

The newsletter of the *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*

# PARLance

Spring 2016 edition

<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>

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**PALA 2016: Poetics and Linguistics Association Annual Conference**

*In/Authentic Styles:  
Language, Discourse and  
Contexts*

27th to 30th July 2016  
at the **University of Cagliari,  
Sardinia, Italy**

**Plenary speakers include:**

**Prof. Alwin Fill**  
(University of Graz)

**Prof. Luisanna Fodde**  
(University of Cagliari)

**Prof. Peter Grundy**  
(Durham University)

**Prof. Giovanni Iamartino**  
(University of Milan)

**Prof. Sara Mills**  
(Sheffield Hallam University)

**Prof. Elena Semino**  
(Lancaster University)

## Parlance contributions

If you want to make a contribution to the next issue of *Parlance*, please email the newsletter editor

**Matt Davies**  
(University of Chester, UK)

at:

[matt.davies@chester.ac.uk](mailto:matt.davies@chester.ac.uk)

# Retiring Chair's Report

**PAUL SIMPSON reflects on his three years as PALA chair and looks forward to convivial hurly-burly!**



## Dear PALA members

Gosh – has it been three years already? It seems like only yesterday that I was sending out my first email message to the PALA community, yet that was back in January of 2013.

The intervening years, as with everything that is enjoyable and rewarding, seem to have flown by and have been distinguished by outstanding PALA conferences in Heidelberg, in Maribor and, last year, in Kent. I'd like then to thank the hosts and helpers of all of those conferences for their hospitality and support – it is true that the PALA Chair gets some pampering at such events, although the prospect of a post-Chair return to the convivial hurly burly that marks our annual conference is appealing also!

I'd like also to thank all of the members of the PALA committee, past and present, because, as they say, none of this would have been possible without their unstinting support. Following Michael Burke's earlier lead, we have now established a regular 'pre-conference' committee meeting where a great deal of the core business gets done, but this means significant time and travel for the committee at a busy time in the academic year. For this, and for so much other generous giving up of their time, I'd like to record my gratitude to the PALA committee.

I began with some musings on the passage of time. At the risk of inviting some close analysis from our metaphor specialists, it was thirty five years ago that I attended my first PALA conference, held at the University of East Anglia. The conference was populated by a (small) assortment of linguists, critics and creative writers – a sufficiently representative collection nonetheless to enable productive thinking about literary-linguistic concerns. Among that group was an outstanding stylistician and thoroughly decent chap, and I am delighted that Michael Toolan (for it was he) has now been elected as new Chair of PALA. I know the association will be in safe hands under Michael's stewardship and that we will continue to grow and flourish. So it's over to you, Michael, with all the very best. *Tempus fugit* and all that.

**Paul Simpson, retiring PALA Chair, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland**

## **PALA 2016 PRE-CONFERENCE SUMMER SCHOOL (25–27 July 2016)**

**We are pleased to announce that this year's pre-conference summer school will be taught by retiring PALA chair, PROFESSOR PAUL SIMPSON**

**(Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland).**

**To register for the Summer School, please visit the Conference registration page from March 2016 onwards.**

**Visit the PALA home page at  
<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>**

# Incoming Chair's Report

**MICHAEL TOOLAN welcomes PALA members and looks forward to the next three years as PALA Chair**

## Dear Colleagues

I was tremendously pleased and honoured to be elected Chair of PALA, and I look forward to helping the association thrive in the next three years, ably assisted by a wonderful committee and your good selves.

Matt Davies has asked me to introduce myself but has inexplicably restricted me to 500 words. Well, in a nutshell, I've been a follower of stylistics since the mid-1970s (God I'm old!), and still find it inspiring, innovative, and rewarding, as—IMHO—the most insightful way of analysing and talking about what lies at the heart of literature (or creative language generally), viz. language. The great thing about literature and about language studies is that they are worth the effort: people care hugely about them, and it is right that we do too. So I look forward to the fresh crop of articles in *Language and Literature* and elsewhere, the exciting new monographs and articles from PALAns and, especially, the symposia and workshops PALA will support in this or future years. Above all, I look forward to our annual conference, and seeing you all there. I hope you have polished and submitted your Abstracts, authentic or otherwise, for our meeting in late July in glorious Sardinia. If not, hurry while deadlines last! And please consider (for yourselves or for your students) coming to the pre-conference summer school, taught by our inimitable outgoing chair, Professor Paul Simpson.

**With very best wishes**

**Michael Toolan, PALA Chair, University of Birmingham, UK**



*Looking forward to PALA 2016: Cagliari at night*

**Visit the PALA 2016 conference home page at:**

<http://convegni.unica.it/pala2016/>

# PALA 2016

Poetics And Linguistics Association Annual Conference

University of Cagliari, Sardinia

27-30 July 2016

*In/Authentic Styles: Language, Discourse and Contexts*

by **DANIELA VIRDIS & ELISABETTA ZURRU**

**T**HE 2016 PALA Conference will be held at the University of Cagliari, Italy, from 27th to 30th July 2016.

The general theme of the Conference is *In/Authentic Styles: Language, Discourse and Contexts*.

We are particularly interested in abstracts that address the relationship between authenticity and style in literary and non-literary texts and text-types. We are also interested in any abstracts that explore broader areas of stylistics and, in particular, its relationships to other disciplines such as pragmatics, semantics, narratology, literary studies, cultural studies, language teaching, translation and others (<http://convegna.unica.it/pala2016/call-for-papers/>).

After the successful workshops at PALA Canterbury in 2015, follow-up panels on Crime Writing, Pragmatics and Literature and Reader Response Research in Stylistics will be organised at PALA Cagliari. The Call for Papers and detailed information about the three Special Interest Group workshops can be found at:

<http://convegna.unica.it/pala2016/special-interest-groups/>.

We are also delighted to announce that a pre-Conference

Summer School will be held from 25th to 27th July 2016 (just before the Conference starts) and will be taught by Prof. Paul Simpson (<http://convegna.unica.it/pala2016/summer-school/>).

The social programme will include a welcome reception on

the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> July at the University of Cagliari's Botanical Gardens, the Conference dinner on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> July at a traditional Sardinian restaurant, and a one-day post-Conference excursion on 31<sup>st</sup> July to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Su Nuraxi at Barumini

(<http://www.fondazionebarumini.it/en/>)

where we will visit the most extraordinary example of the ancient Sardinian defensive structures known as 'nuraghi' – which find no parallel anywhere else in the world.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [pala2016@unica.it](mailto:pala2016@unica.it), and don't forget to visit the Conference website for updates and information: <http://convegna.unica.it/pala2016/>.

The Conference Committee, the Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics of the University of Cagliari, Daniela and Elisabetta look forward to welcoming you all to Cagliari in July 2016!



*PALA 2016 conference organisers,  
Daniela and Elisabetta*

## Important conference dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts: <b>31st January 2016</b>	PALA Conference: <b>27th to the evening of 30th July 2016</b>
Notification of acceptance: <b>28th February 2016</b>	Conference dinner: <b>30th July 2016</b>
Pre-Conference Summer School: <b>25th-27th July 2016</b>	Conference excursion: <b>31st July 2016</b>

PALA 2016 – Poetics And Linguistics  
Association Annual Conference  
Cagliari, 27th-30th July 2016



Università di Cagliari

Testo da cercare



# PALA 2016

Poetics And Linguistics Association Annual Conference

## Conference accommodation and travel

In terms of accommodation, many hotels and inexpensive B&Bs can be booked in the city centre, within walking distance of the Conference venue.

Visit the conference accommodation page for detailed information on recommended B&Bs and hotels:

<http://convegni.unica.it/pala2016/accommodation/>

In terms of travel, several direct flights, including low-cost flights, to and from the Sardinian airports of Cagliari, Alghero and Olbia connect the island to mainland Italy and international airports; ferries from such harbours as Genoa, Civitavecchia, Naples, Palermo and Trapani travel to the Sardinian harbours of Cagliari, Alghero, Olbia and Arbatax.

For more travel information, please visit the Conference website:

<http://convegni.unica.it/pala2016/getting-to-cagliari/>

Cagliari's official tourism website:

<http://www.cagliariturismo.it/en>

Sardinia's official tourism website :

<http://www.sardegnaturismo.it/en>

## Conference Theme:

*In/Authentic Styles: Language, Discourse and Contexts*

In general terms, an entity can be defined as authentic when it is considered to be real, actual, genuine, original, first-hand, or, in literary and artistic terms, unquestionably proceeding from its stated source, author, painter, etc. Given this definition, the discourse of authenticity makes frequent use of the term 'representation': a description or reproduction of facts or situations aiming at realism and, most often, an artistic, cultural or artificial construction intended to convey a particular view and to influence the addressees' opinions or actions.

