

Humanitarian Fictions

1-day graduate workshops

April 14, 2018, at King's College London

April 21, 2018, at Warwick University



These one-day workshops will examine the revived idea of humanitarianism in postcolonial, comparative, and world literary studies. They raise specific questions about how the novel in particular embraces the discourse of human rights to address global modernity's emergences and discontents. In the process, we will reflect on how literature represents, intervenes in, or helps create an affective script for vulnerable lives and habitations. We will question the relationship between the world novel, humanitarianism, and the 'human,' paying attention to traditional, experimental, and aberrational forms of narrative to re-examine, in the twenty-first century, the traditional objectives of the English-language novel: social circulation and mobility, distributive justice, vernacular cosmopolitanisms, and equivocal forms of national belonging.

The workshops are an essential research activity associated with Professor Ankhi Mukherjee's AHRC-funded book project, "The Psychic Life of the Poor: A City Unseen in Mumbai, London and New York."

Details of this project can be found here:

<http://torch.ox.ac.uk/themes/psychic-life-poor>

Call for Papers:

Possible topics include:

Humanities, human rights, humanitarianism

Human rights and the novel

Human rights (or the limits of rights discourse) vs. the novel

Poverty, precarity, underdevelopment

Disability, gender identity, and race in relation to human rights

Migrancy and homelessness

Global war, terrorism, violence

Environmental crises and the nonhuman

New media and multimedia narration, involving graphic novels, blogs, journalism, documentary, photography

To apply, please send 300-word abstracts (for 15-minute papers) by **February 20** to Dr David Barnes, the research assistant on this project (david.barnes@ell.ox.ac.uk). To be considered for a travel bursary, please attach a brief justification with your request (inadequate funding at your home institution, for instance).

