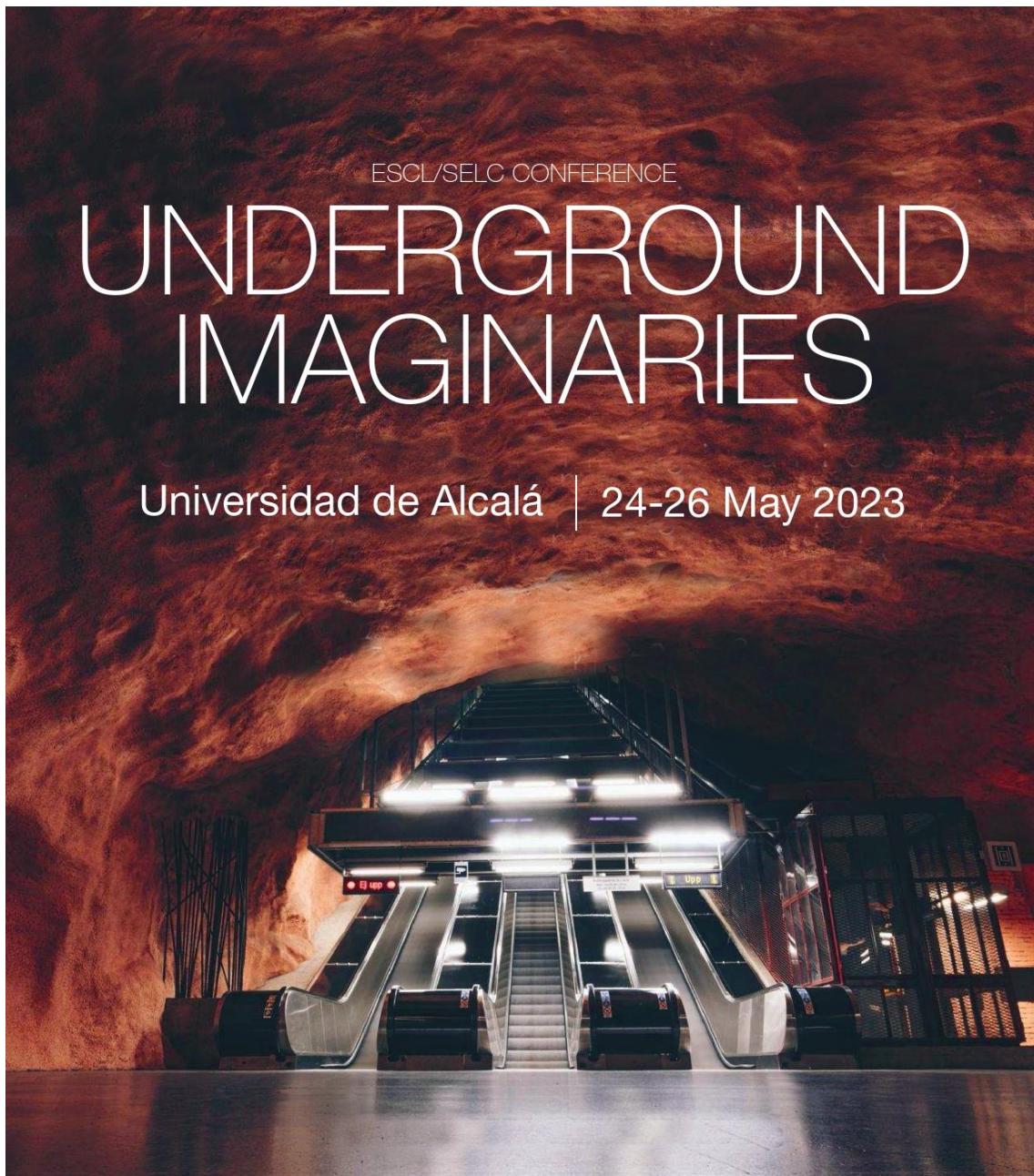


FINAL PROGRAMME (March 2023)

We remind you that this is a face to face event. There can be minor changes to the distribution of papers before the conference takes place.



