



TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Society of Dix-Neuviémistes

8th-10th April 2026



Health and happiness / La santé et le bonheur

Cardiff University

**With thanks to the French Embassy in the United Kingdom
and the School of Modern Languages at Cardiff University**

Society of Dix-Neuviémistes Charity Number: 1208063

DAY 1

Wednesday 8th April

11.30–12.30 (British Summer Time) Annual General Meeting of the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes. Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building.

12.30-13.20. Light lunch and Registration. Committee Room 2.

13.20-13.30. President's welcome.

13.30–15.00. Parallel Session 1.

1.A. Laughter. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Chair: Adeline Heck (University of St Andrews)

« [D]es sottises, des calembours, de méchantes plaisanteries ». Enjeux et modalités du rire dans le pamphlet du premier XIXe siècle (1814-1848)	Laetitia Saintes	UC Louvain
Mme Verdurin's Laugh and Her Croissants in Proust's <i>À la recherche du temps perdu</i>	Áine Larkin	Maynooth University
Women's Laughter in Early Silent Cinema: a Belle Époque Challenge to Modernity	Coraline Refort	Université la Sorbonne Nouvelle

1.B. Science, Health, Progress. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building. (Online Panel). Chair: TBC.

Le credo scientifique du Docteur Pascal dans le roman éponyme d'Emile Zola (1893): manifestation artistico-littéraire de l'idéologie du Progrès	Vanessa Schmitt	CoSciLit
Intoxication et désintoxication dans le <i>Traité des dégénérescences</i> de Morel	Tanya Mushinsky	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

1.C. Decadent Pleasures. Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Nat Paterson (University of Glasgow)

« Joyeuse d'une joie surnaturelle ». La jouissance de Salomé de Banville à Rachilde	Zofia Litwinowicz-Krutnik	University of Gdansk & National Science Centre
From Gothic to Modern Horror: the Weird and the Unhealthy in Nineteenth-Century France	Gavin Murray-Miller	Cardiff University
Hothouses and Hospitals: the Insular Worlds of Maeterlinck and Vuillard	Kristina Åström	Independent Researcher

15.00–15.30. Coffee. Committee Room 2.

15.30–17.30. Parallel Session 2

2.A. Science of Health and Happiness. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Chair: Áine Larkin (Maynooth University)

L'hygiène de la sensation — quand les nerfs l'emportent	Ye Xu	Royal Holloway, University of London
'Heureux...de ne ressembler à aucun autre être' : Léopold Chauveau's (1870-1940) Anti-Medical Monstrous Utopia	Nat Paterson	University of Glasgow
A Symbol for Depressive Cognitive Decline: the Catoblepas	Jason Hartford	University of Dundee
Le parfum, un artefact de beauté aux mille promesses : le cas de la parfumerie française au XIXe siècle.	Charlotte Gaudry	Université Grenoble Alpes

2.B. Performances and/of Health. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building. Chair: David Evans (University of St Andrews)

Neoclassical Romanticism? John Neumeier's Ballet Staging of <i>La Dame aux camélias</i> (1848)	Manon Hakem-Lemaire	The City University of New York
Wrestling with the Angel: Éphraïm Mikhaël, Emmanuel Chabrier and the Unfinished Opera <i>Briséis</i> (1899)	Adeline Heck	University of St Andrews
Au bonheur des comédiennes : célébrité et santé mentale sur scène et en coulisses au début du XIXe siècle	Marion Joassin	Royal Holloway University of London
Making a Song and Dance of Public Health in Early 19 th -Century French Theatre	Michelle Cheyne	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

2.C. Quel optimisme fin-de-siècle ? Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Larry Duffy (University of Kent)

Le « pressentiment infini » fin-de-siècle : le cri des écrivains catholiques au « siècle du papier »	Anna Chialva	University of Kent
L'œuvre malade : la poésie décadente devant la science psychiatrique (1897) du Dr Emile Laurent	Jocelyn Godiveau	Université Catholique de l'Ouest
« Les progrès sont lents, monsieur Aronnax »: la croyance en l'avenir de l'homme dans <i>Vingt mille lieues sous les mers</i> et <i>L'Île Mystérieuse</i>	Hervé Goerger	Sorbonne Nouvelle

17.45 Plenary: Shiny Happy Readers, or “la jouissance du poème”.

Seth Whidden (University of Oxford, Queen’s)

Chair: David Evans (University of St Andrews).

Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64).

18.45 Wine reception. Viriamu Jones Gallery.

19.45 Dinner: own arrangements. We have booked a table for 20 people at [Valentino’s](#) (5 Windsor Place) on an own-expense basis. Anyone who does not have other plans is very welcome to join us. (We cannot guarantee that we will all be seated together.)

