



Colloque international
**American Literature
and Therapeutic Cultures**
Littérature américaine et cultures thérapeutiques

14-16 juin 2023

Maison de la Création et de l'Innovation (MaCI)
Université Grenoble Alpes

Organisation: Nicholas Manning (UGA-IUF)
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Wednesday June 14

8:15-8:45 Coffee

8:45 Welcome address

Session 1

Literary Criticism and the Limits of Therapeutic Knowledge

Moderator: **Nicholas Manning**,
Université Grenoble Alpes/Institut
universitaire de France

9:00-9:45 : **Beth Blum**, Harvard
University

“Unlearning”: The Rise of an Aesthetic-
Therapeutic Imperative

9:45-10:30 : **Adam Frank**, University of
British Columbia
A Survey of Motives for Criticism

10:30-10:45 – Coffee Break

Session 2

The State of Fiction: From Alienation to Detachment

Moderator: **Marie Mianowski**, Université
Grenoble Alpes

10:45-11:30 **David James**, University of
Birmingham
The Gratifications of Disconsolation

11:30-12:15 **Peter Boxall**, University of
Sussex
I Was the Prosthesis: Philip Roth and
Therapeutic Fiction

12:15-13:30 – Lunch Break

Session 3

Therapeutic Feminisms

Moderator: **Véronique Molinari**,
Université Grenoble Alpes

13:30-14:15 **Aubrey Jones**, Weber State
University
Resistance, Transformation and
Therapeutics: Representations and
Treatments of Mental Illness in American
Women’s Writing Across the 20th
Century

14:15-15:00 **Juliette Bouanani**,
Université Paris Nanterre
Confessions, Shame and Bravery: the
Feminine Lyric and Therapeutic Cultures

15:00-15:15 – Coffee Break

Session 4

Catharsis or Anti-Catharsis?

Moderator: **Estelle Rivier Arnaud**,
Université Grenoble Alpes

15:15-16:00 **Julie Vatain**, Sorbonne
Université
From Catharsis to Resilience?
Contemporary Reconfigurations in
American Theater

16:00-16:45 **Michaëla Cogan**, Université
de Franche-Comté
Mythopsychosis, or Catharsis Unbound
in Jerome Charyn’s Autofictions

Session 5: Roundtable

What Future For Therapeutic Cultures? Rethinking Literature’s Relationship to Psychology and Psy Discourses

17:00-18:15 Moderator: **Peter Boxall**,
University of Sussex
Participants: **Timothy Aubry**, Baruch
College, CUNY

Beth Blum, Harvard University
Adam Frank, University of British
Columbia

David James, University of Birmingham
Trysh Travis, University of Florida

Thursday June 15

8:30-9:00 Coffee

Session 6

Representing Psychotherapy and Behavioral Health

Moderator: **Catherine Bortolon**,
Université Grenoble Alpes

9:00-9:45: Trysh Travis, University of
Florida
Literature and Behavioral Health

9:45-10:30: Yasna Bozhkova, Université
Sorbonne Nouvelle
Psychotherapy and its Limits in Ben
Lerner's *The Topeka School*

10:30-10:45 – Coffee Break

10:45-11:30: Béatrice Pire, Université
Sorbonne Nouvelle
The Depiction of Psychotherapy in
Jonathan Franzen's *Crossroads*: the
"Depressed" Wallace Effect

12:00-14:00 – Lunch Break

Session 7

**Pathogenic and Postgenomic
Cultures: Utopian and Dystopian
Worlds**

Moderator: **Jean-Daniel Collomb**,
Université Grenoble Alpes

14:00-14:45: Jean-Paul Rocchi,
Université Gustave Eiffel
"Save My Mind – and Yours": Pathogenic
Culture and Psychoanalysis in Colson
Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys* and
African-American Literature

14:45-15:30: Martin Halliwell, University
of Leicester
Embryonic Entanglements: Postgenomic
Life Cultures in the United States

15:30-16:00 – Coffee Break

Session 8

**"Physical" or "Mental" Health:
Medical Sciences in the Nineteenth
Century**

Moderator: **Mark Niemeyer**, Université
de Bourgogne

16:00-16:45: Thomas Constantinesco,
Sorbonne Université
Blood Sugar: Food, Health, Race, and
Literature in the Nineteenth-Century
United States

16:45-17:30: Michael Jonik, University of
Sussex
"To restore your lost energy": Medical
Science and Vitalism in Herman
Melville's *The Confidence-Man*

18:00-20:00 – Theatrical Workshop
Julie Vatain, Sorbonne Université

Friday June 16

8:45-9:00 Coffee

Session 9

The Critique of Therapeutic Categories

Moderator: **Samuel Lézé**, École normale supérieure de Lyon

9:00-9:45: Timothy Aubry, Baruch College, CUNY
Neurotic Publics: Lionel Trilling's Ill Communication

9:45-10:30: Nicholas Manning, Université Grenoble Alpes/Institut universitaire de France
Against a Diagnostic Criticism? On the "Pathologizing" of Fictional Characters

10:30-10:45 – Coffee Break

Session 10

Therapeutics of Reception: Reading, Talking, Translating

Moderator: **Sébastien Scarpa**, Université Grenoble Alpes

10:45-11:30: Isabelle Blondiaux, Groupe Hospitalier Universitaire de l'AP-HP/ Université Paris Est
Pratiques de la lecture et culture thérapeutique

11:30-12:15: Jean-Christophe Cloutier, University of Pennsylvania
The Therapeutics of Self-Translation: The Case of Jean-Louis "Jack" Kerouac

12:15-14:00 - Lunch Break

Session 11

Modernist Poetics of Therapeutics

Moderator: **Vincent Bucher**, Université Grenoble Alpes

14:00-14:45: Célia Galey, Université Gustave Eiffel
What's Happening? Poetry Performance as Social Therapy

14:45-15:30: Samantha Lemeunier, École normale supérieure – Ulm
"Art was Williams's Therapy": William Carlos Williams's Maieutic Process

15:30-15:45 – Coffee Break

Session 12

From Vulnerability to Influence

Moderator: **Christine Vandamme**, Université Grenoble Alpes

15:45-16:30: Alwena Queillé, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle
"My Year of Rest and Relaxation": Vulnerability and Therapeutic Imaginations in the Contemporary Fiction of Ottessa Moshfegh

16:30-17:15: Victoria Robert, Sorbonne Université
Self-Help, New Religions, Cults: Therapeutic Cultures of Influence in Coming-of-Age Novels by Emma Cline, Jeffrey Eugenides, R.O. Kwon and Alison Wisdom