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	Wednesday 24.05.23		
15:00-15:45	Registration at Colegio San Ildefonso. Rectorado		
15:45-16:00	Opening words: Patricia García and Jean-Philippe Imbert (Salón de Actos)		
16:00-17:00	Keynote: Prof. Rachel Falconer (Salón de Actos)		
17:15-18:45	1. Underworld Cities (ALUS)	2. Romantic Rewritings of the Cave Myth	3. Global Geology
18:45-20:00	Drinks reception (free for registered participants)		

	Thursday 25.05.23		
9:30-11:00	4. Subterranean Sexualities	5. Heading North: Underground Anxieties and Utopias	*6. Underground Architectures
Coffee break			
11:30-13:00	7. The Underground as Margin 1	8. Necropolitics: Graveyards and Traces	*9. Underground Epistemologies
15:00-16:30	10. The Underground as Margin 2	11. Thresholds	12. Sewers and Mines
16:45-18:15	13. Underground Mobilities and Resistance	14. Hidden Crimes	15. (In)visible Origins
19:00-20:00	Tour. Universidad de Alcalá, World Heritage Site (free for registered participants)		

	Friday 26.05.23		
9:30-11:00	16. Beneath Paris	17. Senses in the Dark	18. Underground Displacements
Coffee break			
11:30-13:00	19. Infernal Health	20. Necropowers	21. Cities Underneath
15:00-16:30	22. Cruising Literatures	23. Unearthing the Text	24. Slums and Waste
16:45-17:45	Keynote: Prof. Sayak Valencia (Salón de Actos)		
17:45	Closing words: Patricia García and Jean-Philippe Imbert (Salón de Actos)		
20:00	Tapas conference dinner at Restaurante La Cátedra (Hotel el Bedel)		

Conference rooms:

Salón de Actos - Colegio de San Ildefonso. Rectorado
Sala 3M - Colegio de San Ildefonso. Rectorado
Sala de Conferencias Internacionales - Colegio de San Ildefonso. Rectorado
* Biblioteca Edificio Santo Tomás. Sessions 6 and 9



CONFERENCE VENUE

The venue: **Colegio de San Ildefonso**, Plaza San Diego, s/n, Alcalá de Henares

Underground Imaginaries will take place in person in the city center campus of the Universidad de Alcalá, located in the city of Alcalá de Henares, a 30-minute drive east of Madrid and a 40-minute train ride from Atocha central station. There are buses from the airport.

With one of the oldest universities in Spain, Alcalá de Henares is considered a World Heritage Center by UNESCO.

More information on how to get to Alcalá de Henares/ Accommodation/ Where to eat, [here](#).

REGISTRATION LINKS

- **Conference attendance:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/underground-imaginaries-tickets-519527279077>

Early bird, conference speakers (till 03/03/23): 60€

Full price, conference speakers (from 04/03/23): 80€

Attendance only, with certificate: 40€

Registration closes: 03/04/23

Membership of the [ESCL/SELC](#) by the conference date is a requirement to present a paper.

Invoices will be only issued 2 weeks after the conference. To request an invoice, please contact fees.undergroundimaginaries@gmail.com

- **Drinks reception at Colegio de San Ildefonso**, Wed 24 of May (free for registered conference participants). Deadline to register: 28 April.
<https://forms.gle/UesFnr1AFKpZQ2LV9>
- **University tour**, Thu 25 of May (free for registered conference participants). In English. Max. 50 attendees. Deadline to register: 28 April.
<https://forms.gle/y6jNHHzezLF4pWQe8>
- **Tapas conference dinner**, Fri 26 of May. 39€ per person. Drinks and approx. 10 tapas plus 2 dessert tapas included per person. The menu is not fully vegetarian but we will ensure there are some vegetarian options available. Deadline to register: 10 May.
<https://www.eventbrite.es/e/conference-dinner-may-26-tickets-574378951907>

KEYNOTES

Prof. Rachel Falconer, Université de Lausanne (Switzerland)

Respondent: Prof. David L. Pike, American University (US)

Title: “Descents to the Underworld in the Anthropocene”

In this talk, Rachel Falconer will reflect on the literary tradition of *katabasis*, or the descent into the underworld, and its ongoing relevance to our own times. She will outline the dynamics of this distinctive literary genre, including its spatio-temporal distortions, its sequencing of existential tests to the psyche, and its spring-mechanisms for a reascent from the world of the dead. A range of twentieth and twenty-first century texts will be cited as modern examples of, and revisions to, this most ancient of genres. She will then go on to consider how the tradition of *katabasis* has helped shape recent artistic responses to climate change, arguably the greatest threat to life on the planet in the twenty-first century.