DAY 2

Thursday 9th April

8.45–10.15. Parallel Session 3

3.A. Health and Happiness in Literature. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Chair: Maureen Ramsden (University of Hull)

Ourika: ‘une personne bien malade’?	Steven Wilson	Queen’s University Belfast
La mélancolie du bonheur (Duras, Stendhal)	Bertrand Marquer	Université Sorbonne Nouvelle
Se soigner, c’est mourir. Mourir, c’est se soigner. La santé comme stratégie narrative dans <i>Indiana</i> et <i>La Dame aux camélias</i> .	Caroline Sandrine Denhez	McGill University, Montréal

3.B. Injonctions à la santé et au bonheur : se les approprier ou résister ? Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Hervé Goerger (Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Le bonheur conjugal chez Balzac, droit ou devoir ?	Christèle Couleau	Université Sorbonne Paris Nord
Écriture malade et sociabilité de cure autour de Louisa Siefert	Henri Berger Martin	Université Lyon 2 & Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Ordre et santé : l’hygiénisme comme contrôle social dans les romans utopiques	Claire Barel- Moisan	CNRS, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon

3.C. Art and Politics of Health and Happiness. Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building. Susan McCready (University of South Alabama)

La Boucherie and 1870: Testament of Nutritional Scarcity, and Metaphors of War, Sacrifice and Trauma	Alexandra Courtois	University of Exeter
Vivre dignement et en bonne santé pour vivre heureux : quand des républicains français posaient les bases de la République sociale	Christophe Miqueu	Université de Bordeaux
The Destiny of the Unhappy Couple in Flora Tristan’s Utopian Socialist novel, <i>Méphis</i>	Máire Cross	Newcastle University

10.15–11am Coffee. Committee Room 2.

10.30-11.00 Introduction to the nineteenth-century collection of the National Museum, Cardiff with Dr Peter Lindfield, Cardiff University. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64).

11.00-13.00 Parallel Session 4

4.A. Architectures of Happiness. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Glamorgan Building. Chair: Kristina Åström (Independent Researcher)

Happiness in Miniature: Public Squares, Well-Being, and the Biopolitics of Leisure in Second-Empire Paris	Hestia Jingyang Zhang	University of Oxford
Proust Indoors and Out: Towards a Path to Health and Happiness?	Patrick O'Donovan	University College Cork
Louise Abbéma and Architectures of Queer Well-being	Heidi Brevik-Zender	University of California, Riverside
Allegorical architectures of pleasure and joy in Émile Zola's <i>Pot-Bouille</i> and <i>Au Bonheur des Dames</i>	Christopher Goring	Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge

4.B Gender, Health and Happiness 1. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Laetitia Saintes (Université catholique de Louvain).

Amour, mariage et célibat : le bonheur et le happy end dans quelques romans féministes de la seconde moitié du XIX ^e siècle	Nicole Siri	Università degli Studi di Foggia
“Speramus ut meliora tempora fiant”. Laure d'Y.: A Case Study in the Convergence of Therapeutic Regimens and Gendered Normativity	Mathilde Castanié	Université Paris Cité
L'ovariectomie comme quête de bonheur : promesses et désillusions d'une opération	Shauna Heck	FRS-FNRS (Université libre de Bruxelles)
L'envers de la vie saine : la maladie d'Esther	Christina Leah Sztajnkrycer	Pennsylvania State University

4.C. Medicine, Progress, Literature. Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Richard Hibbitt (University of Leeds)

Les médecins et la médecine dans les nouvelles des « petits » naturalistes	Anna Kaczmarek-Wisniewska	Uniwersytet Opolski
James Hinton: The Surgeon Whose Writings on Health Illuminate Happiness in Zola	Sophie Maddison	Independent Scholar
‘Dans la vision poétique [...] il y a joie’: How Taine Challenged the Boundaries of Illness in <i>De l'intelligence</i>	Anna Paola Manna	University of Exeter
Showcasing Progress in Paris: the 1855 World's Fair	Camilla Murgia	Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland
Victor Hugo's 'Plein Ciel': Progress as Thrill-seeking and Nature Immersion	Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe	Hartford College, University of Oxford

13.00-14.00: Lunch. Committee Room 2.

14.00–15.30: Parallel Session 5

5.A. How to Find Health, Happiness, and Motivation via Nineteenth-Century French Texts. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Chair: Manon Hakem-Lemaire (CUNY).

