



## Beckett and Intertextuality

11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Samuel Beckett Society

Antwerp, 20-22 May 2026

Venue: Hof van Liere, Prinsstraat 13, University of Antwerp

In 2026 we will be celebrating Samuel Beckett's 120<sup>th</sup> birthday. It will also be 60 years since Julia Kristeva introduced the notion of 'intertextuality'. Combining these anniversaries, the theme of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Samuel Beckett Society will be 'Beckett and Intertextuality'. The conference also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Journal of Beckett Studies* and the opening of Samuel Beckett's personal library to the public.

## Preliminary programme (subject to change)

Venue: Hof van Liere, Prinsstraat 13, University of Antwerp

Odd-numbered sessions: Tassis room (Tassiszaal)

Even-numbered sessions: Elsschot room (Elsschotzaal)

**Wednesday, 20 May 2026**

**10:00 – 10:45 Registration**

**10:45 – 11:00 Welcome** (Dirk Van Hulle)

**11:00 – 12:30 Session 1–2**

### **Panel 1 [Tassis]: Beckett Translating / Translating Beckett (Chair: Chiara Montini)**

- Rainier Grutman (University of Ottawa)

Writing in Beckett's Bilingual Shadow: Federman's *Voice* (1979) and Huston's *Limbo* (1999)

- Onno Kusters (Utrecht University)

No Such Thing as 'the same effect': Equivalence and the Visibility of the Translator in the Two English Translations of *Eleutheria*

### **Panel 2 [Elsschot]: Television, Radio and Intermediality (Chair: Galina Kiryushina)**

- Celia Graham-Dixon (University of Reading)

Encounters Not Intertexts: A Feminist Approach to Beckett's Works for Television

- Niloofar Rezaee (University of Western Ontario)

Between the I and the Not-I: The Spectropoetics of *Embers*

- Luz María Sánchez Cardona (Open University of Catalonia)

Beckett and the Erasure Apparatus

**12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break**

**13:30 – 15:00 Session 3–4**

### **Panel 3 [Tassis]: Biography, Life Writing and Self-Presentation (Chair: Liz Barry)**

- Feargal Whelan (Trinity College Dublin)

'Suicides always jump from bridges': Beckett in Crisis in *Dream of Fair to Middling Women*, 'A Wet Night' and Mary Manning's *Youth's the Season* -?

- Megane Mazé (Trinity College Dublin)

From Reading to Writing: The Poetics of Recycling in Beckett's Correspondence

### **Panel 4 [Elsschot]: Beckett and the Literary Tradition (Chair: Matthijs Engelberts)**

- Thomas Thoelen (Independent Scholar)

Cracked Mirrors: Narcissus and the Prosthetics of the Self in Beckett's (Early) Prose

- Katya Gosteva (Independent Scholar)

Beckett as a Reader of Dostoevsky

**15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break**

15:30 – 17:00 Session 5–6

**Panel 5 [Tassis]: Beckett's Intertextual Visions (Chair: María José Carrera)**

- Einat Adar (University of South Bohemia)  
    'No wall anymore': The Intertexts of Blindness in *Endgame*
- Thomas Symeonidis (Athens School of Fine Arts)  
    Architectures of the I/Eye: Beckett's Intertextual Afterlives in Georges Didi-Huberman
- Galina Kiryushina (Anglo-American University, Prague)  
    'Suggesting pursuit of knowledge at some period': Beckett's Encyclopaedic Imagination in *All Strange Away*

**Panel 6 [Elsschot]: *Godot* in Context (Chair: Feargal Whelan)**

- Gabriela Milkova Robins (University of St Andrews)  
    *Godot* Arrives in (Post-)Yugoslavia
- Iqra Nasim (Charles University, Prague)  
    When Waiting Ends: Beckett, Nadeem and the Illusion of Arrival
- Jonathan Bignell (University of Reading)  
    *Waiting for Godot* on TV: Evaluating Complex Intertexts

17:10 – 17:30 Beckett's Personal Library  
[venue: Tassis room]

Opening of the exhibition 'Unpacking Beckett's Library'  
The Beckett Digital Library, *The Making of Samuel Beckett's Works* (De Gruyter Brill)  
(Dirk Van Hulle, Mark Nixon)

17:30 – 19:00 Exhibition 'Unpacking Beckett's Library' (in collaboration with Special Collections)  
[venue: University of Antwerp's library]

Reception to celebrate 50 years *Journal of Beckett Studies*

19:00 – 21:00 Conference BBQ (registration required)

