

Place, Writing and Voice

School of Humanities, University of Plymouth & Cornish Audio Visual Archive

Roland Levinsky Building, University of Plymouth
5-6 September 2008



Shelley Trower, Tony Lopez, Richard Kerridge and Nick Groom

In September 2008 CAVA collaborated with the University of Plymouth in hosting a conference that attracted delegates from as far afield as California and Massachusetts. The 'Place, Writing and Voice' conference investigated the diverse ways in which locality is understood within the context of the interdisciplinary relationship between oral history and literary studies. Organised by Shelley Trower, Research Fellow for the AHRC Myth, Mysticism & Celtic

Nationalism project at Tremough and Daffydd Moore, Head of the School of Humanities at the University of Plymouth, the conference built on the community-based research promoted by the Rescorla project. As Shelley Trower remarked, 'The Rescorla Festival in June really made me think about the literature of areas like the Clay Country. The 'Place, Writing and Voice' conference allowed us to explore further some of the associations between literature and place, and oral traditions and history – from ballads to dialect poetry and contemporary novels, and looked at how we represent literary and oral cultures in regions like Cornwall. It was a fascinating couple of days, with some excellent speakers and a fantastic atmosphere'.

The Roland Levinsky building proved to be an ideal venue for the conference and delegates were impressed by the administrative support and catering facilities provided by the university. There are now plans for an edited collection of papers based on the proceedings of the conference. The book will demonstrate how oral history can provide a valuable way of understanding locality, which is important in light of major issues facing the world today, including global environmental concerns. In order to consider oral history interviews within a wider, interdisciplinary context, it will also examine how other forms of narrative engage with locality.

Conference Programme

FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

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|-------------|---------------------------|
| 11.00-11.30 | Register and refreshments |
| 11.30-12.30 | Welcome and Plenary |

Campus	Professor Nick Groom, University of Exeter Cornwall 'Seasons of Song: Place, Weather and Voice' Chair: Dafydd Moore, University of Plymouth
12.30-13.30	Lunch (cross point)
13.30-15.00	Parallel session 1 Locating 'Celtic' Britain Philip Schwyzer, University of Exeter 'When Was Wales, and Where Is Wessex? Mapping Imagined Communities' Dafydd Moore, University of Plymouth 'The <i>romance</i> of real life": Richard Polwhele's Representation of the Literary Culture and Language of Cornwall' James Mulholland, Wheaton College, Massachusetts 'Displaced Voices of the Global Eighteenth Century: Re-writing Thomas Gray's "The Bard" in Colonial India' Chair: Marion Gibson, University of Exeter Printed Voices David Atkinson, University of Aberdeen 'Writing Place in Ballad Texts' Frances Austin-Jones, Formerly University of Liverpool 'The Dialect Poetry of William Barnes' Sue Edney, Bath Spa University 'Barnes's printed voices: an exploration of 'authenticity' beyond the spelling' Chair: Mary Jacobs, University of Plymouth
15.00-15.30	Coffee/tea (cross point)
15.30-17.00	Parallel Session 2 Music in the South West Sam Richards, University of Plymouth 'Fieldwork, Choice, Ideology - Perspectives on the making of a Westcountry archive'

Paul Wilson, Wren Music
'Think Global, Sing Local: Towards a dynamic song culture in the South West'

Frances Bennett, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus
'Can Cornish Traditional Music be said to have a Sense of Place?'

Chair: Lona Kozik, University of Plymouth

Romanticism, locality, and poetry

Hu Longbiao, Durham University
'Place and Collective Memory in "The Brothers"'

Daniel Maudlin, University of Plymouth
'Romance and Regionalism: identity and the idea of the cottage'

Kerri Andrews, Nottingham Trent University
'"Such is Bristol's soul": Ann Yearsley, Joseph Cottle, and the literary locality'

Chair: Min Wild, University of Plymouth

17.15-18.00

Plenary 2
Professor Tim Fulford, Nottingham Trent University
'Romancing the Stones: the Poet Laureate, the Authoress and the Legends of Dartmoor'

Chair: Joanne Parker, University of Exeter Cornwall

Campus

18.00-19.30

Drinks, with reading from 'Only More So' (at cross point) by Tony Lopez, Professor in Poetry, University of Plymouth

20.00 onwards

Dinner

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

10.00-10.45

Plenary: Richard Kerridge, Bath Spa University
'Contemporary fiction and the phenomenology of place'

Chair: Kym Martindale, University College Falmouth

10.45-11.00

Coffee/tea

11.00-12.30

Parallel session 3

Performance and Location

Mike Pearson, Aberystwyth University
'Carrlands: Remote Voices, Deserted Places. Recording, writing and listening in an agricultural landscape.'

Phil Smith, University of Plymouth
'Speaking On Your Feet: walking, ecology and narrative'

Heike Roms, Aberystwyth University
'An Oral History of Performance Art in Wales – Revisiting Histories and Sites of Performance'

Chair: Nicholas Ridout, Queen Mary, University of London

Changing Landscapes

Leslie McCartney, Independent Scholar
'Oral Histories as Witnesses to a Changing Land'

Patrick Duffy, National University of Ireland
'De-localising communities: a country diary of a changing south Ulster community 1930s-70s'

Andrew Holmes, University of Sussex
'Oral history and the Ouse project: Interdisciplinary research with practical implications'

Chair: Shelley Trower, University of Plymouth

12.30-13.30

Lunch

13.30-14.30

Parallel session 4

Oral counter-histories

Merle Masse, Saskatchewan University
'Saskatchewan Local History and the Oral Counterhistory: or, Everyone Lived Such Exemplary Lives'

Wanda Addison, National University
'Beyond Silence: Reclaiming Self through Cultural Narratives'

Chair: Leslie McCartney, Independent Scholar

Vernacular voices

Lanisa Kitchiner, Howard University

'Voicing the Words of the Unheard: The Power of Orality in Zora Neale Hurston's "Mules and Men"'

Peggy Pacini, Paris University

'La Souillonne; Voice of the Transplanted: An Oral History of the Franco-American Experience in New England'

Chair: Dafydd Moore, University of Plymouth

14.30-15.00

Coffee/tea

15.00-16.20

Parallel session 5

Journeys

Paul Lawley, University of Plymouth

'Orality and Avoidance: Tom Murphy's *Bailegangaire*'

Laura Higgins, Royal Holloway, University of London

'Locating Her Self; Finding Her Voice: Reasserting the Queen's Narrative in Shakespeare's *Richard II*'

Natalie Farr, New Mexico Highlands University

'Trains and Thinking: The Locality of a Moving Train'

Chair: Min Wild, University of Plymouth

What's wrong with taking a romantic view of Cornwall?

Reading by Pauline Liu Devereux of her creative writing, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus

Response by Richard Kerridge, Bath Spa University, followed by discussion

Chair: Kayleigh Milden, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus

16.20-16.30

Closing remarks