Rachel Falconer is Professor of English Literature at the University of Lausanne. She has written extensively on the descent to the underworld, especially in her book, *Hell in Contemporary Literature: Western Descent Narratives since 1945* (2007). With Madeleine Scherer, she has also co-edited *A Quest for Remembrance: The Underworld in Classical and Modern Literature* (2020). A one-time classicist, she is particularly interested in dialogues between contemporary and classical literature, as explored in her most recent book, *Seamus Heaney, Virgil and the Good of Poetry* (2022). She has published books and articles on a number of other subjects including Milton’s Orpheus, Bakhtinian dialogism, Holocaust literature, children’s literature and its adult readers, and speculative fiction. Since editing *Kathleen Jamie: Essays and Poems on her Work* (2014), she has been exploring the growing corpus of eco-writing, writing about our relation to the natural environment in the context of the present climate crisis.

Prof. Sayak Valencia, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Mexico)

Moderan: Dra. Fernanda Bustamante, Universidad de Alcalá (España) / Dra. Anna Boccuti, Università degli Studi di Torino (Italia)

Título: “Necrópolis contemporáneas y política post-mortem: espacialidades y afectos”

En contexto mexicano donde la proliferación de desapariciones forzadas y de personas asesinadas no hace más que elevarse, es necesaria una reflexión sobre las nuevas figuras de la espacialidad y su relación con los que aquí se denomina necrópolis contemporáneas, entendidas no sólo como cementerios sino como la base material de un sinfín de expolios que pueden representarse a través de la figura de las fosas clandestinas.

Así, partiendo de la idea de fosa, realizaré una lectura cruzada entre lo que denomino “política postmortem” y la politización de los afectos en el libro *Antígona González* de Sara Uribe.

Sayak Valencia es doctora en Filosofía con especialidad en Teoría Crítica y Feminista por la Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Es profesora investigadora titular C, en el Departamento de Estudios Culturales de El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Centro de Investigación CONACYT, sede Tijuana. Es poeta, ensayista y exhibicionista performática. Es autora de los siguientes libros: *Transfeminismos y Política Post-Mortem* (Icaria, Barcelona, 2021), *Capitalismo Gore* (Melusina, Barcelona, 2010), traducido al inglés, Alemán, Francés e Italiano), así como una cuarentena de artículos académicos con enfoque transfeminista, decolonial y transnacional.



PANELS

Papers will be 20 minutes long. Chairs TBC.

Panel 1 = Underworld Cities (Association for Literary Urban Studies (Chair: Patricia García)

Ameel, Lieven. Tampere University (Finland). “Symbolic Cities Beneath Brussels: *Brüsel* and Other Underground Cities in Graphic Novels by François Schuiten and Benoît Peeters”

Pulkkinen, Riikka P. University of Helsinki (Finland). “Tracing the Foreign. Representations of Athens’ Underworld in Contemporary City Literature”

Juntunen, Hanne. Tampere University (Finland). “Stepping into the Urban and Human Underworld in *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*”

Panel 2 = Romantic Rewritings of the Cave Myth (Chair: TBC)

Franco, Bernard. Sorbonne University (France). “The Cave in the Artist’s Romantic Narratives: the Platonic Myth of the Cave and Novalis’ Blue Flower in George Sand, Melville and Hawthorne”

Meynent, Chloé. Independent scholar. “The Fall in the Darkness: a Necessary Step in the Construction of an Enlightened Spirit