Authenticity — and its antonym 'inauthenticity' — can therefore have various meanings: the clearly recognisable style of an author conveying their identity; the stylistic features and devices characterising a text-type or period; an (apparently) essential, unrefined, unsophisticated style resulting in a text communicating clear, transparent and comprehensible messages and representing entities in an (apparently again) unbiased way; an addresser textually constructing solidarity, cooperation and friendliness towards their addressees by means of, for instance, informal everyday language or socio-pragmatic strategies; the theme of getting back to one's cultural roots and representing one's ethnic, social and even artistic identity; linguistic, discursive and artistic representation as an act of persuading, manipulating and expressing ideology.



## Conference Committee and contacts

Daniela Francesca Viridis (University of Cagliari)  
Elisabetta Zurru (University of Genoa)  
Luisanna Fodde (University of Cagliari)  
Olga Denti (University of Cagliari)  
Michela Giordano (University of Cagliari)

Back office: Francesca Perria & Valentina Zonca

**For all questions and queries, please contact us at [pala2016@unica.it](mailto:pala2016@unica.it)**

PALA 2016 – Poetics And Linguistics Association Annual Conference  
Cagliari, 27th-30th July 2016



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# PALA 2016

Poetics And Linguistics Association Annual Conference

## PALA 2016 Plenary speakers

**Prof. Alwin Fill – University of Graz**

<https://sites.google.com/site/alwinfill/>

**Prof. Luisanna Fodde – University of Cagliari**

<http://people.unica.it/luisannafodde/>

**Prof. Peter Grundy – Durham University**

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/englishlanguage.centre/staff/?id=10497>

**Prof. Giovanni Iamartino – University of Milan**

<http://unimi.academia.edu/GiovanniIamartino>

**Prof. Sara Mills – Sheffield Hallam University**

<http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/hrc/sp-sara-mills.html>

**Prof. Elena Semino – Lancaster University**

<http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/profiles/Elena-Semino>

## The venue: University of Cagliari, Italy

The Conference venue is conveniently located in Cagliari's city centre. It is five-minutes' walk from Piazza Yenne, one of the city's main squares, and 15-minutes' walk from Piazza Matteotti, with the main railway and bus stations to all Sardinian destinations.

Most areas of the venue are wireless-enabled. You can easily get online by connecting to EduRoam:

<https://www.eduroam.org/>

Address: **University of Cagliari, Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities, Via San Giorgio 12**

## PALA 2016 Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

### CRIME WRITING SIG

Organisers:

**Ilse Ras** (University of Leeds)  
[eniar@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:eniar@leeds.ac.uk)

**Ulrike Tabbert** (University of Huddersfield)  
[ulritab@googlemail.com](mailto:ulritab@googlemail.com)

[For Call for Papers, click here](#)

### PRAGMATICS AND LITERATURE SIG

Organisers:

**Billy Clark** (Middlesex University)  
[b.clark@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:b.clark@mdx.ac.uk)

**Siobhan Chapman** ([src@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:src@liverpool.ac.uk))  
[ulritab@googlemail.com](mailto:ulritab@googlemail.com)

[For Call for Papers, click here](#)

### READER RESPONSE RESEARCH IN STYLISTICS SIG

Organisers:

**Patricia Canning**  
(University College Roosevelt)  
[p.canning@ucr.nl](mailto:p.canning@ucr.nl)

**Sara Whiteley** (University of Sheffield)  
[sara.whiteley@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:sara.whiteley@sheffield.ac.uk)

[For updates, click here](#)

PALA 2016 – Poetics And Linguistics Association Annual Conference

Cagliari, 27th-30th July 2016



Università di Cagliari

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## **SIgnificant support for reader response**

**SARA WHITELEY reports on the successful Reader Response Research panels at Canterbury**

**T**HE 2015 PALA conference saw the first meeting of the Reader Response Research in Stylistics special interest group (SIG).

The group, organised by Patricia Canning and Sara Whiteley, aims to bring together researchers who collect and analyse extra-textual data about reader responses or the act of reading as part of their analyses of linguistic style. Extra-textual data may be generated by methods including experiments, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, and the study of reading groups, seminars or online interaction. The use of these kind of data in stylistic textual analysis is on the increase and the SIG aims primarily to promote and facilitate interaction amongst PALAns who are employing or considering these methods in their work.

The SIG meetings comprised a series of panels (throughout Friday and Saturday morning) and a roundtable discussion (on the Friday). The panels were overwhelmingly popular - testing the capacity of the conference rooms - and represented the diversity and quality of current reader response research in stylistics. Here is a whistle stop tour of the spectacular research we enjoyed:



Sara Whiteley

person pronoun in digital fiction; Martine van Driel employed semi-structured interviews to compare audience attitudes and responses to live news blogs and narrative news articles; Jessica Norledge studied focus groups and on-text marginalia in order to explore the experience of reading dystopian fiction; Louise Nuttall discussed diverse reader responses to *We Need to Talk About Kevin* and their implications for cognitive stylistic analysis of the novel; David Peplow and Sara Whiteley combined stylistic and sociolinguistic perspectives to discuss the use of reading group discussion as a form of extra-textual data; Patricia Canning discussed the impact of style and the concomitant beneficial outcomes of real-time reading groups in women's prisons; Davide Castiglione offered insights into his stylistic and empirical model for the study of poetic difficulty; Yaxiao Cui investigated how readers respond to shifts in point of view in Woolf's novels; Andrea Olinger discussed her research into perceptions of academic style in psychology dissertation writing; Katalin Balint investigated the subjective experience of stylistic deviation using interviews; Anezka Kuzmicova examined correlations between foregrounding, reading strategy and theory of mind; and Richard Finn used reading group data to direct and support multimodal analyses of comics which depict mental illness.

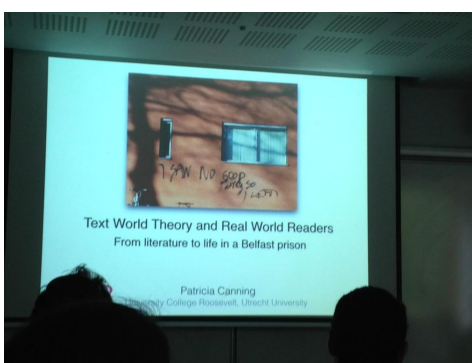


Patricia Canning

The roundtable discussion was also very well-attended and allowed space for reflection on the mixture of methods, theories and disciplines which are currently involved in the study of readers. One overarching conclusion was that greater interaction between researchers would be welcomed and a SIG mailing list has been set up to help facilitate communication between interested parties. Plans are also underway for a journal special issue, and for ways to build on the interest evident at PALA 2015 in future conferences and collaborations.

**Sara Whiteley, University of Sheffield, UK**

**If you would like to be added to the SIG mailing list, please contact [p.canning@ucr.nl](mailto:p.canning@ucr.nl) and [sara.whiteley@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:sara.whiteley@sheffield.ac.uk)**



reader response in the 1920s, drawing parallels between Richards' work and cognitive stylistics today; Alice Bell tested the claims of previous stylistic analyses with a new reader-response methodology investigating the effect of the second-



## Power to the PALA people

**SREEDHEVI IYER celebrates the calming collegiate Kent conference corridors**

**M**ANY WRITERS call Hong Kong, where I now live, an adolescent male – obsessed with performance. I got to PALA 2015 as a creative writing practitioner and grew up. I didn't network – I do that all the time in Hong Kong, and it's of global proportions. Instead I listened. I absorbed. I learned. I made friends. I laughed with other conference members as we prepped cross-legged on the corridor floor past midnight since the electric sockets in our rooms had gone bust. (And let's not even mention the jet-lag, also of global proportions).

An authentic experience from an Asian perspective is a very different thing. As a creative writing practitioner going into research, I'm discovering that authors everywhere have to perform their authenticity – their literary brand, i.e. themselves, and make it *seem* as authentic as possible – in person, in writing, on Facebook. So I got to Canterbury and decided to put away my phone and take out my notebook. I walked around the town, and touched old buildings made of flint.

PALA also reminded me of the power of the collective. A collegiate atmosphere can get so much done. I got to Hong Kong from Australia to do my PhD, and witnessed unexpected history in the Umbrella Revolution. Now, Hong Kong is in a high state of flux. It is evident of Buddhist fluidity, something I

tried to capture while guest-editing a [Hong Kong Special Folio for Drunken Boat](#), the oldest online journal in the world. Having witnessed that fluidity first-hand, it was very calming to come to a quiet atmosphere of learning fuelled by real common interests.

I got to know about PALA during a writing residency at Sardinia, run by City University's MFA program then. We visited the University of Cagliari, and were told about the conference. I can tell you guys right now Sardinia is going to be fantastic. The wine, the cheeses, the sun, the sea, the breeze. I just hope some conferencing gets done in the midst of all that!



