



How has the future of the United Kingdom and its various components been imagined, conceived and projected at all periods, including the present day? Drawing on the interdisciplinary field of futures studies, and more specifically critical futures studies, this conference, supported by two scientific societies, the SFEE and the CRECIB, and by the Centre for Anglophone Studies (CAS) of Toulouse-Jean Jaurès University, proposes to study the ways in which the future of the United Kingdom and its constituent nations has been imagined over time, in fictional and non-fictional modes. We will be looking at both representations of the future of the United Kingdom as a whole (the future of the British State, society and Union), and representations of the future of the various constituent territories of the United Kingdom, either within the Union and the Empire or outside of it.



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

IMAGINING A FUTURE (INSIDE/OUTSIDE) BRITAIN

Organised jointly
by the Centre de Recherches en Civilisation Britannique (CRECIB),
the Société Française d'Etudes Ecossaises (SFEE)
and the Centre for Anglophone Studies (CAS, UR 801)

UNIVERSITÉ TOULOUSE - JEAN JAURÈS
Maison de la Recherche

12
room D31

13
room F417

March
2026

Organising committee:
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8h45 Welcome & registration

9h Introduction

**9h15-11h15 Panel 1:
FUTURESCAPES OF SCOTLAND:
INSIDE, OUTSIDE, AND BEYOND**
chairs: Julia Boll/Nina Engelhardt

• **Julia Boll** (University of Salzburg, Austria) - *Alternative Futures: How Willa Muir Explores Potentialities with John Donne*

• **Nina Engelhardt** (University of Stuttgart, Germany) - *Between National and Archipelagic Visions of the Future: Douglas Stuart's Young Mungo* (2022)

• **Wolfgang Funk** (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany) - *Eau Caledonia: Re-Imagining Scottish Myths with Ali Smith*

• **Nora A. Plesske** (University of Magdeburg, Germany) - "Building a New Scotland": Cultural Regeneration in Scotland's Post-Industrial Cities

11h15 Coffee break

**11h30-13h Panel 2:
IMAGINING THE FUTURE (INSIDE/OUTSIDE)
OF THE EMPIRE**
chair: Myriam Yakoubi

• **Pauline Collombier** (Lorraine University, IDEA) - *Female agency in Irish home rule future fictions (1870-1914)*

• **Simon Deschamps** (Toulouse Jean Jaurès University, CAS) - *From Raj to 'Swaraj': Nationalist Projections of India's Future Beyond British Control*

• **Virginie Roiron** (Sciences Po Strasbourg, SAGE) - *Imagining a post-imperial British future: The Commonwealth as a template?*

13h Lunch break

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**14h30-15h30
Keynote conference:**

Professor Laura McAllister (Cardiff University), co-chair of the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales

15h30 Coffee break

**15h45-17h15 Panel 3:
IMAGINING THE FUTURE (INSIDE/OUTSIDE)
OF THE UNION**

chair: Nathalie Duclos

• **Didier Revest** (Côte d'Azur University, LIRCES) - *Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow: a brief history of Wales in the here and now*

• **Perrine Lara** (Toulouse-Jean Jaurès University, CAS) - *Comparative Perspectives on Welsh and Scottish Independence Movements since Devolution: What Future(s) for the United Kingdom?*

• **Gilles Leydier** (University of Toulon, BABEL) - *Dans l'Union et hors de l'UE. Ou dans l'UE et hors de l'Union ? Imaginer le futur de l'Ecosse depuis le Brexit*

20h Conference dinner

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**9h-10h30 Panel 4:
BRITISH DYSTOPIAN FICTION (PART 1)**
chair: Philippe Birgy

• **Eira Betthell** (University of Essex, UK) - *Grassroots Survival and Community Resilience in Doris Lessing's Memoirs of a Survivor*

• **Inna Häkkinen** (University of Helsinki, Finland) - *The Literary Imaginaries of Ritualization in Fictionalizing Nuclear Futures of Great Britain*

• **Caroline Bassett** (Cambridge University, UK) - *Coastal Defences?*

10h30 Coffee break

**10h45-12h15 Panel 5:
BRITISH DYSTOPIAN FICTION (PART 2)**
chair: Anita Jorge

• **Olivier Cassagnau** (Bordeaux Montaigne University, CLIMAS) - *British post-apocalyptic films and series since 2000: respecting genre-specific codes and reflecting changes in society*

• **Anne-Lise Marin-Lamellet** (Saint-Etienne Jean Monnet University, ECL-LA) - "There is (still) no future in England's dreaming": The great collapse in contemporary British extrapolative cinema

• **Jonathan Gross** (King's College London) - *Television Depictions of Recent British History as 'Resources of Hope'*

12h15-14h Lunch break

**14h-15h Panel 6:
CRITICAL & RADICAL IMAGININGS
OF THE FUTURE**
chair: Phillippe Birgy

• **Pavlina Flajšarová** (Palacky University, Czech Republic) - *Futures in the City: Contemporary British Fiction and the Imagination of Urban Britain*

• **Teodora Noszkay** (University of Manchester, UK) - *Relics, Remixes, and Resistance: Listening for the future in the current British folk revival*

**15h-17h Panel 7:
SHAPING BRITAIN'S FUTURE THROUGH
POLICY-MAKING**

chair: Vincent Latour

• **Jordan White** (Université Le Havre Normandie, GRIC) - *Imagination or Illusion? Britain's Global Future 2016-24*

• **Kirsten Forkert** (Birmingham City University, UK) - *Imagining futures beyond borders: migrants' rights campaigns in the UK*

• **Niaz Cary-Pernon** (Montpellier- Paul Valéry University, EMMA) - *'LSE Brexit 2015-2021': A scholarly platform for the representations and constructions of Brexit as a projected future*

• **Marie Aouanes-Perrière** (Toulouse - Jean Jaurès University, CAS) - *From Brexit to What Comes Next: Pro-European Grassroots Activism and the Future of Britain*

17h Closing remarks