



Reading Bodies: Narrating Illness in Spanish and European Literatures and Cultures (1870s to 1960s and Beyond)

A One-Day Workshop

23 May 2024

Digital Humanities Seminar Room B.01, Queen's Building, University of Exeter

The interconnections between literature and medicine have been the focus of increasing scholarly interest. Building on recent studies in this field of Modern Languages (Fernández-Medina, 2018; Murphy, 2017; Wong, 2024) and transnational Medical Humanities (Craig and Linge, 2017; Elsner and Wilson, 2022; Novillo-Corvalán, 2015), the workshop will analyse cultural narratives of illness in Europe in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. Drawing together specialists across language disciplines (foregrounding Hispanic Studies alongside French, German, Italian and Portuguese), the project traces the development of narratives of ill-health from the 1870s to the 1960s and beyond, with particular attention to gendered representations of psychological and physical conditions. The project explores the importance of language and cultural representation for the dissemination and legitimisation of ideas about health and illness, and encourages discussion about the afterlives and ongoing echoes of cultural narratives about the body up to the present day. Seeking to develop interdisciplinary perspectives, this is the second of two research workshops on the project theme.

This project is generously funded by an AHRC Research, Development & Engagement Fellowship [AH/X01133X/1]: [Reading Bodies \(exeter.ac.uk\)](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/reading-bodies)

For enquiries about the workshop, please contact the organisers, Katharine Murphy (k.a.murphy@exeter.ac.uk) and Olivia Glaze (o.f.glaze@exeter.ac.uk)

All welcome. Please register [here](#).

Programme

10.00 Arrival

10.00 – 10.15 Welcome by Prof. Katharine Murphy (Principal Investigator for 'Reading Bodies'), Dr Olivia Glaze (AHRC Postdoctoral Research Associate) and Prof. Hugh Roberts (Director of Research and Impact, Languages, Cultures and Visual Studies)

10.15 – 11.15 **Panel 1: Reading Bodies in 19th-century Novels** (Chair: Olivia Glaze)

Gareth Wood (University College London) – Post-Partum Psychosis in Emilia Pardo Bazán's *Los pazos de Ulloa* (1886)

Rhian Davies (University of Sheffield) - Hopeful or Hopeless? Diagnosing Spain's Illnesses in Galdós's *Torquemada* novels (1889-1895)

11.15-11.30 Tea / coffee break

11.30 – 12.30 **Keynote:** Nicolás Fernández-Medina (Professor of Spanish and Iberian Studies, Boston University) - Health, Disease, and Society in the Early Ramón Gómez de la Serna (Chair: Katharine Murphy)

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch in Queen's Senior Common Room

13.30 – 14.30 **Panel 2: Gender, Ill-Health and Society** (Chair: Laura Salisbury)

Ina Linge (University of Exeter) - Gender, Illness and Vitality in Interwar German-language Literature

Olivia Glaze (University of Exeter) – Searching for Solidarity: Female Relationships and Illness in Lidia Jorge's *A Costa dos Murmúrios* (1988)

14.30-15.15 **Literatures and Cultures of Health** (Chair: Katharine Murphy)

Liv Hooper, Exeter UNESCO City of Literature's Bibliotherapy Programme

15.15 – 15.30 Tea / coffee break

15.30 – 16.45 **Round Table on Reading Bodies in Literatures and Cultures** (Chair: Hugh Roberts, University of Exeter)

Katharine Murphy (Hispanic Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Exeter);
Steven Wilson (French Studies, Queen's University Belfast);
Patricia Novillo-Corvalán (Comparative Literature and Latin American Studies, University of Kent);
Laura Salisbury (English and Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health, University of Exeter).

17.00 – 18.00 Refreshments



[Reading Bodies \(exeter.ac.uk\)](http://exeter.ac.uk)