Sreedhevi Iyer, City University of Hong Kong



2015 Conference plenary speaker, MARINA LAMBROU

### BURSARIES

#### The PALA student fund

Bursaries to support attendance at the Conference will be available for students who are members of PALA.

Keep an eye on the Conference Bursaries page on the PALA website for details:

<http://www.pala.ac.uk/the-pala-student-bursary.html>.

#### The PALA Legacy Fund

Unwaged delegates are invited to apply to the PALA Legacy Fund for support in attending the conference.

Please contact the PALA Treasurer, Joe Bray (j.bray@shef.ac.uk), or visit the PALA website for details:

<http://www.pala.ac.uk/the-pala-legacy-fund.html>.

Visit the PALA home page at  
<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>



## Career best

**DEREK ALSOP** waxes lyrical about his debut PALA pilgrimage

**A**RRIVING in the late afternoon on the first day of the programme, I was identified, immediately, as a PALA virgin, I think by Katie Wales, who was wearing perhaps the earliest of all PALA t-shirts to prove her credentials.



I'm not quite sure, though, when I lost my virginity. I suppose the answer must be when I left the conference, in my case early on the Saturday morning, meaning that I missed the first and last plenary sessions. This was a shame, as the other plenaries revealed a high standard: Peter Blair on the dizzying (and hilarious) types

of very short fiction; Joanna Gavins on the creative text-world interventions of National Trust tourists; and Marina Lambrou with a moving account of the discourse representations of a 7/7 survivor.

I was giving a paper with Clara Neary on 'Text-World Theory', and that area of study was particularly well-represented, with excellent papers by Jane Lugea, Dave Peplow and Sara Whitely, Louise Nuttall, Patricia Canning and Alison Gibbons (this last particularly heroic – as far too many tried to cram themselves into a confined space, reminding me of Jane Austen's comment on 'rooms so small as none but those who invite from the

**I have never experienced a friendlier, more inclusive conference.**

heart could think capable of accommodating so many').

My first experience of PALA, as a literary scholar, was very strange. My last two conferences were at Royal Holloway on Laurence Sterne (the subject of my PhD)

and at the University of York on Samuel Beckett (the subject of my last three published articles). These literature conferences, though intellectually stimulating, were, frankly, cliquey. There were those who were 'in', and those who courted those who were 'in'. Here, at PALA, the leaders of their fields mixed without pretension with everyone else (as a newcomer to Text-World Theory, I had a late first-night dinner with

**I have to say that this was the most enjoyable conference experience in my whole career.**

company including Joanna Gavins, which would hardly ever happen at a literary conference).

Of course, I enjoyed many of the papers, but I had a preference for those that gave me a sense that language actually matters (Matt Davies on the 2010/2015 UK general election campaigns; Helen Ringrow on the marketing of women's bodies, for instance). As a literary elitist, I did find myself sometimes caught between two stools. I sometimes liked the theories and techniques, but was less interested in the subjects (I don't really *care* about comics, newspaper headlines, or middle-class guest books). And I was sometimes interested in the texts (there was plenty of what I would call 'serious' literature), but less in the methods (there were, for instance, many claims for what computers had shown, but generally I wasn't convinced). But I have never experienced a friendlier, more inclusive conference. I have never witnessed postgraduates treated as such equals in illustrious company. I defy any conference organisers to arrange a better first evening reception (old friends meeting together with a never-ending supply of champagne and punch on a beautiful, tree-shaded, lawn).

I have often felt miserable, vulnerable, and marginalised at academic gatherings where I had genuine expertise, but at PALA, where I had none, I was welcomed by everyone. I doubt I will be invited back, but I have to say that this was the most *enjoyable* conference experience in my whole career.

**Derek Alsop, University of Chester, UK**

**Visit the PALA 2016 conference home page at:**

<http://convegni.unica.it/pala2016/>

## Strictly stylisticians

**NINA ĐUMRUKČIĆ** revels in an inspirational conference and has a ball!

**M**Y FIRST contact with PALA was through my mentor, Professor Beatrix Busse, who has been a member of the organisation for a number of years.

Having joined PALA at the beginning of last year, I had been greatly looking forward to the annual meeting.

After reading about previous conferences that took place in Maribor as well as my home university of Heidelberg, it seemed like a truly unique chance for networking with other scholars in the field, whose research interests complement my own. Little did I know at the time, PALA was so much more!

My colleague Kristin Berberich and I had been working on a Stylistics paper and carrying out a multimodal analysis of burying strategies used in television series, hence we thought it would be a good opportunity to get acquainted with fellow stylisticians and submit our paper. Throughout my studies, I have closely followed the work of linguists such as Dr. Marina Lambrou and Dr. Joanna Gavins, hence I was thoroughly excited to learn that they would be among the keynote speakers and could hardly wait to attend their plenary talks. Both talks exceeded my expectations, and were entertaining and insightful. It was such an honour to meet notable academics such as Prof. Michael Toolan and Prof. Paul Simpson and talk with them about their work and learn about current research projects they are involved in, but one of my biggest surprises was how humble and approachable everyone at the PALA conference was. It made me feel comfortable enough to come up to people and ask them for feedback about my presentation, and exchange ideas about topics. I even agreed with a

colleague I met at the conference, from a university in the UK, to collaborate on a project in the future!

I was also very impressed by the organising committee of the University of Kent who were always helpful and



friendly, and prepared delicious refreshments during breaks which certainly provided an energy boost. The tourist activities and dinners were an opportunity to relax and do some sightseeing, which was very enjoyable since Canterbury is a beautiful place. But perhaps my favourite event was the gala dinner on the final night. PALA members prepared a pantomime which was both creative and very humorous, and afterwards everyone was learning old-fashioned Kentish dancing, which was a lot of fun. It was a surreal moment seeing all these distinguished academics I admire, dancing and having a laugh. It showed me that even though they are brilliant and

successful linguists, they still do not take themselves too seriously and enjoy the company of fellow PALAns. It was a powerful moment for me, because it made me feel like I belong there, that I am part of this amazing PALA family, who offer knowledge and support to one another.

To say the whole experience was incredibly inspirational would be an understatement. It motivated me to push myself further, apply to even more conferences and work harder, but also to become a cultural ambassador and hopefully recruit more PALA members so that even more people can have similar unforgettable experiences. I already cannot wait for the PALA conference next year!

**Nina Đumrukčić, Heidelberg University,  
Germany**

Visit the PALA Facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/PoeticsandLinguisticsAssociation>



## Swimming with ideas

**JOSEPH USHIE** returns from Canterbury enriched by history and style

**I** WAS one of the few new fishes that PALA's fishing net brought into its Canterbury 2015 dining table, not to be eaten by the PALA family, but to join in the eating of the Association's rich meal.

In a way I felt PALA and I ought to have discovered each other much earlier than we did as I have been involved with the learning and teaching of Stylistics in Nigeria for decades now. But this feeling is more an expression of my joy and excitement at discovering PALA than of regret. So, I thank Dr Faith Bimbola Idowu, Dr Josephine Funke Oni and Dr Romanus Agianpuye Aboh, all of the University of Ibadan family tree, for being the golden chain through which information about PALA and its Canterbury conference passed to me.

I had one million reasons to be excited to be at Canterbury, some of which, interestingly, might not rest squarely with PALA or Stylistics. First was the rare opportunity to behold that city which gave Geoffrey Chaucer the title of his tales. Next was the name *Kent*, which features prominently in my History of the English Language lectures as the area where the Jutes landed in about 449 A. D. Next, of course, was the presence on the delegates list of such names as Katie Wales, Michael Toolan, Andrew Goatly and Paul Simpson, all of whom had been regular in the references of our publications in Nigeria. There was also that real need to acquire some of the current publications in Stylistics which, for about a decade or more, has dominated our students' preferences for final year projects. Further, in recent years, the kind of Stylistics I had been teaching appeared to have been

threatened by its younger sibling, Critical Stylistics/ Discourse Analysis, which practice, I had insisted, was not sufficiently distinct from General Stylistics to be considered a rival. PALA was, hence, going to be the judge that would establish if it wouldn't be fratricidal if

one of the two related disciplines ousted the other.

Interestingly, I achieved all the above goals and more. I had the rare opportunity of interacting with the already-known and new-found names in Stylistics; and I made new friends. I discovered, too, that I was right to see Stylistics and CDA as members of a closely-knit family instead of as protagonists and antagonists. And, waiting for me at a bookstand somewhere on the campus of the University of Kent was the last copy of a book on Alfred the Great, besides the other newest editions of books on stylistics which first editions were, until then, the brides in my bookshelves. Besides, the scope of the presentations was admirably wide, and this opened my eyes to a hundred possible areas of analyses previously not thought of. So, in the end I

returned from the conference enriched in the one million ways that were my motivations for attending it.

