



6th conference of the French Society of Modernist Studies (SEM)
Universités Paris-Nanterre and Paris-Cité
24-26 June 2026

HOW TO GET THERE:

Université Paris-Ouest Nanterre (June 24th and 25th)

By RER (Regional Express Network): Take RER line A towards Saint-Germain-en-Laye and get off at "Nanterre-Université". From "Châtelet / Les Halles" or "Auber" stations, the journey takes between 10 and 15 minutes.

By train: Take the train from Saint-Lazare station towards "Nanterre-Université" (line L) and get off at "Nanterre-Université". The journey takes about 15 minutes.

Campus map : <https://bienvenue.parisnanterre.fr/plan-du-campus>

Bâtiment Weber is close to the "N" on the map.

Université Paris-Cité (June 26th)

By RER or metro: Take RER line C or Metro line 14 and get off at "Bibliothèque François Mitterrand". Alternatively, you may take Tram 3a and get off at "Avenue de France".

Campus map : https://u-paris.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PlanB5_HAF_2021_01.pdf

The "Halles aux Farines" building is accessible via Esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet or rue Françoise-Dolto. Amphi HF-8C is located on the 4th floor (and also accessible from the 5th floor), from gate C.

Papers should last no longer than 20 minutes.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH – NANTERRE

13:15-13:45	Welcome and Registration <i>Bâtiment Weber, ground floor, entrance hall</i>		
13:45	Conference opening		
14:00-15:00	<i>Bâtiment Weber, ground floor, salle de conférences</i> Keynote Rachel Potter: Libertine Modernism Chair: Charlotte Estrade		
15:00-15:15	Break		
	<i>Bat. Weber, ground floor, salle de conférences</i>	<i>Bat. Weber, ground floor, room: Seminaire 2</i>	<i>Bat. Maier, ground floor, room: R14</i>
15:15-16:45	Women, Sex and the Boundaries of Form/Genre Chair: Emma Frigo <u>Leila Michelle Vaziri</u> : “‘The central point toward which life and death are spinning’: Pregnancy’s Forms in the Modernist Novel’ <u>Kirsten MacLeod</u> : “‘Aged freaks are all the rage’: The élégante as Modernist Female Type’ <u>Stacy Gillis</u> : “‘A Work of a Tendency So Grossly Immoral’’: Public Morals, Copyright, and Women’s Writing in the Early Twentieth Century’	Magazines and book series Chair: Benoît Tadié <u>Céline Mansanti</u> : Sex and its suppression in the new US humor magazines of the 1920s <u>Will Straw</u> : Sexual content and form in New York’s sensational magazines of the 1920s <u>Max Saunders</u> : Modernist Sex To-day and To-morrow	Against Sex Chair: Lacy Rumsey <u>Fiorenzo Iuliano</u> : “‘A more durable purity’’: Jewish Sexuality and the Struggle for Americanness in Henry Roth’s <i>Call It Sleep</i> <u>Zakir Paul</u> : “‘Modernist Erotophobia’ <u>Bérenghère Riou</u> : “‘turn from easy pleasure’’: Resisting Sex in H.D.
16:45-17:00	Break		
17:00-18:30	Transidentity and non-binary identity Chair: Chloé Thomas <u>Jenny Scoones and Laura Ludtke</u> : The Trouble with Tiresias: Reading for Glandular Discourse in Eliot’s <i>The Waste Land</i> (1922) and Sackville-West’s <i>The Land</i> (1926) <u>Chris Coffman</u> : Nonbinary Sexuality in Bryher’s “‘Hellenics” and “‘Myiskos” <u>Jaime Hovey</u> : Girl won and lost: sporting transmasculinity in Radclyffe Hall’s <i>The Well of Loneliness</i> and Enid Bagnold’s <i>National Velvet</i>	Colonial and Postcolonial sex Chair: Céline Mansanti <u>Atim Mackin</u> : (Pseudo)-Charting Colonial Sexualities: Docteur Jacobus’ <i>Amour aux colonies</i> (1893) <u>Sean Mark</u> : “‘[E]verybody look like they frustrated in the big city the sex life gone wild’’: On Sex in <i>The Lonely Londoners</i> <u>Justine Baillie</u> : The Economy of Survival in Jean Rhys’ <i>Voyage in the Dark</i> and <i>Good Morning, Midnight</i> and Claude McKay’s <i>Banjo</i>	Surveillance, censorship Chair: Zakir Paul <u>Rose Ducharme</u> : Sex, Surveillance, and the British Empire in Claude McKay’s Writings on Jamaica <u>Andrew Thacker</u> : “‘the spicy kind of books’’: Sex and Censorship in the Modernist Bookshop <u>Agata Ida Kozuchowska</u> : Picturing the perverse: the surreal, the Bizarre and issues of censorship in John Willie’s vintage S/M erotica

THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH – NANTERRE

	<i>Bat. Weber, ground floor, salle de conférences</i>	<i>Bat. Weber, ground floor, room: Seminaire 2</i>	<i>Bat. Maier, ground floor, room: R14</i>
9:00-10:30	<p>Queerness (1) Chair: Henry Carmines <u>Maurizia Boscagli</u>: The Bed, and the Boat: Queer Sexuality in Djuna Barnes and Eileen Grey <u>Regine Eurydike Hader</u>: Modernist Dance Portraits as Queer and Gay Geometries <u>Ian Jayne</u>: “Serious pleasure”: Narrating Queer Sexuality in <i>Maurice</i> and <i>Alec</i></p>	<p>Maleness, masculinity, virility (1) Chair: Maiwenn-Iman Zekri Le Garff <u>Fabio Colonese</u>: Luigi Moretti, Ettore Muti and the architectural representation of the fascist myth of virility <u>Kimberly Kotel</u>: Space and Sexual Crowding in Miller’s <i>Tropic of Cancer</i> <u>Emma Frigo</u>: “A nice cunt sandwich”: Henry Miller’s alimentary and sexual hunger(s)</p>	<p>Promiscuity and Secrecy Chair: Charlotte Estrade <u>Philippe Birgy</u>: Compromising promiscuity and entangling connexions in and around Rebecca West’s “Indissoluble Matrimony” <u>Joseph Owen</u>: Secrecy and Obscenity in <i>Lady Chatterley’s Lover</i> <u>Rachel Haines</u>: Schoolgirls in love: The Queer Desire to be Smart in Dorothy Strachey’s <i>Olivia</i></p>
10:30-11:00	Break		
11:00-12:30	<p>Queerness (2) Chair: Fiona Fleming <u>Andrew Koenig</u>: Isherwood, Hockney, and Gay (Post)modern(ist) Identity in LA. <u>David Reckford</u>: “I will always love you though I never loved you”: the haptics of differently oriented New York School poets and artists <u>Maxime Petit</u>: “The Actual Deed of Sex”: Homosexuality, Obscenity and Censorship in the Fiction of E.M. Forster</p>	<p>Maleness, masculinity, virility (2) Chair: Hélène Aji <u>Jane Malcolm</u>: From Male Genius to the Mother of Us All: Gertrude Stein and Dashiell Hammett Talk Sex and Gender <u>Clément Oudart</u>: ‘You mean coitus?’: Priapus in the land of the eunuchs, or the stakes of hypersexualized writing in Hemingway, Fitzgerald and Dos Passos. <u>Thirthankar Chakraborty</u>: A Crisis of Masculinity in Beckett’s <i>Murphy</i> and Ananthamurthy’s <i>Samskara</i></p>	<p>Hysteria, Perversion, Obscenity Chair: Naomi Toth <u>Rosaria Murolo</u>: Augustine’s Gaze: Hysteria as Perversion of Bourgeois Sexuality <u>Tobias Jenkins</u>: After Strange Gods: Masud Khan and Sexual Perversion <u>Savina Stevanato</u>: Is “this stuff [...] too stiff for us”? The Case of Eliot’s Sexual and Bawdy Poems</p>

12:30-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:30	<p>Queerness (3) Chair: H��l��ne Aji <u>Karo Strauch</u>: Lesbian Polyamorous Utopia: Queer Futurity in Natalie Barney's <i>Women Lovers or The Third Woman</i> <u>Naomi Toth</u>: Against possession - Orlando Erotics <u>Melissa Bradshaw</u>: "Who's that Lady?": Decoding Intimacies in Amy Lowell's Letters</p>	<p>Femininity and the female body (1) Chair: Juliette Utard <u>Julyan Oldham</u>: "Hypothetical Virginity?": Sex and Modernist Virginity <u>Nora Pehrson</u>: Modernist periods <u>Lou Pinelli</u>: The Modernist Second Sex: Simone de Beauvoir as a reader of Anglophone Modernist women writers</p>	<p>Ambiguous Spaces Chair: Flore Coulouma <u>Peter Kurtz</u>: "Dat sure is the sullibrated word!": Magdalene Laundries and Sequestered Sites of (Re)circulation in Finnegans Wake's Poetics of Waste and Sex <u>Louise Kane</u>: Zhang Ailing's "Sealed off": Sex, Shanghai, and Chinese Modernism <u>Maurice Fadel</u>: Ambiguity and Sexuality in Formalist Literary Theory</p>
15:30-16:00	Break		
16:00-17:30	<p>Representing Sex Chair: Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris <u>Patrick Armstrong</u>: Scientific Films, Sex and Spectatorship <u>Enda Duffy</u>: <i>The Fire</i>: Sexuality and an Alt-Biopolitics of Modernism <u>Kevin Kennedy</u>: Sex and Silence: Susan Sontag and The Failure of Representation in Modernist Literature</p>	<p>Femininity and the female body (2) Chair: Anne-Pascale Bruneau-Rumsey <u>Izabela Sobczak</u>: Fragmented Figures: Modernist Metonymies of Desire (Djuna Barnes, Virginia Woolf, and Hans Bellmer) <u>Neethi Alexander</u>: Erotics of the Unbeautiful: Sexuality, Ageing, and the Female Body in the works of Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven and Djuna Barnes <u>Barth��l��my Rolland</u>: From "Lost" and "Found" to "For Paul": Lorine Niedecker's Politics of the Body After Sex</p>	<p>Degeneration, eugenics and birth control Chair: Henry Carmines <u>Sylvain Belluc</u>: Eugenics and Birth Control in James Joyce's "The Dead" <u>Janice Ho</u>: Birth Control and The Politics of Development in Aldous Huxley's <i>The Island</i> <u>David Ludwig</u>: Sex, Modernism and Degeneration: Antimodernist Discourses from the Sittlichkeitsbewegung to Spengler</p>
19:30	<p>Conference dinner <i>Le Cercle</i> 12, rue Cl��ment, 75006 Paris</p>		

FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH- PARIS-CITÉ

	<i>Amphi H8C</i>	<i>Room HF404B</i>	<i>Room HF406B</i>
9:00-10:30	<p>Visual arts (1): the nude Chair: Anne-Pascale Bruneau-Rumsey <u>Jane Garrity</u>: Art Monster: Vanessa Bell's Photographs of Nude Girls <u>Anastasia G. Wildig</u>: Intimate portraits: an examination of the artist-muse relationship and interpretations of the female nude during the modernist period <u>Sirine Germani</u>: From Orientalist Gaze to Pluralist Desire: The Politics of the Nude in Lebanese Modern and Contemporary Art</p>	<p>The politics of sexual liberation Chair: Olivier Hercend <u>Karla Kelsey</u>: "The Vaginal Cry": Martha Graham, Anaïs Nin, and Sexual Politics <u>James Dowthwaite</u>: 'Naked Liberation': Sex and Modernism in Stephen Spender's Hamburg <u>Allan Hepburn</u>: Muriel Spark and the Sexual Revolution</p>	<p>Esotericism and Modernism: Hidden Knowledge Masking the Reproduction of the Normative (1) <i>Moderator: Brennan Kettelle</i> <u>Jessica Albrecht</u>: Masculinity and the Empire: Negotiations of Normativity between W. B. Yeats and R. Tagore <u>Tanya Cheadle</u> : Heroic Masculinity, Neo-Paganism and Celtic Revivalism in the Adventure Romances of John William Brodie Innes (1848-1923)</p>
10:30-11:00	Break		
11:00-12:30	<p>Visual arts (2): expressionist & dada sex Chair: Astrid Maes <u>Cole J. Graham</u>: Bodily Matters: Egon Schiele and the Erotics of Disability <u>Martin Harries</u>: Sexuality in Kurt Schwitters' Collages <u>Zanë Hadri</u>: The Zero-Degree of Emotion: Francis Picabia's Mechanomorphism as Affective Diagram of Modern Sexuality</p>	<p>Sex, writing and reading Chair: Daniel Jean <u>James Dutton</u>: Taste Matters: Proust, Writing and Dying for Sex <u>Brian Richardson</u>: Reading and Sex in Modernist Fiction <u>Samantha Lemeunier</u>: "A secret having to do profoundly with her sex": William Carlos Williams's Eroticization of Women's Writings</p>	<p>Esotericism and Modernism: Hidden Knowledge Masking the Reproduction of the Normative (2) <i>Moderator: Brennan Kettelle</i> <u>Christine Ferguson</u>: Dion Fortune and Magical Miscegenation in the 1920s Occult Milieu. <u>Manon Hedenborg White</u>: 'Turbaned Orientals and women of the underworld': Whiteness and heterosexuality interrupted in early-20th century tabloid portrayals of Aleister Crowley <u>Hubert Cook</u>: Bodied Knowledge Protocols: James Baldwin's Modern Speculations of Sex and Captivity</p>

12.30-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Jean-Michel Rabaté: “All were lacking if sex were lacking” Freud, Eliot, Woolf, and Sackville-West Chair: Benoît Tadié <i>Room: Amphi H8C</i></p>		
15:00-15:30	Break		
15:30-17:00	<p>Visual arts (3): the male gaze and female exploitation Chair: Anne-Pascale Bruneau-Rumsey <u>Ya'ara Gil-Glazer</u>: From Fin-de-Siècle Misogyny to Countercultural Women's Liberation: Art Nouveau's Sexual Imagery Reframed <u>Camille Rollando-Kozłowski</u>: The City of Light, the City of Desire: Photography and Sexual Difference in Modernist Paris <u>Ciaran Hervás</u>: Eros in the Museum: Magnus Hirschfeld's Sexological Museum in Photo-illustrated Magazines</p>	<p>Deviance, transgression and violence Chair: Benoît Tadié <u>Elsa Baroghel</u>: Sade, Beckett and (post)modern sexuality <u>Gina Stamm</u>: Femme-enfant-animal: Greta Knutson's Sex and Structural Violence</p>	<p>Modernist Seductions Chair: Xavier Kalck <u>Olivier Hercend</u>: Joycean Seduction: from the Heavens to brothels via billboards and pick up artists <u>Shirley Bricout</u>: Adam and Eve: Figures of reclaimed sexuality in D. H. Lawrence's works <u>Astrid Maes</u>: Faulkner's Sexual Poetics of Ecstasy</p>