How to Represent a Woman: Louise Bourgeois, Balzac, and <i>Moi, Eugénie Grandet</i>	Alexandra Wettlaufer	University of Texas at Austin
How to Achieve Happiness, Escape Work and Dominate Women: the mock-heroic Orientalist manosphere of Balzac and Théophile Gautier.	Jennifer Yee	University of Oxford (Christ Church)
How to Cope with Nostalgia: Ask Charles Baudelaire	Cheryl Krueger	University of Virginia
How to be a Frenchwoman: Helping Oneself in Colonial Algeria	Susan Hiner	Vassar College

5.B. Writing Happiness. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Stephen Goddard (Keble College, University of Oxford)

Figuring out Happiness: Eudaimonics in Selected Letter-Writing of Mallarmé, Van Gogh, and Zola	Susan Harrow	University of Bristol
Ill Health and Happiness? Benjamin Constant's Correspondence after July 1830	Paul Rowe	University of Leeds
Hygiene and the Writer: Flaubert	Jean-Baptiste Chantoiseau	Musées de Rouen Normandie - Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3

5.C. Cures and Therapies. Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Manon Mathias (University of Glasgow).

Anatomies of Power: Medical Utility of the White Male Body in Zola's <i>L'assommoir</i>	Magdala Lissa Jeudy	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Curing Neurasthenia through Sleep and Poetry: the Loches 'Somnarium' at the Turn of the 20th Century	Sophie Panziera	Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales/ Centre Alexandre Koyré
Spleen et Miroir. Baudelaire, Starobinski and Health Regimes against Melancholy	Henning Hufnagel	University of Zurich

15.30-16.00. Coffee. Committee Room 2.

16.00-18.00: Parallel Session 6

6.A. Method in the Madness: Craft, Chaos, Dust and Delight in Nineteenth-Century Studies. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Chair: Sophie Maddison (Independent Scholar)

Text, Narrative and History	Susannah Wilson	University of Warwick
Archival Allures, Depths, and Mysteries	Heather Williams	University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies
The Transformation of Ancient Epic in <i>Les Misérables</i>	Fiona Cox	University of Exeter
Le bonheur d’enseigner Stendhal aujourd’hui (et quelques défis...)	Annika Mörte Alling	Østfold University College

6. B The Social Body. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Máire Cross (Newcastle University)

Morbid Symptoms: The <i>Roman-Feuilleton</i> and its Critics, 1836-1848	Edmund Birch	University of Cambridge
‘L’innocente victime de nos discordes intestines’: Reproductive Politics of the Commune in Léon Cladel’s Short Fiction	Isabel Maloney	University of Cambridge
Aesthetics of Anxiety in the fin-de-siècle: Neurasthenia, Race and Artistic Criticism	Rachel Coombes	University of Cambridge
Le Dr. Saint-Aubin ou les malheurs de la vie éternelle : magnétisme et politique dans les premiers romans de Balzac	Michele Morselli	Università di Bologna

6.C. Professional Matters. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building.

16.00: Publishing Advice for Postgraduate Students and ECRs. Seth Whidden (University of Oxford, Queen’s) and Larry Duffy (University of Kent)

17.15: Introducing REF 2029: presentation and Q&A with Deputy Chair of SP26 Modern Languages and Linguistics, Susan Harrow.

18.00 Plenary: ‘Le ventre ouvert’: Health, Happiness, and Being Human. Manon Mathias (University of Glasgow).

Chair: Maria Scott (University of Exeter). Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64).

19.00 ECR Wine Reception. Seminar Room 1.65.

19.30 Dinner. Committee Rooms 1 & 2, Glamorgan Building.

SDN President’s address, announcement of the winners of the Publication Prize and <i>Dix-Neuf</i> Prize, and details of the 2027 conference

DAY 3

Friday 10th April

09.00–10.30: Parallel Session 7

7. A. Gender, Health and Happiness 2. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Chair: Steven Wilson (Queen’s University, Belfast)

The Natural Asylum and the Feminisation of Madness in Early Nineteenth-Century France	Christie Margrave	Cardiff University
Disguising Male Mental Health Issues with Ambiguity in <i>contes fantastiques</i>	Srinandini Mukherjee	Independent Scholar
Reframing Toulouse-Lautrec: Disability, Gender, and Feminist Intersectionality	Hongxuan Li	Queen’s University Belfast

7.B. What does a healthy and happy academic career look like? (ECR session) Chair: Helen McKelvey. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building.

7.C. (Un)happy Endings. Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building. Chair: Lisa Algazi Marcus (Hood College)

The Politics of Proust's Happy Ending	Max McGuinness	Trinity College Dublin
Of Fathers and Phalansteries: Finding Happiness in Eugène Sue's <i>Martin, l'enfant trouvé</i> .	Emma Bielecki	King’s College London
Flaubert’s happy(?) endings	Stephen Goddard	Keble College University of Oxford

10.30–11.00: Coffee. Committee Room 2.