Thursday, 21 May 2026

09:00 – 10:30 Session 7–8

**Panel 7 [Tassis]: The Body, Ageing and Gender (Chair: Patrick Bixby)**

- Daniela Caselli (University of Manchester)  
Fantasies of Female Anatomy: Dante, Joyce and Sexuality in Beckett
- Liz Barry (University of Warwick)  
'Could bear it no longer': Jane Austen's *Emma*, Beckett's *Happy Days* and the Poetics of Ageing
- Rodney X. Sharkey (Weill-Cornell Medical College Qatar)  
'A thing of shreds and patches': Beckett's *Repeat Performance*

**Panel 8 [Elsschot]: Beckett, Translation and Multilingualism (Chair: José Francisco Fernández)**

- Mary Gallagher (University College Dublin)  
Intertextuality, Translation, Co-Creation: Beckett Translating Joyce
- John McKeane (University of Reading)  
Beckett, Translation, Simulation
- Garin Dowd (University of West London)  
Towards a Monolingual Lexicon of Interlingual Intertextuality in the Work of Beckett

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Session 9–10

**Panel 9 [Tassis]: Landscape, Place and Space (Chair: James McNaughton)**

- Chloe Duane (University of the West of England Bristol)  
Scenographic Echoes: Beckett, Place and Cultural Memory
- Peter Boxall (University of Oxford)  
First Loves: Sound and Distance in Beckett and Leopardi

**Panel 10 [Elsschot]: Littérature et culture français (Chair: Pascale Sardin)**

- Lysandre Vareil (Sorbonne University Paris)  
The Beckettian 'ever tried ever failed' as a Montaignian Principle
- Virginie Podvin (University of Western Brittany)  
Correspondance et œuvre beckettienne – un dialogue à une voix
- Kathleen Gyssels (University of Antwerp)  
'Beckett goes Creole': échos bidimensionnels dans l'œuvre schwarz-bartienne (post-Shoah, post-colonial)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

12:45 – 13:30 Samuel Beckett Society Members AGM

13:30 – 15:00 Session 11–12

**Panel 11 [Tassis]: Transcultural Responses to Beckett (Chair: Matthew McFrederick)**

- Alicia Nudler (University of Río Negro) and Pascale Sardin (Bordeaux Montaigne University)  
Intertext and Proffered Reading: Resonances of *Le Dépeupleur* / *The Lost Ones* in an Argentinian Context

- Mehmet Zeki Giritli (Koç University)  
‘Going to the cinema with Beckett’: Beckettian Ruins and Intertextual Companionship in Sevim Burak’s *Ah Ya Rab Yehova*
- Tank Tsai (National Taipei University of Technology)  
Echoes that Laugh and Falter: The Intertextuality of Beckett and Lai in Crosstalk Drama

**Panel 12 [Elsschot]: Reading, Writing and the Archive (Chair: Megane Mazé)**

- Hugh David Deasy (Concordia University)  
‘An old-fashioned schoolmaster’: The Influence of Reverend Cooper’s *Flagellation and the Flagellants* on Pim’s Lessons in *How It Is*
- Tomoya Kawashima (University of Tokyo)  
Writing and Dying in *Molloy*: From the Negativity of Language to the Metamorphoses of the ‘I’
- Mark Nixon (University of Reading)  
Milton Regained: Beckett’s School Copy of *Paradise Lost*

**15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break**

**15:30 – 17:00 Session 13–14**

**Panel 13 [Tassis]: Beckett and Contemporary Women Writers (Chair: Daniela Caselli)**

- María José Carrera (University of Valladolid)  
‘My account all patchy and nuanced’: Elske Rahill’s ‘In White Ink’ as an Intertext of Beckett’s Works
- Olivia Kulczycky (Boston University)  
‘No faces, just cloaks’: Undoing of the Self in Beckett and Anne Carson

**Panel 14 [Elsschot]: Philosophy, Psychology and Science (Chair: Garin Dowd)**

- Declan Gillespie (University of Warwick)  
The Wombtomb: Nāgārjuna, Eckhart, and the Productive Void in Beckett’s Early Prose
- Antonio Sanges (Independent Scholar)  
The ‘Superficiality’ of Influence: Beckett’s (Not) Reading Schopenhauer
- Jonathan Naito (St. Olaf College)  
Samuel Beckett and Space-Time: Reading Beckett with Rovelli

**18:00 – 19:30** Eimear McBride (Irish novelist, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Beckett Creative Fellow 2017-18, University of Reading)  
Reading from her work, and in conversation with Pim Verhulst (registration required)  
[venue: **Nottebohmzaal**, Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience, Hendrik Conscienceplein 4, 2000 Antwerpen]

