# Hermes 2018 Summer School
## University College London
### Vulnerability
#### 18-22 June 2018

**Italian Institute of Germanic Studies**
Villa Sciarra-Wurts, Rome, Italy
Via Calandrelli, 25 – Via delle Mura Gianicolensi,11

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<th>Date</th>
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| 18 June | 14.00 Registration  
15.00 Welcome  
**Florian Mussgnug** (UCL)  
**Roberta Ascarelli** (Italian Institute of Germanic Studies)  
15.30 **Katherine Ibbett** (Oxford)  
*Wet Readings: Being in Water, 1550 – 1700*  
17.00 Coffee break  
17.30 **Baldassare Pastore** (Ferrara)  
*Vulnerability: A Legal-Philosophical Perspective* |
| 19 June | 9.00 Panel One: “Vulnerable Bodies”  
Chair: **Martin Prochážka** (Prague)  
**Luke Urbain** (Wisconsin-Madison)  
*Vulnerable Bodies: Twinship and Homosexual Desire in and around Roberto Piglia’s Plata quemada*  
**Melissa Oliver-Powell** (UCL)  
*Mothers of a Fragile Nation: Mothering, Class and Constructing Victimhood in the Films of Ken Loach* |
Pinelopi Tzouva (Leuven)
Meeting Miss Landmine: Vulnerability, Empowerment, and Becoming

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Panel Two: “Vulnerability and the Non-Human”
Chair: Klaus Brax (Helsinki)

Nicole Siri (Siena)
“He is frightened. They have abandoned him”: The Minotaur in Georgi Gospodinov’s Physics of Sorrow

Kateřina Bártová (Prague)
A Vulnerable Predator: The Wolf as a Symbol of the Natural Environment in the Works of McCarthy, Seton, and London

Justyna Polanowska (Helsinki)
Posthuman Vulnerability in Tiina Raevaara’s Novel Hukkajoki

Ayesha Ahmed (UCL)
A “Dark and Angry” Bruise in Mohsin Hamid’s The Reluctant Fundamentalist

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Interdisciplinary Roundtable
Chair: Susana Araujo (Lisbon)

Lucia Corso (Enna Kore)
Vulnerability and the Concept of Law

Peter Leary (UCL)
Edgy States and Boundary Crossers: Vulnerability and the Border

Simona Micali (Siena)
Less than Human: Empathy and the Sub-Human Other

Jennifer Rushworth (UCL)
The Open Wound of Poetry and Psychoanalysis

17.30 “Comparative Literature: the Disciplines, Publishing, Creativity”
Luca Marcozzi (Roma Tre) and Timothy Mathews (UCL) in conversation with Florian Mussgnug (UCL)