At the moment, my interest has been galvanized to examine the language of (re)-branding of nations, groups, bodies, communities and organizations. The language of burial programmes lies fallow too. I also need to examine gender, division of labour and language in an agrarian community in my part of Nigeria where the male children of the same parents speak a different dialect from their female siblings. These fields have the potential to illuminate the nature of language use in general and, specifically, the connection between language and society.

**Joseph A. Ushie, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.**



Visit the PALA home page at  
<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>

## Stand up but not stood up!

**MARTIN BILLINGHAM: confident Canterbury comedian commands curious crowd in Kent**

**I**T WAS PALA 2015, it was Canterbury, and it needed a rule of three for descriptive impact. PALA 2015: Creative Style was my first PALA experience.

As a Stand-up Comedian and Academic I expected to feel like a proverbial platypus within a posse of proper animals. Instead, I was warmly welcomed into a world of other, worldly wordsmiths.

The atmosphere was adjective-y; I almost verb-ed so hard that I noun-ed myself. But seriously, PALAs atmosphere of creative curiosity was unlike any other conference I've attended. I soon found out first hand, that PALAs reputation for inclusivity, positivity and a desire for interdisciplinary perspectives on language and its use, was well founded.



I was well aware that I was coming to PALA with no formal training in the study of language, arriving as a keen armchair linguist (that is, as an amateur, not as a specialist in the language of upholstery). But with a Masters degree in stand-up comedy theory and practice under my belt, a slew of experience as a practising stand-up comedian under my hat and expertise as a public speaking workshop leader overflowing out of my boots, my confidence was

raised in the knowledge that I couldn't possibly cram another surreal proverb into this paragraph.

What was notable about the PALA conference, was the sheer amount of content packed into the handful of days. As I was frantically picking through the programme, choosing presentations to attend, it was obvious that PALA had more to offer than was possible to experience in one go. Viewing the presentations reminded me of working with my own students in my public speaking workshops and just how engaging a good presentation can be; for me especially, Jennifer Riddle Harding's (right) take on the polysemic nature of puns.



During my paper *There's Something Seriously Funny about the English Language*, I was cramming in a linguistic, psychological, sociological, philosophical and communicative analysis of humour and Humour Studies and it was gratifying to see, as the presentation went on, more and more people cramming in to quench their curiosity. I left them with the phrase "humourists are linguistic alchemists" ringing in their ears.

Stand-up comedy is a relatively new field for academic study and it is a genuine pleasure to be part of a field, with excellent and effervescent experts. It was an honour to represent the creative, academic and practical output of The University of Kent, and have a chance to bastion the burgeoning field of academic studies in Stand-up comedy from the British Stand-Up Comedy Archive.

If you're thinking of coming to PALA you will be greeted with an attentive audience and like me, the experience will get you coming back for more.

My thanks go out to the entire PALA team for conjuring such a welcoming, creative and thought provoking environment, with a special nod of gratitude towards the Canterbury based organizer Jeremy Scott, newsletter editor Matt Davies and the current PALA chair (definitely not an armchair) Paul Simpson.

**Martin Billingham, stand-up comedian**

Visit the PALA 2016 conference home page at:

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# Academic insights and beautiful relations

## JOZEFINA PIATKOWSKA is inspired by her first PALA

**C**REATIVE Style at the University of Kent (Canterbury) was my first PALA conference and I will remember it as one of the best academic events I was lucky to be a part of.

The setting and the focused character of the conference provided a beautiful environment for energizing an exchange of thoughts. I would like to thank all the participants not only for their professional presentations, but also for being so open, friendly and attentive throughout all our meetings.

I was very enthusiastic about the conference programme from the day I saw it. The exceptional thing about it was that it offered a broad choice of presentations which were very close to my own research. During the conference I attended all the sections, changing rooms several times a day and every lecturer I chose demonstrated something new and inspiring to me. All the time I had a feeling I was making very good use of my time. Among other things, I am also glad to have attended Michael

Toolan's presentation "Harris and Leech on Creativity and the Teaching of Poetry". It was the moment where it was so obvious that PALA conference is about both: the academic insights and beautiful relations among people.

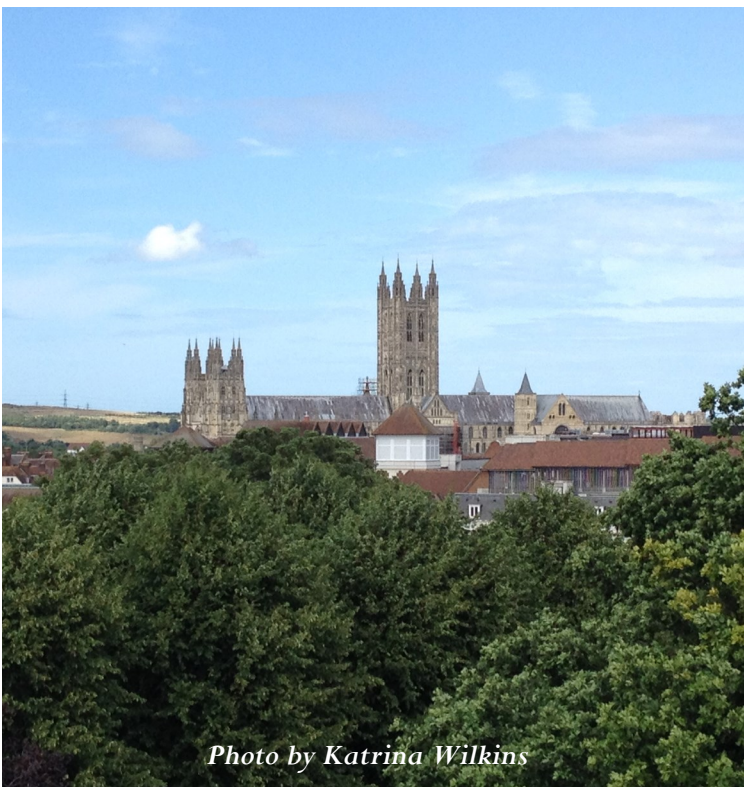
Thank you all PALA 2015 Participants for the great time during the conference sessions and during our leisure activities. Special thanks to Jeremy Scott and his Team who made this event come true. I wish you all the best and hope to meet you next year! Do zobaczenia!

**Jozefina Piatkowska,**  
University of Warsaw, Poland



**It was the moment where it was so obvious that PALA conference is about both: the academic insights and beautiful relations among people.**

### Views of Canterbury Cathedral taken by PALAns



*Photo by Katrina Wilkins*



*Photo by Marina Lambrou*

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## **Fostering friendships**

### **PALA first-timer AISHAT UMAR on her unforgettable pilgrimage**

**I** FIRST came to know about PALA when I started my doctoral research work in stylistics. I was navigating through different sites to gather materials for my work when I came across Mick Short's web-based stylistics course *Language and Style* and it was stated that the site was made publicly available to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PALA.

I became curious and clicked on a link which directed me to the PALA website. I read through the information contained therein, but at that time I was too busy to even contemplate joining the association.

Two years later, I had the opportunity to go on a research visit to the University of Nottingham. Again, at the University of Nottingham I heard so much about PALA from my supervisors and colleagues. I had wanted to attend the 2013 PALA conference.

Unfortunately, my programme at the University of Nottingham ended and I left the UK before the time of the conference. I made up my mind I was going to attend that of 2014. Again, I missed it. Then, came the 2015 conference and I was determined not to miss it this time. I immediately applied for student membership and I was registered. That was when I started receiving mail from the association. When I received the call for abstracts for the 2015 conference, I sent my abstract and, fortunately, it was accepted. Later on, I realised the timing was not convenient for me.

I was interested in attending both the summer school and conference and the dates fell within the last few days of Ramadan (a period of fasting for Muslims all over the world). That meant that I would observe the last few days of fasting, as well as celebrate the Eid (Islamic celebration to mark the end of the Ramadan fast) away from my family. It was a really difficult decision I had to make. In fact, when I mentioned it to some of my family members and friends that I was travelling, they all asked if I was going for the Umrah (the religious visit to the sacred mosque in Mecca, which can be undertaken at any time of the year). I told them that I was going for the PALA pilgrimage (of course, I had to explain what that meant), it sounded quite bizarre to them. Some could not hide their bewilderment and they teased that I was going to the west (signifying Britain) while other people were going to the east (indicating Saudi Arabia, where Ka'aba, the sacred mosque is situated). However, with the support and understanding of my husband, I went ahead with the preparation and was able to

make it to the PALA conference for the very first time.

I was among the thirteen delegates, and the only Nigerian who attended the summer school, though two other delegates from Nigeria arrived later, for the conference. Apart from the knowledge gained from the summer school, I was fascinated by the aura of friendliness that pervaded the atmosphere. The tutors, Prof. Lesley Jeffries and Dr Brian Walker, made it

livelier with their good sense of humour. Even though most of us were meeting for the first time, we related as if we had known one another for a long time; and by the time the conference started, on the final day of the summer school, we had become a family.

