



Silence

A Semiotics of (in)Significance (Liverpool, 1-3 July 2015)

This conference aims to explore silence and meaning-making. Central themes are significance and insignificance, congruence and indifference, reticence and inarticulacy. We discuss how attention, knowledge, and oblivion are shaped by lack of communication or by presence of silence as communication.

To analyse the point of structural, social, and cognitive engagement, we read various historical periods. The conference probes the anatomy of silence in construction and interpretation, be it intellectual or emotional, aesthetic or strategic, verbal or visual, subjective and objective.

More broadly, we discuss silence and gender across disciplines. How does silence historically manifest a taxonomy of femininity and masculinity with regards to narrative virtue, bravery, chivalry, and honour? How is silence perceived and embodied in literature and theology, literature and art, literature and medicine around the world? Topics may include but are not limited to the following:

- Rhetoric, symbolic grammar, metaphor
- Cognitive construction, development, (in)significance
- Fictive spaces of silence in works of art
- Sacrament, forgiveness, endearment
- Manuscripts and miniatures of grief, joy, and silence
- Nonverbal rejection, conflict, and dehumanizing through silence
- Iconography, portraiture, and silence
- Musical genius, rhapsody and recital of silence
- Argumentative silence, social psychology, and identity

Deadline for abstracts (of no more than 300 words) is 20 December 2014. A number of conference bursaries (Memorial of Dr. Wasfia Mhabak) will be available for PhD scholars in literary and comparative studies. To apply, send us a full CV, research statement, and your abstract for the conference.

Deadline for abstracts:
20 December 2014
Email: painpara@liv.ac.uk



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