Elena Gewrgiou**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
*"What is age anyway? Something you don't understand, My Love:" Aging as Transformation in Leonora Carrington's The Hearing Trumpet*

18.30 Reception (Ca' Bernardo, Sala Riunioni, 3rd floor)

Organized by

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