Friday, 22 May 2026

09:00 – 10:30 Session 15–16

**Panel 15 [Tassis]: Beckett and the Politics of Intertextuality (Chair: Jonathan Bignell)**

- Katherine Weiss (California State University Los Angeles)  
More than ‘...just bits of pipe’...: Beckett’s Intertextual Presence in Black American Writing
- James McNaughton (University of Alabama)  
Beckett, Intertextuality, and Racial Capitalism
- Mirna Sindičić Sabljo (University of Zadar)  
*Play Beckett: Intertextuality and the Memory of Yugoslav Political Violence*

**Panel 16 [Elsschot]: Beckett and James Joyce (Chair: Onno Kusters)**

- Naoya Mori (Kobe Women’s University)  
‘Borrowed boots’ and ‘three crosstrees’: From *Ulysses* to *Waiting for Godot*
- Kiminori Fukaya (Hosei University)  
Theatricality of the Recumbent Body: Allusions to Shakespeare and Joyce in Beckett’s ‘Yellow’

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Session 17–18

**Panel 17 [Tassis]: Beckett and the Visual Arts (Chair: Katherine Weiss)**

- José Francisco Fernández (University of Almería)  
Fixated on Beckett: Intertextual Dialogues in the Visual Art of Russell Mills
- Minfang Hu (University of Bristol)  
Beckett, Bram van Velde, and Rilke: *Écart* and Reversibility
- Kaitlin Thurlow (University of Georgia)  
Archiving the Everyday: Beckett and Arikha Avigdor’s *Au loin un oiseau (In the Distance a Bird)*

**Panel 18 [Elsschot]: Beckett and/in Contemporary Literature (Chair: Rodney Sharkey)**

- David Pattie (University of Birmingham)  
Tales from the Poky: Beckett and James Kelman
- Douglas Atkinson (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)  
Intertextuality as Intertemporality in Beckett and Fosse

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00 Session 19–20

**Panel 19 [Tassis]: Sound, Silence and the Ineffable (Chair: Einat Adar)**

- Jem Lloyd (Cardiff University)  
‘[C]ondemned / In this abhorred deep to utter woe’: The Echoes of Miltonic Isolation and Erasure in *Not I* and *Ohio Impromptu*
- Patrick Bixby (Arizona State University)  
Sound and Silence: Earl Kim’s Settings of Beckett’s Oeuvre

- Pim Verhulst (University of Reading & Vrije Universiteit Brussel)  
'Vieux souvenirs de critique littéraire' / 'Old spectres from the days of  
bookreviewing': Fading Intertextuality in *Pochade radiophonique* / *Rough for Radio II*

**Panel 20 [Elsschot]: Theatrical Reinterpretations of Beckett (Chair: David Pattie)**

- Matthijs Engelberts (University of Amsterdam)  
Commodification or Recontextualisation: a Comic *Godot*?
- Burç İdem Dinçel (Trinity College Dublin)  
All Wound and (No) Moan: Beckett's Transtextual Dialogues with Attic Tragedy
- Matthew McFrederick (University of Reading)  
*Not Beckett* and Intertextuality: New Plays, Creative Dialogues and Teachings

**15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break**

**15:30 – 15:45** Envoi  
[venue: Tassis room]

**16:00 – 17:30 Performance session 1**

**Beckett, Music and Creative Practice** (registration required; Chair: Pim Verhulst)

- Manuel Sosa (The Curtis Institute of Music / The Juilliard School)  
*Sounds in Sound: Musical Readings of Sounds from Samuel Beckett's Variations on a  
"Still" Point*
- Jeni Jones (Independent Practitioner)  
Beckett and His Blizzard Verse
- Deb Lacusta (Independent Practitioner)  
'Out of the mouths of puppets...': Beckett as an Improvisational Prompt in Puppet  
Performance  
[venue: Tassis room]

*Mittelalterliches Dreieck / Medieval Triangle* after Samuel Beckett\* (registration required)

A research performance by the Samuel Beckett Laboratory, Trinity College Dublin  
Introduction (Dirk Van Hulle)  
Performance (the Samuel Beckett Laboratory, TCD)  
Post-performance discussion (Nicholas Johnson, the Samuel Beckett Laboratory)  
[venue: Zuidpool Theater, Lange Noordstraat 11, Antwerp]

**17:45 – 19:15 Performance session 2**

*Mittelalterliches Dreieck / Medieval Triangle* after Samuel Beckett (registration required)

A research performance by the Samuel Beckett Laboratory, Trinity College Dublin  
Introduction (Dirk Van Hulle)  
Performance (the Samuel Beckett Laboratory, TCD)  
Post-performance discussion (Nicholas Johnson, the Samuel Beckett Laboratory)  
[venue: Zuidpool Theater, Lange Noordstraat 11, Antwerp]

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\* Due to the size of the theatre, the performance will be staged twice to accommodate everyone who wishes to see it. Please make sure you register for the session of your choice at the registration desk upon arrival.