

## Conferencias Plenarias

### Jim Crace

NOVELIST, U.K.

#### “THE GOBLIN OF STORYTELLING”

Novelist Jim Crace was born in Hertfordshire, England, in 1946 and was brought up in north London. He is widely regarded as an innovative and highly original writer with a powerful ability to create imaginary worlds and landscapes. His first book, *Continent* (1986), consists of seven interconnected stories set on an imaginary seventh continent, exploring Western attitudes to the Third World. It won the Whitbread First Novel Award, the Guardian Fiction Prize and the David Higham Prize for Fiction. *The Gift of Stones* (winner of the GAP International Prize for Literature) portrays a coastal Stone Age community threatened by Bronze Age technology, while *Arcadia* (1992), his third book, is set in an imaginary British city in the future.

*Signals of Distress* (1994) explores the events surrounding a shipwreck off the Cornish coast in the 1830s, and won the Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize. *Quarantine* (1997), which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was Whitbread Novel of the Year, is a reworking of the biblical account of Jesus's forty days spent in the wilderness. *Being Dead* (1999) narrates the murder and physical decomposition of a couple on a remote beach, interpolated with episodes from their life. The novel won the National Book Critics' Circle Fiction Award (USA) and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction.

Jim Crace's most recent and most controversial books are *The Devil's Larder* (2001), *Six* (2003) and *The Pesthouse* (2007) which envisages a medieval future for the United States of America. He is currently working on *The Finalist*, a fictional critique of Western bourgeois liberalism.

Jim Crace's works have been translated into twenty-six languages. He was awarded the E. M. Forster Award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1992 and became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1999. He is Distinguished Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Central England and an Honorary Doctor of Letters at the University of Birmingham, his home town for more than thirty years.

### Frank Davey

EMERITUS PROF. UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO (CANADA)

#### “UNEASY COMPANIONS: CANADIAN, CULTURAL, AND POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES IN CANADA”

Frank Davey has been a poet, editor, magazine publisher, literary critic, and cultural critic in Canada since 1961. Born in Vancouver on April 19, 1940, Frank Davey, now Emeritus Professor, was the Carl F. Klinck Professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Western Ontario; he was the first to hold this chair. He has also taught at York University in Toronto. Davey, who attended the University of British Columbia, is a prolific and highly-esteemed author of numerous

books and scholarly articles on Canadian literary criticism and poetry. He is editor and co-founder of the avant-garde poetry newsletter *Tish* (1961-63) and since 1965 he is also the editor of *Open Letter*, the Canadian journal of writing and theory. With Fred Wah in 1984, he founded *SwiftCurrent*, the world's first on-line literary magazine, and operated it until 1990. His latest long poem is *Back to the War*, released in 2005 by Talonbooks. Three of the more recent of Davey's poetry books are also in print at Talonbooks, including *The Arches: Selected Poems* (1980), edited by bpNichol, *Popular Narratives* (1991), and *Cultural Mischief* (1996). Davey writes with a unique panache as he examines with humour and irony the ambiguous play of signs in contemporary culture, the popular stories that lie behind them, and the struggles between different groups in society. (Adapted from Talonbooks.com)

### **Medbh McGuckian**

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

Medbh McGuckian was born in Belfast on 12 August 1950 and educated at a Dominican convent and Queen's University, Belfast. She has worked as a teacher and an editor and is a former Writer in Residence at Queen's University, Belfast (1985-8). Medbh McGuckian is a poet and a teacher of creative writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, Queen's University, Belfast, and she was also visiting professor at the University of Berkeley (California) and at Trinity College, Dublin.

Her first published poems appeared in two pamphlets, *Single Ladies: Sixteen Poems* and *Portrait of Joanna*, in 1980, the year in which she received an Eric Gregory Award. In 1981 she co-published *Trio Poetry 2* with fellow poets Damian Gorman and Douglas Marshall, and in 1989 she collaborated with Nuala Archer on *Two Women, Two Shores*. Medbh McGuckian's first major collection, *The Flower Master* (1982), which explores post-natal breakdown, was awarded a Rooney prize for Irish Literature, an Ireland Arts Council Award (both 1982) and an Alice Hunt Bartlett Award (1983). She is also the winner of the 1989 Cheltenham Prize for her collection *On Ballycastle Beach*.

Among her other published collections of poetry are *Venus and the Rain*, *On Ballycastle Beach*, *Marconi's Cottage*, *Captain Lavender*, *Shelmalier*, *Drawing Ballerinas*, *The Soldiers of Year II*, *The Face of the Earth*, *Selected Poems* and *The Book of the Angel*. Among the awards she has received are the British National Poetry Competition, the Cheltenham Award, and the Alice Hunt Bartlett prize, the Rooney prize and the American Ireland Fund Literary Award

### **Eija Ventola**

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

#### **"MULTISEMIOTIC ANALYSIS & FICTIONAL AND NON-FICTIONAL NARRATION"**

Prof Ventola teaches Australian literature, English language and culture, linguistic methodology, discourse analysis and the semiotics of discourse. Eija Ventola is professor of English at the University of Helsinki.