Unknown to me that was just the beginning, for the family ties started at the summer school extended into the conference and even beyond.

In addition to the interesting and illuminating presentations at the conference, the presence of renowned stylisticians, whom I had only come into contact with through their books, was also captivating. The rapt attention and patience with which they listened and responded to our

questions attested to their humility and generosity. I remember, at the welcome reception which took place at the Cathedral lodge, a tall elderly man walked up to us (I was standing with a friend) and said, "Hello ladies! Where are you from?" I replied that I was from Nigeria and my friend was from Cameroon. He said, "I am from the University of Birmingham". I was about to ask if he knew whether Michael Toolan would be at the conference, when he added, "My name is Michael Toolan". As I took a step backwards to take a second look at him, I remembered his book, *Narrative: A Critical Linguistic Introduction*, with which I had a tough time at the beginning of my research. An opportunity had presented itself for me to seek clarification from the author himself and I was impressed with the way he patiently clarified his ideas to me.

Throughout the conference, the participants were keen in knowing one another's research interests and that sparked lively discussions during the coffee/lunch breaks, to the extent that sometimes we had to be reminded that the break was over. The social activities which accompanied the conference were equally interesting. It was great to watch stylisticians dancing with style, to the tune of a live band at the conference dinner!

Altogether, the PALA conference has become for me, another annual pilgrimage I will not want to ever miss again.



**Aishat Umar, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria**

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**<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>**

## **The windmills of my mind**

**SEAN Murphy describes discovering stylistics and the road to Canterbury**

**T**HE WHEEL is come full circle says Edmund in *King Lear*. Life has a way of bringing you back to where you started, or at least somewhere nearby. My discovery of stylistics came via a circuitous path, beginning as an undergraduate at Bangor University, where I did a degree in English literature and French language and literature.

In my final exams, I wrote copiously about Shakespeare and the language of *Macbeth*, yet failed to take my interest further, distracted as I was by the delights of French language, culture, travel and wine. Such penchants required an income, and thus I became an English language teacher.

France led to Spain, where I have lived for 30 years (with a one-year interlude in Egypt), making a living as an English language teacher. Initial teacher training stimulated my interest in language, Geoffrey Leech's excellent *Meaning and the English Verb* having a particularly strong impact. The precision and clarity of explanation awoke a fascination in the mechanics of language, which later led me to an MSc in English Language Teaching at Aston University, through which I came to an awareness of pragmatics, conversation analysis and systemic functional linguistics.

In the meantime, as I brought up two children in a trilingual environment of English, Spanish and Catalan, issues of language choice and style became ever more alluring. The appeal was also professional. Teaching English for Academic

Purposes (EAP) at the University of Barcelona brought John Swales' *Genre Analysis* and notions of academic registers to my attention.

Fulfilling as my parental and professional obligations were, something was missing. Then I came across Jonathan Culpeper's *Language and Characterisation*, and I realised that I could combine my original love of literature, and particularly Shakespeare, with my interest and experience in linguistics and language teaching. Taking advantage of Lancaster University's PhD in Applied Linguistics by Thesis and Coursework programme, I was able to juggle childcare, work and a passion

for the language of Shakespeare's soliloquies without leaving Barcelona. After a few years and upsets, I completed my PhD in July 2014, and I am looking forward to seeing my first article in *Language and Literature* appearing soon.

The PALA conference in Canterbury allowed me to fully complete my circle as I had an opportunity to present some of the findings of my research to fellow stylisticians. There is a certain irony in writing a thesis on soliloquies on a distance programme, so it was great to be able to share my ideas and receive valuable feedback. I found the atmosphere among the PALA delegates to be warm, generous and supportive.

Now that my wheel has come full circle, I wonder 'Where next?'. I certainly hope to continue researching in stylistics, perhaps combining it with my experience in teaching English and EAP, and of course attending future PALA conferences. Wheels within wheels, never ending or beginning.

**Sean Murphy, University of Barcelona, Catalonia**



**University of Cagliari:  
PALA 2016 venue**

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## Open hearts and minds

**YANWEI HU** applauds the supportive environment at PALA 2015

**T**HIS YEAR'S PALA conference at Canterbury was my very first PALA experience. At the encouragement of Professor Simpson, I submitted an abstract to the Pragmatics SIG. Luckily, it was accepted and I was awarded a student bursary which was definitely a big encouragement.

I have to admit that I had been looking forward to the conference with trepidation. It was a big deal for me that I was to present my as yet immature ideas on Grice before a group of internationally renowned experts in pragmatics. I had been worried that my presentation would meet with harsh criticisms as would befall a beginner who makes a bold attempt at such a classic and controversial topic. It came as a very pleasant surprise that the experts there, especially the chairing professors Professor Clark and Professor Chapman, were not crushingly critical. They and the other experts were very supportive. Instead of criticisms and challenges, I was given support and suggestions, so dramatically different from what I had expected. I was really impressed that PALA is such a place for communicating and exchanging, not for attacking and vindicating.

I also enjoyed the talks given on various topics by plenary speakers and other presenters. What I appreciate most about these talks is that they opened my mind to different ways of doing stylistics research, which is very important for a beginner in stylistics. Besides, the social events and coffee breaks are great occasions for communicating and making friends. It was indeed a very enjoyable experience to meet and talk in a friendly academic atmosphere.

Needless to say, PALA 2015 is such a rewarding and unforgettable experience that I certainly look forward to coming back for more.

Yanwei Hu, Beijing University, China

## Sharing experiences and making friends

**SAOKA FUNADA** shares her happy memories of the PALA trip to Canterbury Castle



Saoko Funada, Iris Gemeinböeck and Bojana Kalanj at Canterbury Castle, July 2015

**T**HANK you for giving me this opportunity to share this photo with you all PALAns!

That's me on the left, Ms. Iris Gemeinböeck from Vienna in the middle, and Ms. Bojana Kalanj from Belgrade on the right.

Though we met with one another for the first time in Canterbury, we got to know each other better and became friends inside the bus on the way to the castle. It was only a day trip, but we had a lot of fun together walking around the castle and the beautiful yards and talking a lot about our research topics and our different cultures.

I really love the way people from different countries get together in one place and became 'friends' not just giving comments or asking questions on their paper presentations. As we, Iris, Bojana and I have been in touch since the PALA2015 Canterbury, hopefully we will be able to meet with one another again in our future PALA conferences.

Saoko Funada, Beppu University, Japan

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# **My PALA mother tongue!**

