

Underscapes

The 35th AWE Conference: 9 – 11 May 2025

Friday

2:30pm – 4:00pm	AWWE AGM – open to all AWE members
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Check-In and Tea
5:30pm – 6:45pm	<p>Curious Travellers Roundtable – Underscapes in Place, Politics and Print</p> <p>Mary-Ann Constantine (UWTSD), Julie Brominicks, Emily Trahair and Liz Edwards (UWTSD) explore grassroots, dormancy, layered landscapes and multivoiced texts.</p>
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Dinner
8:00pm – 9:00pm	<p>Opening Keynote</p> <p>Philip Gross (University of South Wales) – A Voice in the Forest</p> <p>In this reading from <i>The Shores of Vaikus</i>, Philip Gross follows an unsettling voice he brought back from Estonia, into the silence out of which it speaks.</p>

Saturday

8:00am – 9:00am	Breakfast	
9:30am – 11:00am	<p>Writing from Below</p> <p>Aaron Eastley (Brigham Young University) – Norris as a ‘Merthyr Man’ writing from below</p> <p>Amy Le Grys (Swansea University) – ‘Toil beneath the massy earth’: mountain landscapes in the poetry of Idris Davies</p> <p>Alex Ioannou (Bangor University) – Reframing Eryri: disturbing the sedimentation of a dominant discursive linear landscape historiography</p>	<p>Encrypted Landscapes, Submerged Selves</p> <p>Andy Webb (Bangor University) – Dams and displacement in Emylyn Williams, <i>The Last Days of Dolwyn</i> (1949)</p> <p>Tomos Owen (Cardiff University) – End-to-end Encryption in a Rural Text</p> <p>Megan Jones (Swansea University) – Hiding the Self: the melancholic reality of partial assimilation in Emyr Humphreys’s <i>Jones</i></p>

11:00am – 11:30am	Coffee / Bookshop	
11:30am – 12:30pm	<p>Oblique Confessions and the Welsh Absurd</p> <p>M. Wynn Thomas (Swansea University) – R.S. Thomas and the tragic vision</p> <p>Tony Brown (Bangor University) – Absurdity on the Terraces: The Short Fiction of Gwyn Thomas</p>	<p>Deep Pasts</p> <p>Cheryl Morgan – Strange Women Lying in Ponds</p> <p>Matilde Tomat (Bangor University) – Paleophenomenology and the Hidden Self: Uncovering the Underscape of Human Consciousness</p>
12:30pm – 2:00pm	Lunch (1:00pm) and free time	
2:15pm – 3:15pm	<p>Keynote Lecture</p> <p>Aidan Byrne (University of Wolverhampton) – title TBC</p>	
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Free Time / Tea (from 4:00pm) / Bookshop	
4:30pm – 6:00pm	<p>Itinerant Underscapes</p> <p>Rhys Kaminski-Jones (UWTSD) – Wales Beneath India’s Surface: Thomas Pennant’s View of Hindoostan</p> <p>Rita Singer – Excavating Bryntirion: Autobiographical elements in the writing of Thomas Richards (1800-77)</p> <p>Geraint Evans (Swansea University) – W.H. Davies and the Depiction of Itinerant Poverty</p>	<p>Environmental Underscapes</p> <p>Kristian Evans (Modron) – title TBC</p> <p>Zoë Brigley (The Ohio State University / Modron) – title TBC</p> <p>Taz Rahman – title TBC</p>
6:10pm – 6:55pm	<p>Book launch and drinks reception</p> <p>Honno Classic: Louisa Matilda Spooner’s <i>Country Landlords</i> (1860), edited and introduced by Rita Singer</p>	
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Dinner	
8:00pm – 9:00pm	<p>Creative Keynote</p> <p>Durre Shahwar – Representing a Welsh-Pakistani Identity Through Autofiction</p>	

Sunday

8:00am – 9:00am	Breakfast	
	<p>Your room key must be placed in the basket in the dining room by 9am. Gregynog reserves the right to charge attendees a fee for late key return</p>	
9:15am – 10:45am	<p>Gothic Underscapes</p> <p>Paul Vigor – Delving the Underscape</p> <p>Gray Brechin (UC Berkeley) – Distancing Underscapes and Overscapes: The Occult Role of Mining in Building Cities and Country Estates</p> <p>Kirsti Bohata (Swansea University) – Tomb to womb: resistance and rebirth in Welsh Gothic</p>	<p>Languages and Connections</p> <p>Robert Minhinnick – Relations between languages</p> <p>Colin Thomas – Hidden Insanity [online]</p> <p>Neil Gower – Love Letters to Elsewhere</p>
10:45am – 11.15am	Coffee	
11:15am – 12.45pm	<p>The Troubled Face of Culture</p> <p>Sally Robert-Jones – For Wales, see England?</p> <p>Linden Peach (School of Traditional Arts / UWTSO) – Aberystwyth 1914. A microstudy</p> <p>Daniel Williams (Swansea University) – Who killed Raymond Williams? The parricidal underscapes of cultural theory</p>	
12.45pm	<p>Field Notes from Skomer – Neal Alexander (Aberystwyth University) and Jamie Harris (Aberystwyth University)</p> <p>Closing Remarks – Mary-Ann Constantine and Liz Edwards</p>	
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch and Departures	