

The Modernist Short Story



Call for Papers for the Katherine Mansfield Society Postgraduate Conference

19th September 2015, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee

‘Our modern attraction to the short story is not an accident of form; it is the sign of a real sense of fleetingness and fragility; it means that existence is only an impression, and, perhaps, only an illusion. We have no instinct of anything ultimate and enduring beyond the episode.’ G. K. Chesterton, *Appreciations and Criticisms of the Works of Charles Dickens* (1911).

In both content and critical reception, the short story has always possessed an uncertain status. Growing rapidly in popularity towards the end of the nineteenth century, the short story form became representative of the experimental spirit of the age, allowing authors to create fragmented, ambiguous narratives, and explore themes and characters outside of the dominant cultural perspective. This conference invites proposals from postgraduate students and early career researchers for papers relating to (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Identity and authenticity
- Liminality, ambivalence, thresholds
- Short stories and gender
- Intermediality
- Short stories and epiphany
- Queer perspectives
- Short stories and print culture
- The postcolonial short story

We particularly welcome papers on the work of Katherine Mansfield, as the conference will include special Mansfield sessions. Suggestions for readings are also encouraged. Please send abstracts of 250 words to modernistshortstory2015@gmail.com by **1/9/15**.