

Fourth International Congress of the Association for Studies in Fiction
and Fictionality / Société Internationale des Recherches sur la Fiction et la
Fictionnalité

Fiction and

Lies *Lies*



10-12 June 2026

University of
Edinburgh



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



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Fiction and Lies

Fourth International Congress of the Association for Studies in Fiction and Fictionality / Société Internationale des Recherches sur la Fiction et la Fictionnalité (ASIFF / SIRFF)

10–12 June 2026 · University of Edinburgh

Keynote Speakers

Eileen John (University of Warwick) — *Reasons for Being Loose with the Truth*

Pierre Bayard (Université Paris 8 — Saint-Denis) — *Comment parler de sujets auxquels on ne connaît rien ?* [How to Talk about Subjects You Know Nothing About]

Session Information

Sessions are 60 or 90 minutes. With the exception of keynote addresses and symposia, all talks are scheduled for 30 minutes, including Q&A.

Practical Information

The conference takes place in two locations on the Pollock Estate: South Hall Complex and St Leonard's Hall (see the map on the back of this programme). It is a 5-minute walk between the buildings. There is also a Reception Centre for the Estate near the entrance and St Leonard's Hall in case you need directions.

On 10 and 11 June, talks are in both buildings. Coffee breaks and lunches are in the Holland Foyer in the South Hall Complex. You can also collect your name badge and a programme in the Holland Foyer.

On 12 June, all talks are in St Leonard's Hall, as are coffee breaks and lunch.

Wednesday, 10 June 2026

9:00 - 9:30 Introduction

South Hall

9:30 - 10:30 Parallel Sessions A-C

Session A: Fictionality and Deception

South Hall

Jeppé Barnwell (University of Copenhagen), 'The Rhetoric and Ontology of Fictionality and Lies'

Anne Duprat (UPJV / Institut Universitaire de France), 'Madness in their Art: AI's Hallucinations and the Fiction vs Lies Debate'

Session B: Misleading Fictions

Kirkland

David Mejía (CUNEF Universidad), "'Inspired by True Events": Ethical Problems in Truth-Claiming Fictional Narratives'

Tingjiang Kuang (University of Edinburgh), 'Misleading Fiction and Metalinguistic Content'

Session C: Truth through Fiction

St Trinnean's

Akihiro Kubo (Kwansei Gakuin University), 'Fiction Between Truth and Falsehood: Rethinking Testimonial Literature'

Pascal Nouvel (Université de Tours), 'Writing the Scenario of a True Story: Between Lies and Fidelity to Facts'

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

Holland Foyer

11:00 - 12:30 Parallel Sessions D-F

Session D: How Fictions Deceive

South Hall

Françoise Lavocat (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle), 'Under What Conditions Can Fiction Lie?'

Antonina Jamrozik and Karol Milczarek (University of Warsaw), 'Deceiving through Worldbuilding'

Session E: Fiction and Hoaxes

Kirkland

Merel Semeijn (University of Groningen), 'The Hoax Will Out: The Didactic Hoax as a Fiction/Lie Hybrid'

Alexander Scherr, 'Deceptive Non-fictionality in Banksy'

Louis Rouillé (University of Lisbon), 'The Theory and Practice of Mockumentaries'

Session F: Deception in Fictional Worlds

St Trinnean's

Riccardo Marzullo (University of Turin), 'Negotiating Untruths: Fiction, Worldbuilding and Truth'

Florent Favard (Université de Lorraine), '"The Doctor lies": Metaleptic Lies in Time Travel and Non-linear Television Series'

Margaret Kean (St Hilda's College, University of Oxford), 'Strange but True: Philip Pullman's Fantasy Fiction'

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

Holland Foyer

14:00 - 15:30 Parallel Sessions G-I

Session G: Factual Accuracy in Fiction

South Hall

Alison James (University of Chicago), 'Fact-Checking Fictions: Reading Practices in the Digital Age'

Irene Romero Suárez (Birkbeck, University of London), 'Factual Mistakes in Fiction'

