

**Draft conference programme: *Fertile Imaginations: Reproductive Health in Literature*  
University of Fribourg, 27-28 August 2026**  
**This is a draft and still subject to change!**

<b>Thursday, 27 August 2026</b>									
09:00	Registration opens, Hall Mosaïque								
09:30	Welcome MIS 03 3115								
09:45	Isabel Davis (National History Museum, London): “The Cylindrical, Catoptrical, Rotundo-Concavo-Convex Machine: The Metaphor of Wind in Imagining Conception” MIS 03 3115								
11:00	Coffee break, Hall Mosaïque								
11:30	Jennifer Heller (Lenoir-Rhyne University): “Great with childe to speak!: Maternal Metaphor and Material Culture in Early Modern Literature” MIS 03 3115								
12:45	Lunch at Mensa								
14:15	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">           Panel 1, MIS 03 3018            Motherhood, Genre and Form            Panel Chair:         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">           Panel 2, MIS 03 3016            Maternity and Mortality            Panel Chair:         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           Alice Hall (University of York),            “Disability, Animality and Transformation: Collaboration in Claire Oshetsky’s <i>Chouette</i>”         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           Rahel Orgis (University of Bern), “Fertile Absences? Mary Wroth’s representation of childbed death and its consequences in the <i>Urania</i>”         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           Roberta Garrett (University of East London), “Brave ‘Girls’ and Angry Women: The Affective Economies of Motherhood in Domestic Noir and Literary Fiction”         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           Laura Lazzari (The Sasso Corbaro Foundation for the Medical Humanities (Bellinzona) and Georgetown University), “Spiraling Narratives: Stillbirth and Grief in Three Contemporary Memoirs (<i>An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination</i>, <i>Ghost Belly</i>, and <i>From the Lake House</i>)”         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           Emily Anderson (University of Constance), “Motherhood and Other Magical Transformations in Rachel Yoder’s Magical Feminist novel <i>Night Bitch</i>”         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           Valerie Heffernan (University of Maynooth), “Miscarriage and Pregnancy Loss in Literature”         </td> </tr> </table>	Panel 1, MIS 03 3018 Motherhood, Genre and Form Panel Chair:	Panel 2, MIS 03 3016 Maternity and Mortality Panel Chair:	Alice Hall (University of York), “Disability, Animality and Transformation: Collaboration in Claire Oshetsky’s <i>Chouette</i> ”	Rahel Orgis (University of Bern), “Fertile Absences? Mary Wroth’s representation of childbed death and its consequences in the <i>Urania</i> ”	Roberta Garrett (University of East London), “Brave ‘Girls’ and Angry Women: The Affective Economies of Motherhood in Domestic Noir and Literary Fiction”	Laura Lazzari (The Sasso Corbaro Foundation for the Medical Humanities (Bellinzona) and Georgetown University), “Spiraling Narratives: Stillbirth and Grief in Three Contemporary Memoirs ( <i>An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination</i> , <i>Ghost Belly</i> , and <i>From the Lake House</i> )”	Emily Anderson (University of Constance), “Motherhood and Other Magical Transformations in Rachel Yoder’s Magical Feminist novel <i>Night Bitch</i> ”	Valerie Heffernan (University of Maynooth), “Miscarriage and Pregnancy Loss in Literature”
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15:45	Coffee break, Hall Mosaïque	
16:15	Elizabeth Podnieks (Toronto Metropolitan University): “Postmaternal Memoirs: Motherhood, Aging, and the Rise of ‘Empty Nest’ Narratives” MIS 03 3115	
18:00	Welcome reception, Hall Mosaïque	
19:30	Dinner at restaurant Molino, rue de Lausanne 93	

<b>Friday, 28 August 2026</b>			
09:30	Jennifer Evans (University of Hertfordshire): “my poor Sis[ter]: Davenports misfortun’: Family Discussions of Miscarriage in the Early Eighteenth Century” MIS 03 3115		
10:45	Coffee break, Hall Mosaïque		
11:15	Panel 3, MIS 03 3018 Non-Normative Parenthood Panel Chair:	Panel 4, MIS 03 3115 The Biological Clock Panel Chair:	Panel 5, MIS 03 3016 Fertility and Literary Form Panel Chair:
	Jennifer Cooke (University of Loughborough), “Surrogacy, Genetics, and White Supremacy in Contemporary Literature”	Aline Ferreira (University of Aveiro), “Defying Biology: Fictional Narratives of Lifelong Fertility”	Leila Michelle Vaziri (University of Constance), “Pregnancy’s Affordances in Early 20th-Century Narrative Literature”
	Jemma Walton (Birkbeck College, University of London), “Surrogacy, Care and Heterosexual Legitimacy in Sophie Beresiner’s <i>The Mother Project</i> (2021)”	Sydni Zastre (University of Birmingham), “Birthing time: Writing the temporality of labour in the interwar British ‘pregnant genre’”	Julia Straub (University of Fribourg), “Reading the Maternal Experience Closely in Contemporary Fiction”

	Sabine von Rütte (University of Bern), “Trans/Parent Bodies: Normativity, Visibility and Trans Parental Embodiment in Krys Malcolm Belc’s <i>The Natural Mother of the Child</i> (2021)”	Jessica Edwards (Goldsmiths University), “Imagining a Reproductive Lifecycle through Premature Menopause”	
12:45	Lunch at Mensa		
14:15	Panel 6, MIS 03 3018 Motherhood in Perspective Panel Chair:	Panel 7, MIS 03 3016 Abortion Stories Panel Chair:	
	Magdalena Rozenberg (University of Uppsala), “Mother is ill. A daughter’s intersubjective illness in the Norwegian novel “Mothers gift””	Ella Berny (Queen Mary, University of London), “Bringing abortion to writing: can poetry help us tell new abortion stories?”	
	Julie Rodgers (Maynooth University), “Representing the Trauma of Disembodied Pregnancy in <i>La Décision</i> (Isabelle Pandazopolus, 2013)”	Ina Batzke (University of Augsburg), “Literary Imaginations of Abortion in Early 20th-Century US Literature”	
		Ida Aaskov Dolmer (University of Southern Denmark), “Discovering Danish Abortion Literature”	
15:45	Coffee break, Hall Mosaique		
16:15 – 17:30	Final roundtable with Caroline Rusterholz, Isabel Davis and Martina King, Room: Chairs: Honor Jackson and Julia Straub		