



# The F-Word

## in contemporary women's writing

The Fourth Biennial Conference of the Postgraduate Contemporary Women's Writing Network

4 – 5 April 2013, Queens University Belfast

### First Keynote Speaker Announced: Angela McRobbie (Goldsmiths, University of London)



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Feminism has always found significant expression in creative and critical literature, from poetry and pamphlets to modes of the digital age: Twittering and blogging. Yet with its shifting social and political manifestations, the term feminism itself has frequently been seen to raise as many questions as supposed answers, leaving it open to revision, contestation and new expression. This conference seeks to examine the varied and diverse ways in which contemporary women's writing since 1970 has engaged with and continues to respond to the 'the f word'.

Marking the centenary of Emily Wilding Davison's legacy on the women's movement, this two-day conference will investigate how feminisms are particularly represented within contemporary women's writing in its broadest sense: from novels and short stories through to journalism and children's literature. This cross-genre approach aims to consider the wider social and cultural impact of feminist politics, including the influence of new media and social networks.

'The F Word in Contemporary Women's Writing' seeks responses which examine the generational implications of first, second and third wave feminism(s) and postfeminism upon contemporary literary culture. How might contemporary women's writing emphasise the legacy and continuing relevancy of feminism? And how might literature effect possible feminist futures?

In considering these questions, we are welcoming papers from diverse disciplines including literature, linguistics, film studies, cultural studies, women's studies, history, music, media and communications etc. Topics may include but are certainly not limited to:

- Literary Sisterhood(s) – Intertexts and Influences
- Woman, womyn, wimmin, girl, grrrls and CWW
- Activism, (new) protests and contemporary feminist fictions
- National, transnational, global and diasporic feminist writings
- Lesbian, queer and transgender engagements with literary feminisms
- Postfeminism: from backlash, New Traditionalist to 'chick-lit' writings
- Raunch culture, pornography and objectification in/on contemporary women's writing
- Songs, lyrics and verse in contemporary women's writing – from Riot Grrrls to Carol Ann Duffy
- Modern feminist classics (both cultural and literary texts)
- The Digital Age and Cyber feminist writings
- Feminist screenwriting and theatre
- Synergies and antagonistic relationships with men's writing
- Feminist writing and marginal identities

Please submit abstracts of 300 words for 20-minute papers via email to [thefword@pgcwwn.org](mailto:thefword@pgcwwn.org)  
Deadline: Friday 5th October 2012