Antonello Caravelli (University of Genoa), 'Supposing and Participating: How Imagination Engages with Fictional Falsehoods'

Session H: Lies and the Language of Fiction

Kirkland

Andriy Bilenkyy (University of Toronto), 'Lying-through-Fiction: A Warrant-Based Account'

Enrique Aranda Murillo (Universidad de Granada), 'Fictional Work and Fictional Content'

Denis Hubert (Nantes), 'Against the Declarative View of Fictional Discourse'

Session I: Hybrid Genres

St Trinnean's

Henning Hufnagel (Universität Zürich), 'Ceci n'est pas une monnaie: Borges's *El Zahir* (1947), Louis Malle's *My Dinner with André* (1981), the Deceptive Use of Genre and its Political Uses'

Henriette Korthals Altes (University of Oxford), 'How to Write Lives that Did not Occur: Autobiography and Counter-factuality'

Julia Jaulimo (University of California, Berkeley), 'The Composition Must Be True: Contradictions, (Meta)Fiction, and Understanding in Ágota Kristóf's *Notebook Trilogy*'

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

Holland Foyer

16:00 - 17:30 Keynote

Eileen John (University of Warwick)

'Reasons for Being Loose with the Truth'

Eileen John is a professor of philosophy at the University of Warwick. She works in aesthetics and philosophy of literature, with particular interests in how we engage with fiction, what fictional characters are, and the ethical and philosophical significance of literary fiction. She has written on authors including Jane Austen, J. M. Coetzee, Lydia Davis, Jenny Erpenbeck, Grace Paley and Toni Morrison. Some recent work concerns humour and fiction, aesthetic consistency, and money in *Moby-Dick*. She co-directs Warwick's Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts.

17:30 End Day 1

Thursday, 11 June 2026

9:00 - 10:30 Parallel Sessions A-C

Session A: Theoretical Foundations

South Hall

Otto Pfersmann (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales), 'The Boundaries of Fictional Sincerity'

Jérôme Pelletier (Institut Jean Nicod), 'Fiction, Lies and the Normative Role of Falsity'

Eliot Michaelson (King's College London), 'On the Genealogy of Stories'

Session B: The Fiction/Lie Distinction in Historical Perspective I

Kirkland

Enrica Zanin (Université de Strasbourg), 'Is Dante's *Comedy* a True Story, Fiction or a Lie?'

Nicolas Correard (Nantes Université), 'Giving the Lie to Travel Narratives in Utopian Literature (1517-1750): Simulation, or Simulacrum?'

Simone Müller (University of Zurich), 'Fictionalizing Mental Time and Space: Narrative and Pragmatic Lies in Medieval Japanese Dream Accounts'

Session C: Fictionalised Authors (in French)

St Trinnean's

Michèle Bokobza Kahan (Tel Aviv University), 'Les préfaces mensongères des romans au dix-huitième siècle'

Aurélie Moioli (Université de Poitiers), 'L'auteur, le singe et moi : Sur quelques figures de Jean Paul Richter'

Eric Puisais (Université Catholique de l'Ouest), 'Mensonge, imposture et travestissement'

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

Holland Foyer

11:00 - 12:00 Parallel Sessions D-F

Session D: The Fiction/Lie Distinction in Historical Perspective II

South Hall

Berfu Şengün (University of Zurich), 'Hotaru Chapter's Defence of Fiction: The Protagonist's Deception as Narrative Method in *The Tale of Genji*'

Emil Egenbauer (Freie Universität Berlin), 'From Somewhere to Nowhere: Oz, (Un-)Happy Consciousness and the Historical Transformation of Fictionality'

Session E: Cognitive Representations of Fiction

Kirkland

Deena Weisberg (Villanova University), 'Of Batman and Batmen: Cognitive Representations of Cross-Work Fictional Characters'

Sally Donlon (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), 'Fiction & Cognition: Mental Models and the Lies that Tell the Truth'

Session F: Symposium – Do Literary Translations Create Lies or Fictions?