11.00–13.00: Parallel Session 8

Panel 8A. (Un)happy Families. Glamorgan Building Lecture Theatre (1.64). Chair: Christie Margrave (Cardiff University)

Woe in Wedlock: Domestic Troubles and Mental Health in Early Nineteenth-Century France	Alessandro Bianchi	Newcastle University
Donner “deux fois son sang”: Balzac et le lait maternel	Tania Duclos	STM College, University of Saskatchewan
For Troubled Girls: Reading Ségur’s “Les Malheurs de Sophie” trilogy as Narrative Exposure Therapy	Natasha Hendler	King's College London
A Tale of Two Sophies: on the Joys of Impatience and the Afflictions of Indigestion	Pauline de Tholozany	Clemson University

**Panel 8.B. Revitalizations / Nouveaux souffles. Committee Room 1, Glamorgan Building.
Chair: Damian Catani (Birkbeck)**

Desperate Housewives: Flaubert's Emma, Slimani's Louise, and me	Ewa Szypula	The University of Nottingham
Santiago Rusiñol i Prats (1861-1931), un Art Total pour une utopie catalaniste : entre intoxication et espoirs, un locus amoenus	Stéphanie Mateu	Université Paul Valéry de Montpellier & Université de Barcelone
Serial Killing as Acts of Care: Healing the Victims of Baudelaire's Textual Violence in <i>Décomposée</i> by Clémentine Beauvais	David Evans	University of St Andrews
On Jeanne Duval and other ghosts in Manet's <i>Musique aux Tuileries</i>	Maria Scott	University of Exeter

**Panel 8.C. The Pursuit of Happiness. Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building.
Seminar Room 0.86, Glamorgan Building. Chair: TBC.**

The Ephemeral Nature of Happiness in Proust's Modernist Novel, <i>La Recherche</i>	Maureen Ramsden	University of Hull
« Même au chant du bonheur la plainte est sur la lyre ». De quelques élégies sur la convalescence en France au début du XIXe siècle	Bénédicte Prot	University of Basel
“Je suis la femme la plus joyeuse que soit au monde” : a Former Courtesan's Spiritual Journey toward Redemption	Courtney Sullivan	Washburn University
The Ciphered Play of Desire and Happiness in Stendhal's <i>Armance</i>	Raji Vallury	University of New Mexico

13.00: End of conference.

Practical information:

The conference will take place in the [Glamorgan Building](#) at Cardiff University.

Travel

Cardiff airport is in the town of Rhose. There are Ubers and buses from the airport into Cardiff.

It is also possible to fly to Bristol airport. You can then travel to Cardiff via train or bus. There are direct buses from the airport to the centre of Cardiff. You can book a ticket with [National Express](#) or [FlixBus](#). (It is probably best to reserve in advance.)

If you are taking the train, you have to go from the airport to Temple Meads by bus and then you can get the train from Temple Meads to Cardiff.

The nearest train station to campus is Cathays. You can get the train to Cardiff Central from most of the major train stations around the country (Manchester, Liverpool, London Paddington, Birmingham, etc) and change at Central for Cathays.

There are direct [buses](#) to Cardiff from London.

Cafés and restaurants:

Nice cafés:

1. Barkers (Castle Arcade in Town centre)
2. Brodies on the Wall (town - edge of Bute Park)
3. Corner Coffee (High Street Arcade - town)
4. Sibling (Roath)
5. Sparrow (Plasnewydd)
6. Milkwood (Pontcanna)

Vegetarian/Vegan options:

1. Oat and Beans (Park Place, near the Museum) - Vegan café
2. Scaredy Cats Café-Bar (St David's centre - town centre) - some good veggie options and lots of board games
3. Secret Garden Café (Bute Park)
4. Luna's Vegan Corner (26 Wellfield Road)
5. Crumbs Kitchen (Morgan Arcade in town centre)

National Foods:

1. Chinese - QBao; In Café; Café Zi's (all in Cathays area)
2. Italian - Calabrisella (one in Cathays and one in Canton); Casanova (town centre); Italian Way (Canton)
3. Japanese - Volcano (Cathays)
4. Thai - Mr Pim's (Cathays); Moo Moo Thai Tapas (Plasnewydd)

5. Greek - Maria's (Cathays); Hellenic Eatery (Cathays); The Athenian Tree (Canton)
6. French - Café du Chat Noir (Roath); Côte Brasserie (Town centre)
7. Vietnamese - Pho (town centre)
8. Spanish/Catalan tapas - Curado (town centre)
9. Korean - Kimchi (Canton)
10. Asian inspired: Ivy Asia

'Fancy'/Expensive fine dining:

1. Gorse (Pontcanna)
2. Uisce (Pontcanna)
3. Sonder (Pontcanna)
4. The Ivy

Cardiff Bay

If you have time, [Cardiff Bay](#) is only a short bus ride from the city centre, and it has [many excellent restaurants](#) and lovely views.

With thanks to Prof. Robert Lethbridge, former Honorary President of the SDN, for his generous contribution towards conference registration costs.