



CALL FOR PAPERS:

Literary Topographies: Mapping Welsh Writing in English

The Twenty-fifth annual conference of the Association for Welsh Writing in English, 22-24 March 2013, Gregynog Hall, Newtown

Welsh writing in English has a long tradition of writing 'place'. The recent spatial turn in literary criticism has led to a productive exchange of ideas with new geography, cultural history and digital technologies. The complex ways in which literature engages with place have begun to challenge and expand methodologies in other fields at the same time as they have presented literary scholars with dynamic new avenues of critical enquiry. Innovative approaches exploring the intersections between literary texts and cartographic representations of place are being enabled by digital Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Alongside such scholarly developments, there has been a clearly identifiable resurgence in new writing from Wales that addresses the topographical, geo-political, personal and historical dimensions of our ongoing relationship with place and space.

This conference will explore the multiple dimensions of literary engagements with space, place, topography and cartography. There will be a prominent creative-critical strand and we encourage proposals from creative practitioners willing to reflect on their own work and/or that of other authors.

The conference will also host a poster session for researchers to present works in progress, funded projects, digital projects, PhD projects, Research Centres, or other research on Welsh writing in English. (Please note that posters need not necessarily follow the conference theme.)

Proposals for 20-minute papers (critical or creative-critical), panels, or posters should be sent to Kirsti Bohata (K.Bohata@swansea.ac.uk) and Matthew Jarvis (m.jarvis@tsd.ac.uk) by Wednesday 9th January 2013. Proposals should be no more than 300 words long and should include a short biographical note.

We welcome a broad range of critical/creative-critical approaches, including papers on writers' engagements with 'place'. Other topics might include:

Theories of place and space
Literary perspectives on the 'spatial turn'
Literary tourism
Site-specific work
Ecocritical readings
Nostalgia and place
Cartographic fictions
Digital mapping

Contact zones
Psychogeography
Deep mapping practices
Environmental/sustainable literary practice
Gender and place
Ruins
Writers in residence
Mapping fantasy