**MOHAMED AHMED uses stylistics as his lingua franca at PALA conferences**

**J**ULY 2014, Maribor University - this was my first meeting with PALAns.

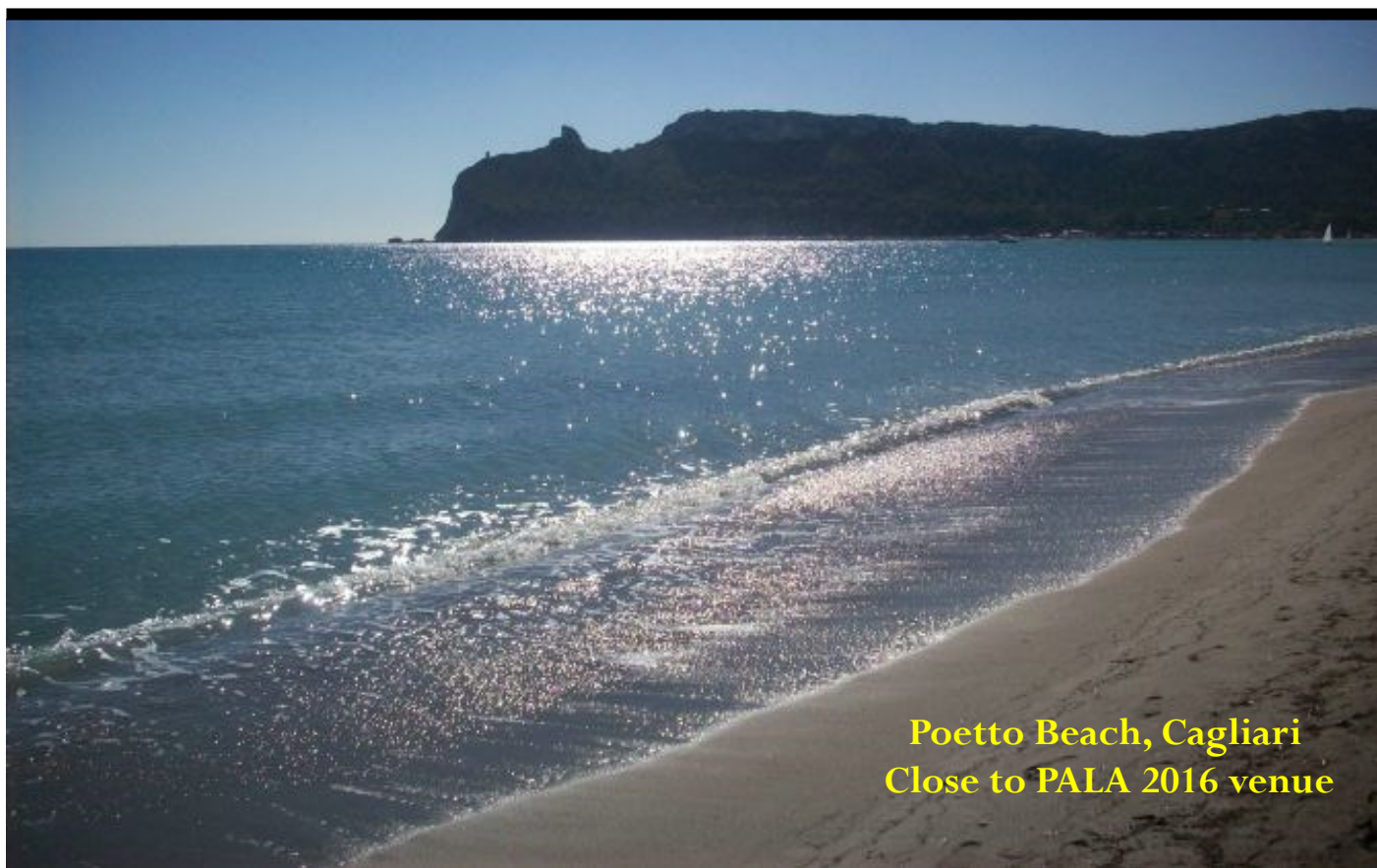
For me, a PhD student of Iraqi Jewish literature written in Hebrew, PALA was my first international conference. You might be surprised if I told you that I was not worried about the presentation of my work in an international conference for the first time in my academic life. However, I was rather more concerned with the audience response to my topic. The connection between stylistics and Hebrew/ Arabic studies, if any, was one of the most likely questions I was expecting. In a conference like PALA, one expects to listen to papers that deal mainly with English and American literature, or at least literature written in European languages. But a paper that deals with Iraqi Jewish authors writing in Hebrew and using Arabic in their literary texts was for PALA, probably quite weird!



To my surprise, there was an interest in my presentation. Although my paper was focusing on Hebrew literature, I was able to find a path through PALA, as I was, theoretically, speaking the same language - stylistics. Like any language, stylistics has some dialects, and this is the way I see my specific field within stylistics - a dialect. But our shared 'mother-tongue' was, and will be, stylistics. Indeed, this first positive meeting with PALAns encouraged me to participate in the second PALA event in my academic life-PALA Canterbury 2015. The conference in Kent University held in July 2015 was, again, a very exciting experience from which I have learned a lot. I will

definitely continue speaking my beloved 'dialect', and I will do my best to keep my PALA mother-tongue alive and active.

**Mohamed A. H. Ahmed, Leipzig University, Germany**



**Poetto Beach, Cagliari  
Close to PALA 2016 venue**

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## Work hard, play hard

**RESHMI DUTTA-FLANDERS** engages in some serious relaxation at Canterbury

**T**HE THEME of the 2015 PALA conference at the University of Kent was *Creative Style*, addressing the notion of stylistics as a means of exploring creativity. This is an area which fascinates me, particularly related to criminality.

The plenary speakers interested me for their contribution to the field of Stylistics. The opportunity to meet other researchers and postgraduates alike was like being in a breeding ground for new ideas. The international milieu of creative writers, analysts and academics under one roof was an exciting opportunity to see Stylistics in action. After meeting the advocates in person, whose ground-breaking works I have been studying and applying in my own research, I realised how easily I could approach my fellow specialists and strike up a conversation.

The conference gathered momentum by challenging current theories and recommending changes in the papers presented in both literary and non-literary contexts. To mention a few, in multimodal contexts, a paper exploring the alternative world in the dialogic relationship between the Text Actual World, the Actual World in history and the superimposition of a counterfactually experienced world intrigued me. Additionally, there was a paper introducing visual grammar in multimodal text, where reading paths were presented in non-didactic ways and another on speaker roles in non-fictional texts distinguished a teller, a sayer from a speaker following the basic roles of an animator, author and the principal speaker.

Looking into styles in language for an analyst or a creative writer will never be the same. What I came to appreciate is that style and creativity is not simply an academic pursuit, and is not just bound to literary or canonical works, but is around

us everywhere from tourist guest books to everyday news. On Radio 4, a fiction writer once commented on how one cannot teach a person to become a writer. This may be true. The 2015 PALA conference demonstrated how exciting it could be to experiment with the process of creating style for an intended purpose in the theories and practices of Stylistics and Linguistics. Unconventional linguistic uses are not grammatical errors, but are used as a stylistic device to be studied when language and style come together in different contexts. Instead of being confined to simply words, sentences and grammar as is conventionally defined in English, readers are challenged to see language in a way which makes text processing a continuous operation.



In the spirit of PALA, the social evenings were special. Canterbury is a unique place to experience social events in a famous historical setting. I have heard PALAns know how to work hard and play hard. I am sure this was evident at the finale at Whitstable Castle, besides other social events. I was not able to attend them all.

Overall, in a relaxed but serious fashion, I gained immensely from this conference both professionally and personally. This was a great opportunity, especially for someone socially reserved coming from a South Asian background.

**Reshmi Dutta-Flanders, University of Kent, UK**

### The PALA excursion (31 July 2016)

**PALA 2016 delegates can visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Bronze Age structure Su Nuraxi at Barumini**



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# The Doctor of Stylistics' Tale

**PALA 2015 host JEREMY SCOTT pulled out all the stops to make our journey to Canterbury a week to remember. In this sorry tale of PALA pubs, pulverised pedals, and a battered bonce, DAN MCINTYRE relates the cycle of events that has been Jeremy's own pilgrim's progress to prominence, paved with pitfalls.....**



**Herre bigynneth the Doctor of Stylistics his tale.**

**W**HILOM there was dwellynge at Canterburie,  
A stout carl cleped hende Jeremye,  
Ful big he was of brawn and eek of here,  
That made him be lyk a mayden fayre,  
And of his craft he was a scrivener,  
Of tales short and novels longer-er;  
This Jeremye was known throwout the lande,  
For poetrie and drinkes in bothe hands,  
Of this I telle a tale al aboute,  
Of PALA, of wych tale this is the route.  
Bot! I ne seyde it was a noble tale,  
Oure hooste well he was trewely dronke of ale.  
This Jeremye had gon in aventure,  
To Heidelberg, for werk, or so he swoor;



A certeyn nyghte this Jeremye had gone,  
After the dayes conference was done,  
To drinke with fellowes at The Golden Sheep,  
To suppen ale, to lough bot nat

to eat;  
But as the nyght drewe on and ever longer,  
The ale grewe ever more and ever stronger,  
Untyl the tyme when Jeremye bethought,  
I have ydronke enough and can nat walke,  
I muste to leve the pubbe and wende awaie,  
For he hadde to give a payper the nexte daye;  
But Jeremye had reckoned without,  
The bicycle that he hadde hired out,

Hence from the pubbe he did rushe,  
And crashed his bicycle into a bushe.  
Ful badde he was and covered in blod,  
And findeth his bicycle ne he koud;



Instead he wandered home to his hotel,  
But in his room he slipped and he did felle,  
And on a radiatour cracked his head,  
He feared for one moment he was dead,  
But waken he and picked up his passesporte,

And asked hotel staffe to please transporte,  
Poore Jeremye to an hospitale,  
To have his stomache pumped of the ale.  
The nexte daye this Jeremye did showe,



All bandaged round his head and feeling lowe,  
But of his vocation was ne deterred,  
And continued to analyse y werdes;  
And he volunteered for to hooste,  
A PALA conference in Kent that he koude boast,  
Would be the conference to top them alle,  
After al, that is the aim of PALA.  
And so we trewely thanke this

Jeremye,  
And sey that in Sardegna we will see eow!

**Herre endeth the Doctor of Stylistics his tale.**

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# Just the ticket

## ESTERINO ADAMI reports on *The train and the word: stylistic approaches to railway discourse*

**T**HE PALA-sponsored international seminar “The train and the word: stylistic approaches to railway discourse” took place at the University of Turin on 3 December 2015.

It involved a group of scholars from various areas of stylistics discussing the linguistic and textual representations of the train trope in fictional and non-fictional texts.

Organised by Esterino Adami (University of Turin) and Elisabetta Zurru (University of Genoa) and mainly addressed to the undergraduate and postgraduate students of English in the Department of Humanities, the one-day conference was also supported by AIA (Italian Association of English Studies).

