

# The Eleventh International Iris Murdoch Conference: Aspirations and Inspirations

30 August – 1 September 2024  
Bishop Otter Campus, University of Chichester



UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICHESTER



8.45 – 9.15 **Registration** AB 0.02

9.15 – 9.30 **Welcome and conference opening** AB 0.01  
Mark Mason (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Chichester),  
introduced by Miles Leeson

9.30 – 10.45 **Plenary and Q&A** AB 0.01  
Frances White  
'The Company She Keeps: Iris Murdoch in Her Age'  
Chair: Gillian Dooley

10.45 – 11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15 – 12.45 **Panel Sessions** AB 1.01

**A The importance of persons in Iris Murdoch's vision: attention in education and relationships**

Chair: Lesley Jamieson

**Andrea Delaune**, 'An inhabited philosophy: Attention, intuition and education'

**Rebecca Moden**, 'Connecting Iris Murdoch's ideas about education to today's classrooms'

**Asia Sakchatchawan**, 'Being Loved, Being Known and Being Anchored to One Another'

AB 1.08

**B New perspectives on Iris Murdoch's fiction: Ageing, Colour, Brazil**

Chair: Daniel Read

**Liz Dexter**, 'Ageing into Murdoch's main characters: pluralities of re-readings and disseminations'

**James Jeffries**, 'Colours of Iris'

**Monica Stefani**, 'Iris Murdoch in Brazil: a panorama from the 1960s to the present'

**C Iris Murdoch and other novelists: Dickens, Woolf, Lawrence, Nabokov and Unamuno**

Chair: Maria Peacock

**Fiona Tomkinson**, 'Inspirations and aspirations in *The Book and the Brotherhood*'

**Valery Timofeev**, 'Iris Murdoch and Vladimir Nabokov: is telepathic connection possible?'

**Maria Gila Moreno**, 'The negative face of virtue in Iris Murdoch and Miguel de Unamuno: *La tía Tula* and *An Unofficial Rose*'

12.45 – 2.00 **Lunch break**

during which (1.15 – 2.00 in AB 0.01) **Gillian Dooley** will present 'A Year of Birds: Song Cycle for Soprano and Orchestra by Malcolm Williamson, first performed at the BBC Proms, 19 August 1995'

2.00 – 3.30 **Panel Sessions** AB 1.08

**D Philosophical Inspirations from Classic Novels**

Chair: Janfarie Skinner

**Cathy Mason**, 'Self and Self-Transcendence in Murdoch and Middlemarch'

**Eva-Maria Düringer**, 'Being Truly Seen and Understanding Words in Private: Themes from Murdoch's Philosophy in Austen and Eliot'

**Elise Ruthenbeck**, 'Searching for Real Love in Middlemarch and The Sovereignty of the Good'

AB 1.01

**E Iris Murdoch and Ethics**

Chair: Hannah Marije Altorf

**Anna Bergqvist**, 'Moral Agency and the Ethics of Recognition'

**Sam Filby**, 'The Departmental Conception of Ethics'

**Julia Morrow**, 'Angry Girl Music of the Indie Rock Persuasion': A Murdochian Inquiry into Women's Confessional Media

**F New readings of some early Iris Murdoch novels**

Chair: Lucy Oulton

**Robert Cremins**, 'Aspirations and Laughter'**Mariëtte Willemsen**, 'Iris Murdoch's Wisteria and Simone Weil's Need for Roots'**Peter Gaarup Westergaard**, 'On Iris Murdoch's Platonic exploration of Irish motifs in *The Unicorn*'3.30 – 4.00 **Tea break**4.00 – 5.30 **Panel Sessions** AB 1.01**G Iris Murdoch and other philosophers: Bradley, Wittgenstein, and the Gifford Lecture drafts**

