

Community, Crisis, and Change



Research Group Year-End Seminar

Whether isolated in our homes or projected across the globe, we have experienced, over the past two years, how significantly community bonds and networks are mediated by technologies, environments, policies, spaces, and aesthetics. Customs and practices that had once felt so natural—greetings, funerals, learning, dating, sports, worship—are now touched, if not enveloped, by new biological and social contexts. This is hardly, of course, the first time social practices and cultural norms have been impacted by a crisis; this year’s seminar focuses on the broader topic of “community, crisis, and change.” We will be featuring research from scholars and practitioners working in a number of different fields, their presentations addressing some long-standing questions that weigh on us with a new urgency: How are our experiences of labour and rest mediated by spaces? How can narrative and imagination help communities process or recover from trauma? How are community bonds influenced or shaped by empathy?

Friday 3 December 2021 | BodAdm Room 350 or [join online](#)

12:30 – 12:35 WELCOME

12:35 – 13:00 GABRIELLA GELARDINI

How Imagination Can Serve in a Time of National Trauma: An Example from Antiquity

13:00 – 13:25 ANDREW MCKENDRY

Melancholy, Self-Destruction, and the Limits of Self-Determination in Seventeenth-Century Religious Thought

13:25 – 13:50 JAMIE CALLISON

Sacred Ground: Modernism, Retreats and Religious Change

14:00 – 15:00 **PLENARY: PIERRE-LOUIS PATOINE**, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

Empathy for Insects: Exploring the Limits of Empathic Community through Theories of *Einfühlung*, Embodied Cognition, and Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*

15:00 – 15:30 MEMBER MEETING



PIERRE-LOUIS PATOINE is Assistant Professor of American literature at Sorbonne Nouvelle University, co-director of the [Science/Literature Research Group](#) and co-editor of the journal *epistemocritique.org*. He has published a monograph on the role of the empathic, physiological body in the experience of reading (ENS Editions 2015), co-edited collections on David Foster Wallace (Sussex AP 2017) and Ursula K. Le Guin (Palgrave 2021), and articles exploring biosemiotic, ecocritical and neuroaesthetic approaches to immersion and altered states of consciousness, vitality, planetary life, postmodern speciation and anthropocenic acceleration in the work of Ursula K. Le Guin, William S. Burroughs, J. G. Ballard, and Kim S. Robinson.