The keynote speaker opening the meeting was Rocío Montoro (University of Granada), who delivered a stimulating talk entitled “What to do with numbers... and trains: a corpus stylistics approach to A J Waines’s *Girl on a Train* (2013) and Paula Hawkins’s *The Girl on the Train* (2015)”. In the presentation she highlighted the usefulness and potentiality of corpus work applied to literature, in particular by comparing two recent railway novels and bringing to light their different orchestration of grammatical make-up (e.g. the use of narratorial voice) and semantic make-up (e.g. the presence and effect of words related to mental states).

Hugo Bowles (University of Rome-Tor Vergata), focused on the construction of thought representation in fiction, in particular via ‘streams of consciousness’ and ‘trains of thought’. His presentation was titled “Metaphor for thought representation in literary texts – trains or streams?” and drew textual examples from Charles Dickens’ works to illuminate the projection of characters’ mental working.

Moving to the non-literary genre of treatises, Daniela Francesca Viridis (University of Cagliari) dedicated her paper entitled “Lay down branch roads, provide town sites, build

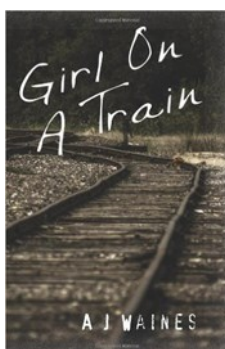
barracks’: a stylistic investigation of H. Clarke’s *Colonization, Defence and Railways in Our Indian Empire* (1857)” to the linguistic rendition of railway discourse implemented during the Raj as a means to endorse colonial policies.

The morning session was closed by John Douthwaite (University of Genoa), who in his talk “The role of the train in development” provided a critical reading of some extracts of Conrad’s *Nostromo* to examine ideological elements at work.

Elisabetta Zurru’s paper – “From a train through India to a *Train to Pakistan*: a stylistic analysis” – investigated the dense cultural image of the train in the Indian context and dealt with the narrative techniques used in a seminal novel of the so-called ‘partition literature’, in which different perceptions of the railway are triggered, transformed and reshaped.

The last presentation - “There travels a train that never stops”: *Snowpiercer* as a dystopian architext’ - was given by Esterino Adami and illustrated the realisations of the train as society metaphor in a graphic novel, a particular type of text that functions by blending images and words to capture the reader’s attention.

The seminar also included question-and-answer sessions engaging students, speakers and other colleagues, sharing



reflections, knowledge and expertise and highlighting the benefits of the application of stylistic approaches, theories and methods to rail texts.

Esterino Adami, University of Turin, Italy



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## Computation, corpora and critique: CLiS report by ANDREA MACRAE

**O**N SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015, Oxford Brookes University, with the sponsorship of PALA, hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> bi-annual Corpus Linguistics in the South (CLiS) event.

CLiS is a network for those in the south of England who work in corpus studies and can't always access the many corpus events held in the Midlands and the north of the country. CLiS runs events bi-annually, and publicises open lectures and other events of interest to corpus scholars. CLiS aims to keep all events free to enable as many interested scholars as possible to attend – PALA helped to make this possible for CLiS9.

CLiS9, organised by Dr. Alon Lischinsky, Dr. Andrea Macrae and Dr. Paul Wickens of Oxford Brookes University, focussed on the theme 'Computation, corpora and critique'. It has been twenty years since the publication of Hardt-Mautner's pioneering paper on corpus-assisted discourse studies (1995), and the use of computer-aided methods and increasingly large corpora to analyse issues at the discourse/society interface is now well established. The aim of this workshop was to invite exploration and discussion of the

key methodological, theoretical and practical issues in this burgeoning field, with papers that:

- conceptually examined the issues raised in employing automated procedures for the analysis of social semiotic issues. For example, does it remain true that the 'historical knowledge and sensitivity' required for critical interpretation 'can be possessed by human beings but not by machines' (Fowler 1991: 68)?
- discussed innovations in methods and techniques (of annotation, classification, inference, etc.) that have enhanced the possibilities for critical analyses of language and discourse. How far have we moved from Fowler and Kress's (1979: 197) assertion that 'there is no analytic routine through which a text can be run with a critical description issuing automatically at the end'?
- presented specific cases of corpus-based critical studies of discourse, reflecting on the advantages and limitations of the approach.

Roughly 30 delegates attended the event, at which seven scholars (including Alison Duguid, Costas Gabrielatos, Gard Jensen, Bill Louw, Aleksander Trklja and Xu Xiaoyu) delivered research papers addressing these and related topics. Gerlinde Mautner presented the plenary, providing a retrospect and prospect for this branch of the field.

To find out more about the CLiS network and its events, see <http://www.port.ac.uk/corpus-linguistics/corpus-linguistics-in-the-south/> or the CLiS page on facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/CorpusLinguisticsInTheSouth>



Andrea Macrae, Oxford Brookes University, UK

## Relevance, literariness & style: report by BILLY CLARK

**P**ALA was a key supporter of a workshop on *Relevance, Literariness and Style* organised by PALAns Andrew Caink and Billy Clark at Middlesex University last year (our other sponsors were Cambridge University Press, Middlesex University and the University of Westminster).

Over eighty delegates attended the workshop and the audience was truly international with countries represented including Argentina, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the USA (many of the international delegates had made the trip just for this workshop).

Many of the delegates were already PALAns. Our membership secretary, Stephen Pihlaja, attended the workshop and had the opportunity to speak about PALA and the benefits of joining the association.



The day consisted of a series of presentations and discussion focusing on ways in which ideas from relevance theory can be applied in accounting for literary production, interpretation and evaluation, and in understanding the notion of 'literariness'. The day ended with a wine reception and a book launch for Billy Clark's *Relevance Theory*, sponsored by the publisher, Cambridge University Press.

The speakers included some of the most well-known researchers who have worked on relevance theory and its stylistic applications. They were: Diane Blakemore, Andrew Caink, Robyn Carston, Billy Clark, Nigel Fabb, Anne Furlong, Barbara MacMahon and Deirdre Wilson.

The sessions were lively, with discussion covering a wide range of topics, and feedback after the event was extremely positive.

Thank you PALA, and PALAns, for the support!

Billy Clark, Middlesex University, London, UK

Visit the PALA 2016 conference home page at:

<http://convegni.unica.it/pala2016/>

## ***Integrating Language and Literature in the classroom* by BILLY CLARK**

**P**ALA WAS a key supporter of the second conference on *Integrating Language and Literature in the Classroom* which took place in July this year at St. Catherine's College, Oxford (our other sponsors were Cambridge University Press and Oxford Brookes University).

Teachers from around the country (as well as local teachers from Oxford) gathered for a series of interactive talks and workshops designed to share thoughts and help develop teaching ideas. There was a particular focus on ideas which would help with delivery of the new A Level English specifications.

The event was organised by PALAns Andrea Macrae, Marcello Giovanelli and Billy Clark as part of the Integrating English project (<http://integratingenglish.org>)

Andrea, Marcello and Billy each led sessions. Other speakers were Michaela Mahlberg, Jessica Mason, Sara Mills, Rob Pope and Peter Stockwell.

The sessions focused on conflict in literature, point of view, storytelling, foregrounding, feminist linguistic analysis, and re-creative writing. Peter and Michaela also demonstrated the CLiC (Corpus Linguistics in Cheshire) corpus tool and some of

the ways it can be used in teaching and in projects. The current version of the tool can be found at:

<http://clic.nottingham.ac.uk/concordances/>.

Most speakers joined in with all of the sessions and there was a resource development workshop to explore ways of developing specific classroom activities.

The feedback after the event was extremely positive. Some of our favourite quotes were:

**'Genuinely, the most useful, engaging, inspiring course I've been on!'**

**'I feel energised and excited about bringing some of these things back to school'.**

**'English fully and flexibly (re)conceived'.**

We're looking forward to next year's event at Middlesex University.

Big thanks to PALA for the support!

**Billy Clark, Middlesex University, London, UK**



*The Integrating Language and Literature workshop*

### ***Looking forward to PALA 2016: Cagliari at night***



Visit the PALA Facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/PoeticsandLinguisticsAssociation>



# **PALA 2015 Canterbury (18th July 2015)**

## ***Annual General Meeting***

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

#### **Chair' (Paul Simpson) - Chair's business and overview**

The Chair, Paul Simpson, thanks the PALA 2015 Canterbury conference organiser, Jeremy Scott, and presents him with gifts on behalf of the whole PALA committee. He also thanks his student helpers and all friends and colleagues who have taken part in the conference.

Since we have lost a few dear friends and colleagues in the last few months — Geoff Leech, Bill Nash, Ruqaiya Hasan — the Chair proposes to observe a minute of silence to remember and honour them.