Schnebelen, Florence. Université Polytechnique des Hauts-de-France (France). “A Mine, not a Cave: Novalis’ Narrative Subversion of Plato’s Metaphysics”

Panel 3 = Global Geology (Chair: TBC)

Ferebee, K.M. Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies/ University of Helsinki (Finland). “It Came from Underground: Narratives of Emerging Arctic Apocalypse”

Fuchs, Michael. University of Innsbruck (Austria). “When Dinosaurs Rise to Challenge Fossil Fuel Extraction: Anthropocene Unburials, Fossil Pasts, and Prehistoric Futures”

Jornet Somoza, Albert. Universitat de Barcelona (Spain). “Escrituras corticales: razón, lenguaje y subsuelo en el Antropoceno”

Panel 4 = Subterranean Sexualities (Chair: TBC)

Beas Marín, María. Université Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis (France). “Bajar al metro - cartografías subterráneas en la obra del poeta madrileño Eduardo Haro Ibáñez”

Imbert, Jean-Philippe. Dublin City University (Republic of Ireland). “Lancing Subcutaneous Skin: Sacrilege and Sacrifice of a *Fin-de-Siècle* Milkmaid: «Péhor» (1894) by Remy de Gourmont”

Wieczorek, Agata. Independent scholar. “Beneath their Skin: Female Masking and *Peau d’homme* (Hubert and Zanzim, 2020) Bodily Disguise in Writing and in Underground Practices”



Panel 5 = Heading North: Underground Anxieties and Utopias (Chair: TBC)

Salmela, Markku. Tampere University (Finland). “Writing and Unearthing in Kathleen Jamie’s ‘In Quinhagak’”

Vesala, Meeria. Åbo Akademi University (Finland). “The bones lay inert, mocking”: Archaeological Anxieties in Sarah Moss’s *Cold Earth*”

Riquet, Johannes. Tampere University (Finland). “In the direction of the bizarre”: Black Utopia and Non-Linear Space in Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*”

Panel 6 = Underground Architectures (Chair: TBC)

Díez Cobo, Rosa María. Universidad de Burgos (Spain). “Parallel Spaces on your Doorstep: An Approach to Multi-layered Fictional Architectures”

Erteber, Caglar. Universidad de Arizona (US). “Las reflexiones del diseño arquitectónico y urbano en la vida cotidiana bonaerense a través de la mirada fílmica en *Pizza, birra, faso* (1998) y *Medianeras* (2011)”

Springer, Olga. Dublin City University (Republic of Ireland). “Down, down, down”: the Underground as Literary Topos”

Panel 7 = The Underground as Margin 1 (Margins research group. Chair: Bruna Mancini)

Cairo, Federica. University of Calabria (Italy). “I was engulfed in labyrinths of trouble’: Concealed Identities and Spaces in Daniel Defoe’s *Moll Flanders*”

Capalbo, Giuseppe. University of Rome “Tor Vergata”/ University of Calabria (Italy). “John Gay and the Aesthetics of the Underground”

Fusco, Carla. University G. D’Annunzio Chieti-Pescara/University of Teramo (Italy). “When a Coma Gives a Second Chance. Irvine Welsh’s Threshold People”

Panel 8 = Necropolitics: Graveyards and Traces (Chair: Albert Jornet Somoza)

Lonsdale, Laura. University of Oxford (UK). “Graveyard Politics: Earth and Unearthing in Frank McGuinness’s *Carthaginians* (1988) and Antonio Morcillo’s *A/ hoyo* (2008/22)”

Rivas Venegas, Miguel. Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (Spain). “Restos vivientes: alteridad y diferencia en el discurso cultural franquista. Una lectura del «Espacio inferior» a partir de Y. Lotman”

Ros, Violeta. Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain). “De esta casa no se marcha nadie. Venganza y reparación en el campo literario actual”



Panel 9 = Underground Epistemologies (Chair: TBC)

Benedicto Escajedo, Laura. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain). “La escritura como excavación”

Coste, Didier. Bordeaux Montaigne University (France). “Transworld Underground: Casanova’s *Icosameron* and the Limits of Cosmopolitan Hospitality”

