

Call for Papers



incorporating the Seventeenth International Conference
on the Literature of Region and Nation

25–27 October 2018

Jagiellonian University, Kraków

You emerge with your cohorts out of the jungle of middle life, each possessing your own private knowledge of courage or cowardice, and do a quick headcount, an inventory of missing limbs.

Rachel Cusk, *Aftermath: On Marriage and Separation*

What happens in the wake of **the event** – this surprising and unanticipated *arrivant*, as Jacques Derrida would call it; this “unexpected, unforeseeable arrival” of something or someone whose “visitation [...] is such an irruption that [one] is not prepared to receive [it or them]” (Derrida, “A Certain Impossible Possibility of Saying the Event”). Is the event’s **aftermath** always characterised by the experience of disorder, fragmentation and impermanence, by “the gears of life [going] into the reverse” (Cusk, *Aftermath*)? Or, alternatively, can aftermath be seen as a new growth, a second crop of grass that can be sown and reaped (“the second mowing”) and which gives rise to the “dark strings of creativity” (Cusk, *Aftermath*)? Shouldn’t the aftermath of the event also be recognised as the “advent [...] of *future-to-come* [...], of *adventure*, and of [new] *convention*” (Derrida, *Psyche: Inventions of the Other*)?

The goal of our conference, jointly organised by the Institute of English Studies (Jagiellonian University in Kraków), the Institute of Art History (University of Warsaw) and the Region and Nation Literature Association, is to explore the **notion** and **representation** of **aftermath**, understood as **a consequence/result/after-effect of a seminal event** (to an individual, a community, society, regions and nations) **whose nature is not necessarily unfortunate and disastrous but certainly transformative and life-changing**. We are particularly looking forward to receiving proposals addressing the issue of aftermath’s revolutionary and subversive potential in **literary fiction** and **non-fiction, art** and various types of **visual narratives**.

Suggested themes include but are not limited to:

- **after historic/social events** (e.g. after the Great War, the Holocaust, de-colonisation, the Stonewall, the 9/11, the financial and migration crisis, the Brexit);
- **after pleasure and trauma** (e.g. *jouissance*, affect, motherhood, disability, *la petite morte*);
- **after-lives** (e.g. biographies, biopics, grief/death memoirs, illness memoirs);
- **after memory boom** (e.g. the study of history, forms of commemoration, memory sites, micro-histories, oral narratives, new actors of history, history vs. memory studies, heritage);
- **after theory** (e.g. after the contemporary, after postmodernism, after postcolonialism, after postfeminism, after psychoanalysis, after Marxism, new "turns" and "booms");
- **after-images** (e.g. the crises of representation, the pictures generation, appropriation, the *Nachleben* of images, object biographies);
- **after art** (e.g. post-production, the institutionalisation of art and the art world, participatory art, art criticism);
- **after humanism** (e.g. anthropocene and capitalocene, posthumanism, transhumanism);
- **after globalisation** (e.g. local vs. global, periphery vs. centre, nation and nationalism, regionalism, cultural hegemonies, the Global South vs. the Global North);
- **after vs. post.**

Proposals for 20-minute presentations should consist of a brief biographical note (including academic title and institutional affiliation) and a 150-word abstract. They should be sent to aftermath.conference@gmail.com by **31 May 2018**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **15 June 2018**. The conference will be held at the Institute of English Studies, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland on **25–27 October 2018**.

Conference fee: 120 EURO (or 520 PLN)

Following the conference we plan to publish selected papers (between 4,000-6,000 words in length) in book form.

The conference will be held during **The Conrad Festival** (www.conradfestival.pl) – the largest international literary event in Poland and one of the largest in Europe, which offers a great opportunity to meet world-renowned writers.

Organisers:

Institute of English Studies (Jagiellonian University in Kraków), Institute of Art History (University of Warsaw) and Region and Nation Literature Association

Organising Committee:

Dr Robert Kusek, Institute of English Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Dr hab. Beata Piątek, Institute of English Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Dr Wojciech Szymański, Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw

Visit the conference website at www.aftermathconference.wordpress.com