The Chair reports on the PALA committee meeting in the spring. For a few years, in accordance with a tradition established by the previous PALA Chair Michael Burke, the committee meeting has also been held in the spring; this year it took place in Belfast on April 14th for a full day. It is useful and beneficial to have work done before the annual conference, so that the committee meeting during the conference can be directly devoted to preparing the AGM.

### **B. REPORTS AND UPDATES**

#### **Treasurer (Joe Bray)**

The financial report would be circulated amongst PALA members only.

#### **Student Membership Secretary (Agnes Marszalek)**

There are currently 297 student members of PALA. So far this year, Agnes has registered 44 new members (compared with 49 members in the whole of 2014). With regards to the numbers of student members, the top five countries are:

1. The UK (particularly England, with 100 members),
2. Italy (40 members),
3. USA (15),
4. Ukraine (14),
5. China (12).

Our top universities are:

1. University of Huddersfield (20) and University of Cagliari (20),
2. University of Nottingham (19),
3. University of Sheffield (12),
4. Kyiv National Linguistic University (10),
5. Lancaster University (8) and University of Birmingham (8).

We have implemented a new renewal system, where student membership is automatically renewed for 4 years from the joining date. That has made the student membership database clearer and easier to update, but there are still students in the database whose status is uncertain, as they joined PALA before Agnes took over as secretary. The PALA committee agreed that those members will be emailed a few times to confirm their student status before they are removed.

#### **Membership secretary – Stephen Pihlaja**

PALA Membership is strong:

- 92 Standard Members
- 94 Basic Members
- 4 Honorary (Life) Members (Ron Carter, Mick Short, Peter Verdonk, Katie Wales)

Membership continues to be strong particularly in the UK, Japan, Italy, and USA.

Renewals are up with the new process of reminding members to pay fees over six months.

### **Publicity Officer (Jane Lugea)**

Jane has been sending emails to PALA announce list. She recently had new flyers designed and printed and PALA logos improved.

PALA Ambassadors:

- Please come and say hello
- Let Jane know if you have ideas for promoting stylistics in your region
- Updated list of Ambassadors on website (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/pala-ambassadors.html>)
- Ambassadors must be members

PALA on social media:

- Low profile, no pics, but present
- 167 Twitter followers @PoeticsLinguist (<https://twitter.com/PoeticsLinguist>)
- 1065 likes on Facebook page: Poetics and Linguistics Association (<https://www.facebook.com/PoeticsandLinguisticsAssociation>)

### **Newsletter Editor (Matt Davies)**

Matt is delighted with the call for contributions to the Spring 2015 edition of *Parlance* (please see the newsletter archive at <http://www.pala.ac.uk/parlance-newsletter.html>) and thanks those who took the time to write what were quality accounts of their experience at PALA 2014 in Maribor. Contributors were keen to portray the balance between intellectual stimulation and camaraderie at the conference, and this was particularly emphasised by those for whom it was their first experience of a PALA conference. It was good that those who sent in articles were spread across a range of countries (France, Norway, Canada, Sweden, Italy, UK), but mostly Euro-centric, and not truly reflective of the membership in, for instance, China and other Asian countries. There was a discussion about the possibility of targeting members in these regions for contributions for the next edition.

The newsletter was of course tinged with sadness with the obituaries of PALA members Geoff Leech and Anne Cluysenaar, and Matt is grateful to Mick Short for writing tributes to them which managed to balance an expression of this sorrow with a celebration of their achievements and contributions to the field of stylistics and linguistics in general.

Matt also suggests that some of the comments from the reports of PALA 2014 could be used in future promotional leaflets and so on, if we wanted to update any such material. He cites some of the typical positive feelings about the conference.

### **Webmaster (Brian Walker)**

The PALA website (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>) has been upgraded to the Weebly Pro service, which includes password protection. The cost was £59.99 for 1 year.

Brian has begun password-protecting pages starting with the summer school pages that contain handouts (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/annual-summer-school.html>), and the page for applying for funding for events (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/sponsorship-for-events.html>).

He is creating a link that will contain all the members-only information and resources (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/401/login.php?redirect=/pala-members-only.html>).

The password is currently set to kent2015 and he will make that available to members via the mailing list.

### **Editor *Language and Literature* (Geoff Hall)**

The PALA journal *Language and Literature* is doing well, with an extensive range of articles and subscriptions rising every year.

It receives around 140 submissions a year and the Editorial team is facing increasing difficulties in managing them. Consequently, a meeting with the people responsible at Sage is needed in order to find solutions; for instance, an online submission system existed in the past and could be set up again.

More than 5,000 articles are downloaded every year from the L&L website (<http://lal.sagepub.com/>). Publishing online allows the Editorial team to know who is downloading from where and to trace where interest is coming from (mainly USA; China is firmly growing). Many people also sign up for alerts. These positive facts are important, since more support from the publisher depends on readership. Downloading could be further incremented by encouraging our students to download the articles in their reading lists rather than providing the students with those articles ourselves.



L&L is not particularly widespread in Africa, accordingly Sage will offer free individual access for 30 days if one's institution has not subscribed to the journal.

There was a slight issue with L&L's Impact Factor (IP) due to the amount of self-citations, especially in the annual review article "The Year's Work in Stylistics". It necessarily referred to articles in L&L (the foremost publication in the field) and has proven to be very useful to people in stylistics and related disciplines. The issue has now been solved by non-listing of L&L references in "The Year's Work in Stylistics" articles.

L&L devotes special issues (one special issue per year normally) to key topics, so members are invited to submit proposals.

### **C. AWARDS UPDATE**

#### **The PALA Prize**

£250 from Sage, free subscription to the journal for one year, free membership of PALA for one year. Best article published in a particular year by a newcomer to the field. Judges: L&L Editor, 1 member of Editorial team and 1 member of Editorial board.

Awarded to: **Eric Rundquist, University of Nottingham**, "How is Mrs Ramsay thinking? The semantic effects of consciousness presentation categories within free indirect style", *Language & Literature*, May 2014; vol. 23, 2: pp. 159-174, doi:10.1177/0963947014530771

#### **The Longman Prize**

£200 of books. Prize for written version of best postgraduate paper presented at the annual conference, and judged by two members of the PALA executive committee.

The prize could not be awarded, because the publisher Longman no longer exists.

#### **Funds: a reassessment of the Roger Fowler/Mary Ellen Ryder Fund**

The Chair points out that the name of the Fund includes Fowler and Ryder, but not the other distinguished stylisticians whom we have lost in recent years. Furthermore, given that funds are very sparse, it is better to gather them together.

The Chair therefore proposes to rename it PALA Legacy Fund and to create a webpage listing the relevant stylisticians with their obituaries in order to commemorate them all. The Fund will continue to support unwaged scholars from developing countries (hence it is different from bursaries).

Members at the AGM approve.

### **D. LOOKING FORWARD**

#### **PALA 2018**

The Chair informs that the application procedure to host the PALA 2018 conference and summer school is now open. Those interested can refer to the PALA website for the detailed procedure (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/guidelines-for-organising.html>) and contact the Chair by December 31st 2015.

#### **PALA 2017: single bid from USA**

Bid from Eirini Panagiotidou and Israel Sanz-Sanchez at West Chester University, Philadelphia (PA)

The Chair informs that we had the single impressive application above.

Members at the AGM approve.

#### **PALA 2016: Cagliari (Daniela Viridis and Elisabetta Zurru)**

The PALA Conference 2016 - University of Cagliari, Italy

*In/Authentic Styles: Language, Discourse and Contexts*, July 6<sup>th</sup> – 30th 2016

Daniela and Elisabetta, the conference organisers, give a short presentation: title and general theme, venue, social activities, confirmed plenary speakers, summer school, getting to Cagliari, staying in Cagliari, etc.

### **E. AOB**

The previous PALA Chair Michael Burke thanks Paul Simpson, the outgoing PALA Chair, on behalf of the PALA membership for his commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism in leading the organisation over the past three years. The PALA committee presents Paul with a gift as token of their appreciation. Paul remains Chair of PALA until the end of the calendar year 2015.

The 2015 AGM closes.

## THE PALA COMMITTEE

### Chair

**Michael Toolan** is Professor of English Language at the University of Birmingham, UK  
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### Editor, *Language and Literature*

**Geoff Hall** is Dean of Arts & Education at the University of Nottingham Ningbo, China.  
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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

**Joe Bray** is Reader in English Language and Literature at the University of Sheffield, UK.  
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### Membership Secretary

**Stephen Pihlaja** is Lecturer in Stylistics at Newman University, Birmingham, UK.  
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### Student Membership Secretary

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### PALA 2016 Conference Organisers

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Visit the PALA 2016 conference home page at:

<http://convegni.unica.it/pala2016/>