

**The PoP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER #3**

**9/2022**

**"Poetry Off the Page: Literary History and the Spoken Word, 1965-2020" (ERC/FWF)**

Dear All,

we are delighted to share with you our third PoP Quarterly Newsletter, which includes a welcome and introduction of our new doctoral and postdoctoral colleagues, Shefali Banerji and Shalini Sengupta, as well as our past and future research activities.

## **A Warm Welcome to our New Poetry Off the Page Colleagues**

### **Shalini Sengupta...**

... will explore intersections between literary and avant-garde performance traditions in the UK. She received her PhD from the University of Sussex, UK, and was fully funded by the Chancellor's International Research Scholarship. Her doctoral work looked at the aesthetics and politics of 'difficulty' in modernist and avant-garde women's poetry, shedding light on little-discussed British poets like Anna Mendelssohn, Geraldine Monk, and Bhanu Kapil. In 2021, she was nominated for the Adam Weiler Doctoral Impact Award at Sussex, where her dissertation earned honourable mention. She is a Ledbury Poetry Critic and has published work in modernism/modernity; Poetry Book Society; Poetry Wales; Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetry; Contemporary Women's Writing; and The Bloomsbury Companion to Contemporary Poetry in Ireland and the UK.



*Shalini Sengupta*

## **Shefali Banerji...**

... has joined the Poetry Off the Page team as a PhD researcher in June 2022. She completed her MA in English at the University of Calcutta, with a special focus on Postcolonial Studies, after which she engaged in doctoral-level research on the short fiction of Jean Rhys at Trinity College Dublin. She has been performing in the Indian spoken word scene since 2016 and is also a published poet. Shefali's work will focus on the origin, development and cultural influences of the British Spoken Word Play.



*Shefali Banerji*

## **Taking the Mic Conference Registration**

Our first PoP hybrid conference, Taking the Mic: Black British Spoken Word Poetry Since 1965, is taking place on the 18th November 2022, at Central School of Speech and Drama, London, UK. Conference co-convenor Dr Emily Kate Timms wants to thank you all for spreading the Call for Papers far and wide. The conference will feature 19 presentations and keynote lectures by Jay Bernard the 2018 Ted Hughes award and 2020 Young Writer of the Year award winner (in person), and Carolyn Cooper, Professor Emerita of the University of West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (online). The day will end with a Reception, hosted by Central's Principal Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE and an evening of poetry performance.

[Registration](#) for this free conference is now open – check the conference website [www.TakingtheMic.net](http://www.TakingtheMic.net) and follow us on Twitter @PoetryOff\_Page to stay up to date with conference news.

## Upcoming PoP Research Activities

Martina Pfeiler has been invited by the ERC Poetry in the Digital Age Project, directed by Prof. Claudia Benthien at the University of Hamburg, to participate in a colloquium on poetry slams organized by Dr. Henrik Wehmeier in early December 2022.

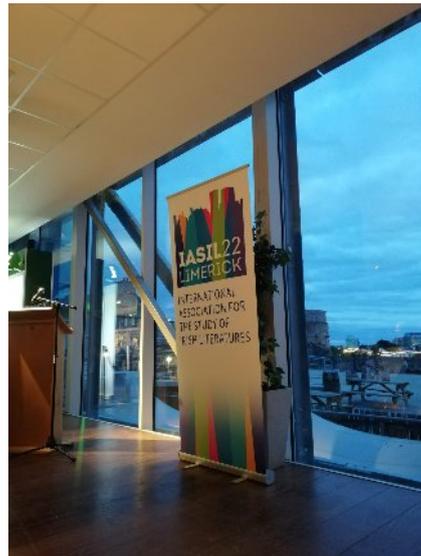
## Past PoP Research Activities

- Julia Lajta-Novak delivered a paper titled "The Personal is Poetical: Spoken-Word Poetry as Feminist Counter-Discourse" at the [2022 conference](#) of the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE) at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany. The conference ran from 29 August to 2 September 2022 and featured a seminar on "British and Irish Poetry after the Turn of the Millennium: Trends, Public/Counterpublic, Institutions".
- PoP postdoctoral researcher Dr Emily Kate Timms embarked on a research trip to the UK in June and July. Emily visited seven cities across five weeks – Bristol, Birmingham, Leicester, Leeds, Bradford, London, and Brighton – to meet numerous poets and spoken word artists; attend live poetry festivals and events; explore archives; and attend a conference. A particularly memorable highlight for her was participating in Khadijah Ibrahiim's live performance In Memory Of: Grief Café at the Bradford Literature Festival. Ibrahiim wove together archival memory, soundscapes, poetry, and Jamaican traditions dealing with loss in an interactive café setting, which encouraged audience members to share stories of grief and celebrate the new beginnings that emerge out of loss. Other highlights include beating the UK's summer heatwave by consulting the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton and Panchayat Archive at Tate Britain, and she would like to thank the archival teams for facilitating her visit. Her trip ended in Brighton where she attended the Common Threads: Black and Asian British Women's Writing International Conference, featuring a keynote address by Bernardine Evaristo and lively panels on Black and South Asian women's poetry, spoken word, and one person shows. Emily looks forward to returning to the UK in November as the co-convenor for the Taking the Mic: Black British Spoken Word Poetry Since 1965 conference.



*Emily Timms at Black Cultural Archives*

- At the end of July, Claire Palzer presented her doctoral project on spoken word poetry in Ireland to the PhD forum at the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures' annual conference which took place in Limerick, Ireland. In addition to listening to a variety of inspiring papers presented there, she also attended a spoken word poetry event organised by IASIL and connected with a number of poets.



*Claire Palzer at IASIL*

- In May 2022, Martina Pfeiler gave a lecture and conducted a workshop on recent developments in contemporary U.S.-American Poetry in the PhD Program "Studies in English Literatures, Language and Translation" at La Sapienza University in Rome, Italy. In June, July and August 2022 she attended several online festivals and had the pleasure to discuss spoken word poetry in the UK with Lucy English, Helen Gregory, Helen Johnson, Chaucer Cameron, and Russell Thompson in preparation for the oral interviews. She is looking forward to interviewing poets in November 2022.

- In preparation for our interview guides, Julia Lajta-Novak, Martina Pfeiler and Emily Timms have held in-depth consultations with Patience Agbabi, Kat François, Amerah Saleh, Russell Thompson and Benjamin Zephaniah. We highly appreciate the valuable feedback that we have received in the process of creating an oral history on spoken word poetry in the UK. We look forward to continuing this fruitful dialogue.

### **Past PoP Research Visitors and Workshops**

On 28 July, 2022, the PoP team participated in a workshop on Constellation Analysis conducted by PD Dr. Peter Gostmann from the Goethe University of Frankfurt.

On 24 May, 2022, the PoP Team participated in a workshop on netnography conducted by Magdalena Korecka, who is currently working on her PhD thesis on social media poetry as part of the ERC project „[Poetry in the Digital Age](#)” at the University of Hamburg.

If you have any questions about our research activities or the project at large, please contact us at [pop.anglistik@univie.ac.at](mailto:pop.anglistik@univie.ac.at). The best way to keep updated with our current activities is to follow our Twitter account.

Sincerely yours,

The PoP Team

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