Chair: Scott H. Moore

**Paolo Babiotti**, 'Iris Murdoch and Richard Wollheim's interest in Bradley'**Suzy Harris**, "'I am Wittgenstein": Finding ethics in imagination'**Daniel Read**, 'The Giffords as a guide to *Metaphysics as a Guide to Morals*'

AB 1.08

**H The Aspirational Self**

Chair: Gary Browning

**Peiyang Yang**, 'The Gaze that Pierces One's Own Veil: A Murdochian Vision of Self-Love'**Alyssa Tudor**, 'Mutual Attending and Overcoming the Ego'**Kelly Ann Cunningham**, 'Murdoch on Friendship and Virtue'

AB 1.09

9.00 – 10.15 **Plenary and Q&A** AB 0.01**Justin Broackes**, 'What makes a philosophical work need a Commentary? The difficulty and exceptionalness of Murdoch's *The Sovereignty of Good*'

Chair: Gary Browning

10.15 – 10.45 **Coffee break**10.45 – 12.15 **Panel Sessions** AB 1.01**J Artists and Scientists: Portraiture, Prints and Sculpture**

Chair Frances White

**Rivka Isaacson**, 'Portraiture promoting interdisciplinary aspiration and inspiration in school science and *The Sandcastle*'**Kevin Petrie**, 'Reading Iris Murdoch and making art – aspirations and inspirations'**Carol Sommer**, 'Troubling the Metaphors (or Iris Murdoch, Eros and Minimalist Sculpture)'

AB 1.08

**K Modes and models of attention in Iris Murdoch's thought: sentimentality, transcendence and music**

Chair: Gillian Dooley

**Lesley Jamieson**, 'Moral Attention and Sentimentality-based Conflict'**Rick Costa**, 'Iris Murdoch's Transcendental Model of a Person'**Férdia J. Stone-Davis**, 'Attention as vectorial: the case of music'

AB 1.09

**L Influences on Iris Murdoch from the East**

Chair: Rob Hardy

**Jianfeng Yue**, "'That Marvellous Terrible Country": Iris Murdoch and China'

**Zhiqi Wang**, 'A Dialogue between Iris Murdoch's Art Ethics and Chinese Confucian Art Theories'

**Paul Hullah**, 'Your Whole Self In, Your Whole Self Out: That's What Iris Murdoch's All About?'

12.15 – 1.30 **Lunch break**

during which (12.45 – 1.30 in AB 0.01) **Tatevik Ayvazyan** will give a preview of scenes from the film of 'The Italian Girl', on which she and Garo Berberian from Rebel Republic Films are working

1.30 – 2.30 **Plenary and Q&A** AB 0.01

**Jemma Kennedy** (novelist, playwright and screenwriter) in conversation with Giles Smart (United Agents – Murdoch's Visual Arts Agent)