Saez Tajafuerce, Begoña. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). “Epistemologies from Underground. Who Cares? Gloria Anzaldúa’s Descent to the Coalitcue State”

Panel 10 = The Underground as Margin 2 (Margins research group. Chair: Giuseppe Capalbo)

Mancini, Bruna. University of Calabria (Italy). “Into the Bowels of London: Underground as Margin of the Fantastic in Michael Moorcock’s *Mother London* and Peter Ackroyd’s *London Under*”

Marino, Elisabetta. University of Rome “Tor Vergata” (Italy). “Underground Lives: Slaves and Factory Workers in Frances Trollope’s Novels”

Tempestoso, Carla. University of Calabria (Italy). “Written ‘By another hand’: The Hidden/Censored World of Women Writers through Elizabeth Montague’s *Dialogues of the Dead*”

Panel 11 = Thresholds (Chair: Olga Springer)

Antonangeli, Riccardo. University of Rome “La Sapienza” (Italy). “The Trapdoors of Plot: The Gothic Novel and Underground Space”

Menezes, Maria Clara. Dublin City University (Republic of Ireland). “Beneath the Flowerbeds: A Comparative Reading of David Lynch’s *Blue Velvet* (1986) and Barbey d’Aurevilly’s ‘Le Dessous de cartes d’une partie de whist’ (1874)”

Welge, Jobst. University of Leipzig (Germany). “Urban Undergrounds in the Maximalist Novels of Ernesto Sábato and Mircea Cărtărescu”

Panel 12 = Sewers and Mines (Chair: TBC)

Fischer, Caroline. Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour (France). “La profondeur de la mine comme lieu de dépassement d’inimitiés « héréditaires » ”

Pernice, Marie. University of Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3 (France). “Underground Imaginaries of Extractivism in the African novel”

Seidel, Anna. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany). “Myth No More? Representations of the Warsaw Sewers in Literature, Music, and Film”



Panel 13 = Underground Mobilities and Resistance (Chair: TBC)

Kriegel, Sophie. University Berlin (Germany). "Losing and Finding Oneself in Johannesburg's Underground: A Psychogeographic Exploration of Literary Underground Imagery"

Ofori-Amoaf, Marian. University of Bayreuth (Germany). "Im/Mobility and Geographies of Resistance in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* and Bernardine Evaristo's *Blonde Roots*"

Toivanen, Anna-Leena. University of Eastern Finland (Finland). "Underground Urban Mobilities in Francophone African Literatures"

Panel 14 = Hidden Crimes (Chair: TBC)

Chiti, Elena. Stockholm University (Sweden). "'The houses of the crimes': Labban District in the Egyptian Imaginary"

Gräßner, Cornelia. Lancaster University (UK). "Seizing the Historical Moment, Underground"

Marini, Anna Marta. Universidad de Alcalá (Spain). "Descent to the Underworld: Mexican Underground Loci of Danger in Cross-Border Popular Media"

Panel 15 = (In)visible Origins (Chair: TBC)

Di Rocco, Emilia. Sapienza Università di Roma (Italy). "Forms of Underground Lives: Images of Urban Landscapes and their Visualization in Dante and Milton"

Hatcher, Brian A. Tufts University (US). "Beneath the Hermit's Hut: Temple-sized Remains and Monastic Life in Vernacular Hinduism"

Zapf, Nora. University of Innsbruck (Austria). "Orpheus in Xibalbá. Syncretic Underworlds in Latin American Fiction"

Panel 16 = Beneath Paris (Chair: TBC)

Esposito, Cesare. Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa (Italy) / Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France). "Conceiving Crime: The Evolution of the *Cour des miracles*"

Keunen, Bart. Ghent University (Belgium). "Narrating the City in Four Underground Images: Hugo, Baudelaire, Zola and Aragon"

Langlet, Irène. Université Gustave Eiffel (France). "Le tournant (e)utopique du Paris souterrain : 1962-1985"

Panel 17 = Senses in the Dark (Chair: TBC)