After completing two M.A.s at the University of Jyväskylä (Finland) and Macquarie University (Australia), she took her Ph.D. in systemic-functional linguistics at the University of

Sydney. She has held academic and research positions in Australia, Great Britain, Germany, Austria and Finland as well as guest professorships in the USA, Spain and Brazil.

She has published widely in the fields of social semiotics, systemic-functional linguistics, discourse analysis, text linguistics, multimodality and translation studies. Her interests include: everyday discourse, service interactions, written and spoken academic genres, educational linguistics, business language, Australian language and literature.

She has constantly striven to develop new research methods and practical applications in applied linguistics and discourse analysis. She has recently worked extensively on multimodality, in particular on such theoretical, methodological and applied issues as integration of visual with text in the field of tourism and the traditional and Internet press, discourses and spatial semiotic systems, multimodal corpus annotation, applications of multimodal, teaching materials, multimodality and museum designs. She initiated the international congress series on Multimodal Discourse by organizing the first event in Salzburg in 2002 (selected papers published in: E. Ventola, C. Charles & M. Kaltenbacher (2004), *Perspectives in Multimodality*. Amsterdam: Benjamins). She is a member of the advisory board of two leading journals in multimodality and text analysis: *Visual Communication* (Sage) and *Text* (Mouton de Gruyter).

She has co-edited many volumes including: *Academic Writing: Intercultural and textual issues*. co-edited in 1996 with Anna Mauranen; *Coherence in Spoken and Written Discourse: How to create it and how to describe it*, co-edited in 1999 with Wolfram Bublitz and Uta Lenk; (2002). *English in Academic and Professional Settings: Description and Pedagogical Applications*, *Textus – English Studies in Italy*, XV, Nr. 2, edited with Paola Evangelisti Allori; (2002). *The Language of Conferencing*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang. (edited with C. Shalom and S. Thompson); (2000). *Discourse and Community*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr; (1999). *Coherence in Spoken and Written Discourse. How to create it and how to describe it*. Amsterdam: Benjamins. (edited with W. Bublitz and U. Lenk); (1996). *Academic Writing: Intercultural and Textual Issues*. Amsterdam-Philadelphia: John Benjamins. (edited with A. Mauranen).

### **María del Pilar García Mayo**

UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

#### **“UPDATING FORMAL SLA: THE ENGLISH NON-NATIVE GRAMMAR OF BILINGUAL LEARNERS”**

María del Pilar García Mayo is Full Professor of English Language and Linguistics at the University of the Basque Country (Spain). She holds a B.A. in English Philology from the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Iowa (U.S.A). Her research interests include second language acquisition both from a generative and an interactionist perspective. Specifically, she has done research on the acquisition of English syntax by second language (L2) learners in instructional settings and on the relationship between input, interaction, negotiation and L2 learning, focus-on-form and task-based learning. Her work has been published in numerous scholarly journals both at an international (*Interface: Journal of Applied Linguistics*, *International Journal of Educational Research*, *International Journal of Multilingualism*, *International Review of Applied Linguistics*, *ITL: International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, *Language Learning*, *Studia Linguistica*) and

national level (*ATLANTIS, Cuadernos de Estudios Ingleses, Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses* and *Revista de Filología*, among others). Her work has also appeared in different edited collections published by Georgetown University Press, John Benjamins, Mouton de Gruyter and Multilingual Matters. She has co-edited two books (*Age and the Acquisition of English as a Foreign Language*, Multilingual Matters 2003; *EUROSLA Yearbook 5*, John Benjamins, 2005) and has been a guest editor (together with E. Alcón Soler) of a special issue of the *International Journal of Educational Research* on the role of interaction in instructed language settings. She has also edited the book *Investigating Tasks in Formal Language Learning* (Multilingual Matters, 2007) and is the author of *English for Specific Purposes: Discourse Analysis and Course Design* (2000). E-mail: mariapilar.garciamayo@ehu.es

### Francisco García Tortosa

UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE

#### “LITERATURA Y CRÍTICA EN PERSPECTIVA DOCENTE”

Dr. D. Francisco García Tortosa is one of the main specialists on the work of James Joyce in Spain and is, in fact, the President of the Spanish James Joyce Association. He has published widely on the works of Joyce, and is author of the Spanish translation of *Ulysses*. Among other publications it is possible to mention *Cine y Cultura: the 40's, Estados Unidos y Gran Bretaña* (Sevilla: Minerva, 2000) y *Anna Livia Plurabelle (Finnegans Wake I, VIII)* (Madrid: Cátedra, 1992), with Jose Maria Tejedor Cabrera and Ricardo Navarrete Franco. He has also published numerous articles and a wide variety of chapters to books on the subject.



Logo of the European Association for American Studies



Logo of the European Society for the Study of English