Chair: Miles Leeson

2.30 – 4.00 **Panel Sessions** AB 1.01

**M** **New readings of Iris Murdoch in terms of genre: Philosophical poetry, tragedy and fantasy**

Chair: Fiona Tomkinson

**Gillian Dooley**, 'Philosophy, Poetry, Literature, Aesthetics – Iris Murdoch, a philosophical poet?'

**Scott H. Moore**, 'The Challenge of Tragedy in the Work of Iris Murdoch'

**Yanni Ratajczyk**, 'Iris Murdoch's Two Notions of Fantasy'

AB 1.08

**N** **New readings of Iris Murdoch through ecocritical lenses**

Chair: Tasha Alden

**Madeleine Léger**, 'Knowing Your Place: Murdoch and Candiotta on Belonging'

**Lucy Oulton**, 'The "power of love": how the natural world inspired Iris Murdoch's writings'

**Marta Romagnoli**, 'Nature as metaxy: Ecocritical perspectives in Weil, Murdoch and Ortese'

**P** **New readings of some late Iris Murdoch novels**

Chair: Paul Hullah

**Elin Svenneby**, 'Praxeological aspirations in *The Good Apprentice?*'

**Li Hong**, 'Interpretations of Iris Murdoch's *The Green Knight* as Theatre'

**Rose Solari**, "'Once Upon a Time": Myth and Reality in *The Green Knight*'

4.00 – 4.30 **Tea break**

4.30 – 6.00 **Panel Sessions** AB 1.09

**Q** **New readings of *The Philosopher's Pupil* and *The Message to the Planet***

Chair: Frances White

**Danika Brown**, "'Rosanovism": Autistic linguistics, Asperger's, Madness and Mental age in *The Philosopher's Pupil*'

**Rachel Handley**, 'Machiavellian Murdoch'

**Rob Hardy**, 'Iris Murdoch, Howard Jacobson and "the Jews"'

AB 1.01

**R** **Iris Murdoch's thoughts about God, prayer and the cave**

Chair: Hannah Marije Altorf

**Janfarie Skinner**, 'The Same God the Same Good? John Jones and Iris Murdoch'

**Jean-Gabriel You**, 'The metaethical virtue of prayer for Iris Murdoch'

**Jon Phelan Cave**, 'Imagery in Murdoch's Fiction and the Phenomenology of Unselfing'

9.30 – 10.45 **Plenary Session and Q&A** AB 0.01  
**Nikhil Krishnan**, 'Iris Murdoch's Irony'  
Chair: Frances White

10.45 – 11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15 – 12.45 **Panel Sessions** AB 1.08

**S Influences on Iris Murdoch: BMB, Tolstoy, Canetti**

Chair: Anne Rowe

**Tasha Alden**, "A sort of universal Ancient Greece": Badminton School, BMB and the young Iris Murdoch'

**Lewis Brewster**, 'Irushka's Tolstoi: Existentialists and Mystics Cossacks'

**Maria Peacock**, 'The Dichter's Pupils? Veza Canetti, Friedl Benedikt and Iris Murdoch'

AB 1.09

**T New readings of *The Sea*, *The Sea***

Chair: Wendy Jones Nakanishi

**Kendall Mallon**, 'Grounding Charles Arrowby's Memories: How Things Exist in *The Sea*, *The Sea*'

**Francesca Scapinello**, 'Autobiography: An exercise towards moral development'

**Tracy Reilly**, 'Home is Where the Hartley is: Property as Inspiration toward the Good in Iris Murdoch's *The Sea*, *The Sea*'

AB 1.01

**U Iris Murdoch and Prejudice**

Chair: Daniel Read

**Joshua Brown**, 'Moral Perception, Race, and the Death Penalty'

**David Fine**, "White, White as an Underground Defenceless Thing": Seeing Colour in *The Red* and *The Green*'

**Heather Levy**, "'Now You Are Just a Queer in a Cord Coat": The Libidinal Inspirations and Disruptive Aspirations of *Henry and Cato*'

12.45 – 1.15 Closing Remarks AB 0.01  
**Miles Leeson** and **Anne Rowe**

Following the conclusion of the conference there will be a buffet meal at the *George and Dragon* pub (North Street, Chichester), five minutes' walk from campus, to which all are invited. This begins at 6 p.m. and must be booked in advance.



# Chichester campus (Bishop Otter) map

## PO19 6PE

- 1 Learning Resource Centre, Support and Information Zone (SIZ)
- 2 Bus Stop
- 3 Academic Building
- 4 Cloisters Lawn
- 5 Cloisters Corridor
- 6 Students' Union Shop
- 7 Dance Studios
- 8 Theatre Studios
- 9 The ShowRoom
- 10 Otters Restaurant
- 11 The Chapel
- 12 Tudor Hale Centre for Sport
- 13 Sports Dome
- 14 New Hall
- 15 Music
- 16 Accommodation Office
- 17 Nursing
- 18 Students' Union and Zee Bar

**KEY**

- STUDENT AREAS
- STAFF AREAS
- STUDENT ACCOMMODATION
- P PARKING
- D DISABLED PARKING
- RECEPTION
- BUS STOP

