

Pockets, Pouches & Secret Drawers

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

Thursday 3 – Saturday 5 December 2020

Institute of Modern Languages Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

CALL FOR PAPERS

Lucy Locket lost her pocket,
Kitty Fisher found it.
Not a penny was there in it
But a ribbon round it.



The title of this conference refers to enclosed places, deception and privacy, focusing on three spatial areas – the body, clothing and furniture. For Baudelaire the weight of memories is like a desk full of hidden drawers; for Carroll the white rabbit's pocket drives Alice down into Wonderland. Houses contain rooms, which contain furniture with secret contents; bodies enclose pouches, wombs, systems, membranes. All enclosures imply possible exposure but also protect themselves against revelation – why and how? Do boys' pockets differ from girls'? Is a poacher's coat, lined with hidden pockets, quite different from the mechanism by which drawers spring out of an eighteenth-century lady's *escritoire* to carry when she travels? What is the 'person' that hides things about itself? This topic crosses many disciplinary boundaries as well as languages, centuries and media. The conference will include three keynote speakers, a performance by a magician, a dinner and break-out sessions.

Please send proposals for a 20-minute paper (or for a panel of three 20-minute papers) to the two organisers, Naomi Segal (n.segal@bbk.ac.uk) and Jean Owen (ojean27@yahoo.com). The proposal should comprise your name, email address & academic affiliation if any; a 300-word abstract, with title, and a 100-word mini-bio. **Deadline: 26 June 2020**

'How small the cosmos (a kangaroo's pouch would hold it), how paltry and puny in comparison to human consciousness, to a single individual recollection, and its expression in words!'
Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak, Memory*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Jack Ashby, Dept of Zoology, Cambridge (<https://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/directory/jack-ashby>)
'Marvelling at marsupials: pouches in nature'

Carolyn Sargentson, Independent scholar & consultant, formerly Head of Research, V&A (<https://www.carolynsargentsonconsulting.com/>)
'Furniture as theatre: performing secrecy, surveillance and subterfuge'

Jenny Tiramani, The School of Historical Dress (www.theschoolofhistoricaldress.org.uk)
'Gendered pockets: the difference in pockets worn by men and women c.1500-1900'

MAGICIAN

Yoshikatsu Shinozawa, SOAS (<https://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff72857.php>)
'Now you see it...'

CONFERENCE FEES

Standard £60 **Students/Unwaged £30**
Booking will open on 13 July 2020 & close on 30 October 2020
NUMBERS ARE LIMITED: PLEASE BOOK EARLY

EARLY CAREER BURSARIES COMPETITION

opening 10 July 2020 & closing 10 August 2020

For info see <https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/22520> or email
n.segal@bbk.ac.uk or ojean27@yahoo.com



Un gros meuble à tiroirs, encombré de bilans,
De vers, de billets doux, de procès, de romances,
Avec de lourds cheveux roulés dans des quittances,
Cache moins de secrets que mon triste cerveau.