

## Angela Carter for the twenty first century: fireworks and strange worlds

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<b>Start date</b>	22 June 2018	<b>End date</b>	24 June 2018
<b>Venue</b>	Maddingley Hall Maddingley Cambridge		
<b>Tutor</b>	Gina Wisker  Marie Mulvey Roberts	<b>Course code</b>	1718NRX062

**Guest Lecturer** Dr Paulina Palmer

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings  
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**For further information on this course, please contact** [clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Gina Wisker is Professor of Contemporary Literature & Higher Education at the University of Brighton, and has taught at Anglia Ruskin Cambridge where she helped found, and led the MA in women's studies, and also taught for the Open University for 20 years and on short courses for the ICE since 1980. Gina's principal research interests are in contemporary women's Gothic and postcolonial writing and she has published: *Contemporary Women's Gothic Fiction* (2016); *Margaret Atwood, an Introduction to Critical Views of Her Fiction* (2012); *Key Concepts in Postcolonial Writing* (2007), *Horror* (2005). Other interests are postgraduate study, supervision and writing - *Getting Published* (2015). Gina edits online dark fantasy journal *Dissections* poetry magazine *Spokes* and was chair of the Contemporary Women's Writing Association.

Marie Mulvey-Roberts is an Associate Professor in English Literature at the University of the West of England, Bristol and editor-in-chief and co-founder of the journal *Women's Writing*. Her most recent monograph is *Dangerous Bodies: Historicising the Gothic Corporeal* (2016). She was the co-curator of *Strange Worlds: The Vision of Angela Carter*, the first exhibition on Carter, held at the Royal West of England Academy in Bristol (9 Dec-19 March 2017) and co-edited the accompanying

book/catalogue for Redcliffe Press with Fiona Robinson. She is editing *The Arts of Angela Carter: A Cabinet of Curiosities* for Manchester University Press and co-editing with Charlotte Crofts, *Pyrotechnics: The Incandescent Imagination of Angela Carter*, with whom she organised the conference, *Fireworks: The Visual Imagination of Angela Carter* in Bristol, 2017.

Paulina Palmer studied for the Ph.D. at Cambridge University, affiliated to Girton College and while linked to Girton held the Bryce Tebb Studentship and Otilie Hancock Bye Fellowship. Paulina subsequently taught for some years as senior lecturer in English literature at Warwick University, where she helped to establish the MA in Women's Studies. After retiring from Warwick she taught for the MA in Gender and Sexuality at Birkbeck College, London University. Paulina lives in Cambridge and is a trustee of Encompass, the local organization that seeks to promote an improved quality of life for local LGBT people. Publications include *Contemporary Women's Writing: Narrative Practice and Feminist Theory*; *Lesbian Gothic: Transgressive Fictions*; *The Queer Uncanny: New Perspectives on the Gothic* and *Queering Contemporary Gothic Narrative 1970-2012*.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Session 1 Revisiting Angela Carter –considering the excitement and challenge of her work, and the lasting and most recent responses to it, in context. Revisiting ‘The Bloody Chamber’ and an introduction to the art work. Gina Wisker and Marie Mulvey Roberts.
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2 Early stories : “The Lady of the House of Love”, “The Bloody Chamber’ and “The Erl King”
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3 Winged women and the Gothic: <i>Nights at the Circus</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4 Dolls, Marionettes and the Carnavalesque: Angela Carter's <i>The Magic Toyshop</i> , <i>The Infernal Desires of Dr Hoffman</i> and ‘The Loves of Lady Purple’
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5 Angela Carter on film: extracts from ‘The Company of Wolves’ dir Neil Jordan, and in art- the Strange Worlds exhibition
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6 The future foreseen, science fiction and feminism : <i>The Passion of New Eve</i>

10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7 Ageing indelicately : Angela Carter's bawdy, Shakesperean <i>Wise Children</i> comedy, tragedy and revival.
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

In this course focusing on a revival of the work of Angela Carter we will engage together in research and reading informed dialogue to:

1. re-explore , celebrate and develop new insights into the work of the influential writer Angela Carter for the C21st using a range of critical approaches including feminist criticism, cultural critique, queer scholarship and our close reading of her texts and critical work.
2. use new scholarship, new biographical information, and established passions for her work to consider her rewriting of fairytale ; energising the Gothic ; her expression influenced by surrealism and the influence of her work on art.
3. Explore, evaluate and reflect critically on her contributions to twenty and twenty first century writing, popular culture, film, scifi and feminism.

### Content:

This course offers the opportunity for us to re-explore and celebrate the work of the influential writer Angela Carter. We will use new scholarship, new biographical information, and established passions for her work to consider her rewriting of fairytale (*The Bloody Chamber*); energising the Gothic (*The Magic Toyshop, Nights at the Circus*); surrealism and art (*The Holy Family Album* and the exhibition *Strange Worlds*); her contributions to twenty and twenty first century writing, popular culture, film (*The Company of Wolves*), scifi and feminism (*The Passion of New Eve, Wise Children*).

We build on the ground breaking Jan 2017 conference *Fireworks* ([www.getangelacarter.com](http://www.getangelacarter.com)) and recent critical and biographical work (Edmund Gordon, 2017; Marie Mulvey Roberts ,Charlotte Crofts et al 2018).This offers the chance for us together to ignite and reignite new fascinations with her work and its influence.

### Presentation of the course:

Short introductory lectures followed by interactive group discussions. One guest lecture.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- re-explore, celebrate and develop new insights into the work of the influential writer Angela Carter for the C21st.
- effectively use a range of critical approaches including feminist criticism, cultural critique, queer scholarship and our close reading of her texts and critical work.

- engage with and deploy new scholarship, new biographical information, and established passions for her work in considering her rewriting of fairytale ; energising the Gothic ; her expression influenced by surrealism and the influence of her work on art.
- Offer critically informed reading and comments on her work influenced by reflection, critical reading and discussion.
- explore, evaluate and reflect critically on her contributions to twenty and twenty first century writing, popular culture, film, scifi and feminism.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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Author	Title	Publisher and date
Edmund Gordon	<i>The Invention of Angela Carter</i>	Chatto and Windus 2016
Marie Mulvey Roberts (ed)	<i>The Arts of Angela Carter: A Cabinet of Curiosities</i>	Manchester University Press 2018,
Gina Wisker	<i>Contemporary Women's Gothic Fiction</i>	Palgrave Macmillan 2016
Paulina Palmer	<i>Queering Contemporary Gothic Narrative 1970-2012.</i>	Palgrave Macmillan 2016

### Texts which we will be discussing include:

By Angela Carter:

*The Bloody Chamber,*  
*The Magic Toyshop,*  
*Nights at the Circus,*  
*The Company of Wolves,*  
*The Passion of New Eve,*  
*Wise Children.*

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 25 July 2017