St Trinnean's

Rita Bueno Maia and Alexandra Lopes (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)

12:00 - 13:00 Annual General Meeting

South Hall

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

Holland Foyer

14:30 - 15:30 Parallel Sessions G-I

Session G: Fictional Devices within Non-fiction

South Hall

Anna Abraham (University of Georgia), 'When Rhetoric Turns Truth into Lies: Using Fictional Literary Aids in Non-fiction'

Annick Louis (UMLP/CRIT - IUF - CRAL), 'Angular and Splintered Truths: Are Fictional Segments in Documentary Narratives Lying?'

Session H: Fiction and Lies Beyond the Text

Kirkland

Nicholas Baima and Sarah Malanowski (Florida Atlantic University), 'Works and Shoots: Blurring the Line Between Fact and Fiction in Professional Wrestling'

Mary Antoinette Weigel (San Francisco State University), 'Self-Fictions and Self-Deceptions'

Session I: Truth, Lies and Authorship

St Trinnean's

Elisa Paganini (University of Milan), 'Lying Under a Pseudonym'

Adriano Schwartz (University of São Paulo), 'Ricardo Piglia, the Creation of an Imaginary Writer'

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

Holland Foyer

16:00 - 17:30 Keynote

Pierre Bayard (Université Paris 8 — Saint-Denis)

South Hall

How to Talk about Subjects You Know Nothing About

Pierre Bayard is an emeritus professor of French Literature at Paris 8 University and a psychoanalyst. He is the author of numerous essays, including 'Qui a tué Roger Ackroyd?' (Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?), *Comment parler des livres que l'on n'a pas lus?* (How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read), *Le Plagiat par anticipation* (Plagiarism by Anticipation), *Et si les Beatles n'étaient pas nés?* (What If the Beatles Had Never Existed?), and *Je sommes plusieurs* (I Are Many). His next book, *Le Mystère Vertigo* (The Vertigo Mystery), is scheduled for publication in autumn 2026. His work has been translated into around thirty languages.

17:30 End Day 2

Friday, 12 June 2026

9:00 - 10:00 Parallel Sessions A-C

Session A: Deception in Literary Texts

St Trinnean's

Annjeanette Wiese (University of Colorado, Boulder), 'The Possible Insignificance of Truth: "Layers of Truth and Lies" in Anne Carson's *Missing Sheep*'

Victoria Giovannini Isuani (Columbia University), "'A happy command of language, too often used to make black appear white": Truth, Trust and Too Many Voices in Jane Austen's *Lady Susan*'

Session B: Gender and Credibility in Fiction

Nelson

Julia de Ipola (Université Paris Nanterre), 'Making Believe: Gender-Based Violence and the Construction of Credibility in Latin American Literature'

Michael Quinn (University of Glasgow), 'Lies, Lying and Testimonial Injustice in Shakespeare's *Othello*'

Session C: Plural Truths (in French)

Bonnar

Mathias Verger (Université Paris 8), 'Vérité et diversité linguistique : aporie de l'oralité kiowa selon Scott Momaday'

Yiting Wo (Sorbonne Nouvelle University), 'Quand le biographe-détective ment : deux contre-enquêtes dans *La Vraie Vie de Sebastian Knight* de Nabokov et *Le Code Nesbit* de Lydia H. Liu'

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee Break

St Leonard's Foyer

10:30 - 11:30 Parallel Sessions D-F

Session D: Fake News and Propaganda I

St Trinnean's

Ethan Moore (University of Edinburgh), 'Watching Fake News Ironically: The Aestheticisation of Lies'

Guillaume Schuppert (University of Lorraine), 'Fiction and Propaganda without Lies'

Session E: Narrators, Authors and Fictional Truth I

Nelson

Carola Barbero and Alberto Voltolini (Università di Torino), 'The Myth of Omniscience: Why External Narrators Fail to Anchor Fictional Truth'

Max Cannings (Universität Heidelberg), "'Lies, Damned Lies and Fiction": The Fictional Framings of Unreliable Narrators'

Session F: Graphic Fiction

Bonnar

Charlotte Krauss and Denis Mellier (Université de Poitiers), 'Lies, Dissimulation and Regimes of Truth'

