



## **BeLgoLab: literary fantasy and cross-cultural experimentation**

**A half-day seminar 4 May 2016**

**In the British Library**



René Magritte photographed by Lothar Wolleh. Via Wikimedia Commons. CC-BY-SA 3.0 license

### **An exploration of non-realist literature written by Belgian authors.**

Non-realist writing, from ghost stories to dystopian science-fiction, via magic realism and postmodern experimentation, has played a major part in Belgian literature, whatever the author's language. This seminar seeks to explore the reasons why such forms of literary fantasy have been so important, and what their implications may be.

## PROGRAMME

- 14.00-14.25      Opening
- Adrian Armstrong, Centenary Professor of French / Head of School, School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, Queen Mary University of London and President, Association of University Professors and Heads of French (AUPHF)  
Marja Kingma, British Library, Curator Germanic Collections, specialism Dutch Languages
- 14.25- 15.15      PAPERS
- Nathalie Aubert, Oxford Brookes University.
- « Irrevocably lost », Georges Rodenbach's Bruges-la-Morte as a symbol of a despised modern world**
- Hans de Meyer, Universiteit Gent.
- The Contemporary Flemish Novel and the Fantastic.**
- 15.15 – 15.30      Tea break
- 15.30 – 16.45      Adrian Armstrong, Queen Mary
- Humour and an alternative world: Amélie Nothomb's Stupeur et tremblements (Fear and Trembling).**
- Jos Joosten, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
- "Zorgvuldig uitgekende verlakkerij"? The complicated reception of magic-realist prose in modern Flanders.**
- Lars Bernaerts, Universiteit Gent
- The Supernatural and the Unnatural in the Novels of Peter Verhelst.**
- 16.45– 17.30      Q & A and Panel discussion, Chair Christine Sas, University College London
- 17.30 – 18.30      Reception

**We thank Flanders House for their generous support in staging this event.**

**Coordinators**

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**When?**

4 May 2016, 14.00 – 17.30, followed by drinks reception

**Where?**

Panizzi Room

**Price:**

Attendance is free, but please register with Marja.Kingma@bl.uk

**How to get here?**

The British Library  
96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB  
www.bl.uk  
London Underground: King's Cross St Pancras and Euston.  
Bus routes along Euston Road: 10, 30, 59, 73, 91, 205, 390 and 476

**St Pancras Map**



St Pancras Map showing wheelchair access points and transport links