

The Postgraduate  
Contemporary Women's  
Writing Network's Biannual  
Conference

8-9 September 2017  
Sheffield Hallam University

# FAST FORWARD: WOMEN'S WRITING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

*"The past is always tense, the future perfect." (Zadie Smith)*

Zadie Smith's debut novel *White Teeth* was published in the January of 2000 and marked the beginning of a new millennium of women's writing. Considering that this and other texts released around the turn of the century are soon to be the same age as current undergraduates, it seems timely to move on from well-worn discussions of literature produced in the 1970s onwards and focus on women's writing in the twenty first century.

The contemporary, as a liminal temporal space, marks the transition between past and future and as such is not only notoriously hard to frame but its fluid and ephemeral nature continues to present a challenge in literary studies and beyond. Contemporary literature, in many ways simultaneously 'with the time' and then quickly outdated, presents a curious and exciting paradox to think through questions of literary form, the literary marketplace, the role of authors as public intellectuals and contemporary readers. The need to focus on the present and contemporary state of women's literature seems particularly poignant in a post-Brexit and Trump era in which laws and ideas surrounding the future state of gender, race, and class politics are ever more obscure and uncertain.

Join us on 8th & 9th September 2017 as we seek to position the most recent work (post 2000) of established authors alongside the field's newer voices in order to facilitate a conversation about the present state – and possible futures – of women's writing.

>> **Keynote**

**ANNA BALL**

(Nottingham Trent University)

>> **Workshop & Reading**

**EMILY BLEWITT**

(Poet)

Please send abstracts of 250 words and a short bio note to  
[conference@pgcwwn.org](mailto:conference@pgcwwn.org) until **30th June 2017**.

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