20.00 Conference Dinner
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| 20 June | 9.00 Panel Three: “Vulnerability in Narrative Form and Style”  
Chair: **Karen-Margrethe Simonsen** (Aarhus) |
|       | **Rui Rato** (Prague)  
*As His Heart Splits in Two: Vulnerability and Aestheticism in Oscar Wilde’s The Happy Prince* |
|       | **Vittorio Bonino** (Trento)  
*King and Pawns: The Vulnerability of Characters and the Persecution of the Author in Nabokov’s Novels* |
|       | **Puck Wildschut** (Radboud)  
*Efface, Expunge, Erase: Writing, Publishing and Reading Vladimir Nabokov’s The Original of Laura — A Case Study in the Vulnerability of Mind and Matter* |
|       | **Joshua Torabi** (UCL)  
*Vulnerability, Humanism and Fictional Composers: Romain Rolland’s Jean-Christophe and Thomas Mann’s Doctor Faustus* |
|       | 11.00 Coffee break |
|       | 11.30 Panel Four: “Vulnerable Culture(s)”  
Chair: **Elizabeth Kovach** (Giessen) |
|       | **Laura Fracalanza** (Lisbon)  
*Literary Festivals in Vulnerable Communities* |
|       | **Yuliya Suleyeva** (UCL)  
*Constructing and Experiencing Vulnerabilities in Post-Soviet Russia* |
|       | **Sanni-Mari Niemi** (Helsinki)  
*Vulnerability in a Museum Exhibition Narrative: Helsinki Noir, a Spatialized Detective Story* |
<p>|       | 13.00 Lunch break |
|       | 15.00 Hermes Steering Group Meeting (delegates only) |
|       | 17.00 Guided Walking Tour |</p>
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<td>9.00</td>
<td>Panel Five: “Violence and Vulnerability”</td>
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<td>Chair: <strong>Stephan Besser</strong> (Amsterdam)</td>
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<td><strong>Allegra Tagliani</strong> (Siena)&lt;br&gt;“Our-Lady-of-the-Snows”: The Tortured Body of the Victim</td>
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<td><strong>Tuula Kolehmainen</strong> (Helsinki)&lt;br&gt;Toni Cade Bambara’s Vulnerable Men</td>
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<td><strong>Eva Dinis</strong> (Lisbon)&lt;br&gt;Vulnerability as Duality in Speculative Fiction</td>
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<td><strong>Eleonora Rapisardi</strong> (Giessen)&lt;br&gt;Vulnerable Subjects, Vulnerable Narratives</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
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<td>11.30</td>
<td>Panel Six “Latin American and Caribbean Vulnerabilities”</td>
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<td>Chair: <strong>Anneleen Maschelein</strong> (Leuven)</td>
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<td><strong>Martín Zícari</strong> (Leuven)&lt;br&gt;Vulnerable and Indomitable: Constructing Mexico’s Memory of Enforced Disappearance</td>
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<td><strong>Nicolò Rubbi</strong> (Trento)&lt;br&gt;Between Bovarysme and Circularity: The Vulnerability of Book and Reader in Latin American Literature</td>
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<td><strong>Marileen La Haije</strong> (Radboud)&lt;br&gt;Trauma and Paranoia, Suspicion and Sympathy in Insensatez (2004) by Horacio Castellanos Moya</td>
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<td>13.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14.00</td>
<td><strong>Giandomenico Iannetti</strong> (UCL)&lt;br&gt;Danger, Defence and Vulnerability: The Perspective of Neuroscience</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td><strong>Aarathi Prasad</strong> (UCL)&lt;br&gt;Indefensible spaces, public bodies: anatomies of health and disease in India</td>
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<td>16.00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>16.30</td>
<td><strong>Ellen Sapega</strong> (Wisconsin-Madison)&lt;br&gt;Islands: A Literature of Geographic Vulnerability?</td>
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<td>17.30</td>
<td>Concert</td>
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22 June

9.00 Panel Seven: “Urban Vulnerabilities”
Chair: **Fernando Cabo Aseguinolaza** (Santiago de Compostela)

- **Marija Spirkovska** (Giessen)
  *The Meeting Place for Ridiculous Symptoms: The Vulnerable Mind in Contemporary City Novels*

- **Marie Christine Skammelsen** (Aarhus)
  *Vulnerable Spaces and the City as Potential Crime Scene*

- **Cristina Rueda Lesmes** (Santiago)
  *Vulnerability, Altered, and Insubordinate Space in Tarkovski’s Stalker: A Geocritical Approach to Vulnerability*

- **Sophy Kohler** (Southern Denmark)
  *Reading Vulnerability through Objects in Dionne Brand’s What We All Long For*

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Panel Eight: “Trauma and Vulnerability”
Chair: **Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen** (UCL)

- **Viktoria Herold** (UCL)
  *Writing (In)Vulnerability: The Rejection of Victimhood in Contemporary Epistolary Novels*

- **Jennifer Kappe** (Giessen)
  *(Un)Common Vulnerability: Narrative Empathy in Adam Haslett’s Family Novel Imagine Me Gone*

12.30 Conclusions