Benazet, Estelle. Université Côte d'Azur (France). "La Géophagie: Une méthode d'enquête médiumnique et de transmission de l'incomplétude, à partir de *Mangeterre de Dolores Reyes* (2018)"

Chekili, Melek. University of Southern California (US). "The Underground Voices of Silence: A Re-definition of Sound and Silence through the Perspective of Deafness"

Trueba, Virginia. Universitat de Barcelona (Spain). "Poesía y cine que (aún) hablan la noche"

Panel 18 = Underground Displacements (Chair: TBC)

Ochoa, Debra J. Trinity University (US). "Underground Immigrant Spaces in New York: Texts by Spanish Women"

Sakr, Rita. Maynooth University (Republic of Ireland). "Decolonial Underground Aesthetics and Political Imaginaries in Hassan Blāsim's Work"

Trendel, A. Le Mans University (France). "Fate in Chigozie Obioma's Novel *An Orchestra of Minorities*"

Panel 19 = Infernal Health (Chair: TBC)

Coppola, Maria Micaela. University of Trento (Italy). "Down the Rabbit Hole: Fictional Explorations of the Mind's Recesses"

Kriza, Elisa. University of Bamberg (Germany). "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Madness and Underground Cultures in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia"

Velázquez Velázquez, Raquel. Universitat de Barcelona (Spain). "Infierno, descenso y verticalidad en las narrativas patográficas. El caso del sanatorio tuberculoso"

Panel 20 = Necropowers (Chair: TBC)

Matas Pons, Alex. Universitat de Barcelona (Spain). "Estratos del tiempo, necropolítica y espacialización de la Historia. Una lectura del espectro londinense"

Moll, Nora. Uninettuno University (Rome). "The Mountain at War: Trenches and Tunnels in Narrative Non-Fiction of the Twentieth Century"

Wood, Jennifer. Prifysgol Aberystwyth University (Wales). "Necropower and Subterranean Survival in Rodolfo Fogwill's *Los pichiciegos: visiones de una batalla subterránea*"



Panel 21 = Cities Underneath (Chair: TBC)

De León, Francisco. Universidad de Barcelona (Spain). "De-Generaciones"

González, Guillermo. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Chile)/ Universidad de Alcalá (Spain). "Cambio de andén: el metro de Santiago como portal subterráneo en la ciencia ficción chilena"

Rimaz, Loris. Université de Lausanne (Switzerland). "Elden Ring, souterrains mythiques et leur influence sur le monde"

Panel 22 = Cruising Literatures (Chair: Jean-Philippe Imbert)

O'Mullane, David. Dublin City University (Republic of Ireland). "Sexuality in Ruins: Cruising Literature and an Aesthetic of Collapse"

Pino Estivill, Ester. Universitat de Barcelona (Spain). "Cruising Theory. Constelaciones homoeróticas e incisiones teóricas en la crítica española de los setenta"

Williams, Emilio. Independent scholar. "Not Under, Nor Above: Spatial Disorientation in Gay Sexual Playgrounds and their Representations"

Panel 24 = Slums and Waste (Chair: TBC)

Barrientos-Gómez, Andy L. Cornell University (US). "Enclaves of Entrapment: Capitalism's Waste in *Maquilapolis* and *Sete Prisoneiros*"

Sathi, Anchit. Queen Mary University of London (UK). "Exclusionary Undergrounds in Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere* and Slava Mogutin's *Lost Boys*"

Urakova, Alexandra. University of Tampere (Helsinki). "Between Depths and Surfaces: Nineteenth-Century Philanthropy, Slums, and City Marginals"

Panel 23 = Unearthing the Text (Chair: TBC)

Albreeky, Naser. King's College London (UK). "Classical Reception and Appropriation in the Caribbean: Examining Katabasis in the Poetry of Derek Walcott and M. Nourbese Philip"

Stokowiec, A. Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal). "Burying and Writing Books in the Early-Twentieth Century. Underground as Literary Repository"

Waligórska-Olejniczak, Beata. Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland). "The Category of the Underground and the Underground Man in Selected Texts of Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Andrey Zvyagintsev and Todd Phillips"

ABSTRACTS:

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