Tom Edward Sewel (Lahore University of Management Sciences), 'Invasion of Liars: The British Invasion and the Architecture of Deception'

11:30 - 11:45 Mini-break

11:45 - 12:45 Parallel Sessions G-I

Session G: Fake News and Propaganda II

St Trinnean's

Maciej Kurzynski (Lingnan University), 'Fictionality Unleashed: The 32111 Drilling Team and the Heroic Reportage of the Chinese Cultural Revolution'

John Pier (CRAL (CNRS/EHESS)), 'Modalities of Truthiness'

Session H: Narrators, Authors and Fictional Truth II

Nelson

James Terner (University of Cambridge), 'Interpolating the World: Editorial Notes and the Reality Principle'

Felicita Gelmini (Ca' Foscari University of Venice / Sorbonne Université), 'An Unreliable Omniscient Narrator: The Strange Case of *And Then There Were None*'

Session I: The Fiction/Lie Distinction in Historical Perspective III

Bonnar

Martin Sebastian Hammer (Technische Universität Braunschweig), 'From Fake News to (a Praise of) Fiction? On the Medieval German Verse Narrative "The Little Wheel" by Johannes von Freiberg'

Luca Penge (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle), 'Fiction and Lies in the Academy of Arcadia: A Baroque Configuration?'

12:45 - 14:15 Lunch

St Leonard's Foyer

14:15 - 15:45 Parallel Sessions J-L

Session J: Fiction and Lies Beyond the Text

St Trinnean's

Francesco Pierini (University of Genoa), 'The Assertoric Phenomenology of Stand-up Comedy'

Kris Goffin (Maastricht University), 'Normative Chatbot Fictionalism and Deception'

Karl Egerton (University of Nottingham), 'Deceptive Gameplay and Ways to Play with Agency'

Session K: Fiction and Lies in Historical Perspective IV

Nelson

Kai Mikkonen (University of Helsinki), 'The Fictionality Hypothesis and Narrative Situation'

Nicholas Paige (University of California, Berkeley), 'The Decay of the Lie? On Diderot's Deceptions'

Emma Bielecki (King's College London), 'True Crime / False Coinage: Balzac, Vidocq and the Nature of Fiction'

Session L: Symposium on Metaphysical Truth & Untruth in Fiction: Hegel, Heidegger and Adorno

Bonnar

Berker Basmacı (Bilkent University), on Hegel: 'Fictional Lies and Speculative Truths'

Manuel Mazzucchini (University of Verona), on Heidegger: ‘Fictional Lies as Condition for Metaphysical Disclosure’

Errol Boon (Freie Universität Berlin / Leiden University), on Adorno: “‘Only what does not fit into this world is true’ — Aesthetics as the Refuge of Metaphysics’

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee Break

St Leonard’s Foyer

16:15 - 17:15 Parallel Sessions M-O

Session M: Fictions within Fictions

St Trinnean’s

Miguel Antón Moreno (Universidad Internacional de La Rioja), ‘Intrafictional Lies: Truth and Epistemic Productivity Under Invented Conditions’

Martino Manca (University of Turin), ‘The Necronomicon Effect: Simulating Truths in Fictional Books’

Session N: Accuracy in Historical Fiction

Nelson

Lisa Simonis (University of Edinburgh), ‘*Gladiator* (Movie): Retracing the Historical Decision-Making Process’

Twan Tromp (University of Groningen), ‘The Norm of Accuracy in Historical Novels’

Session O: Truth and Lies in Latin American Fiction

Bonnar

Melisa Martínez Ascanio (City University of New York Graduate Center), ‘Fiction in Colombia Post-Peace Accord: The Cases of *Peregrino transparente* (2023) and *Pan y Paciencia* (2023)’

Xueying Yan (University College London), ‘From the perspective of the “Visceral Realists”: An Exploration of Marginal Characters in *The Salvage Detectives*’

17:15 Conference Ends

Pollock Estate Map



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Hospitality & Events Collection

