

## **‘Hybridity’—2022 Cambridge AHRC International Conference**

**St Catharine’s College, Cambridge**

*(Monday 19<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022)*

Hybridity has long been a concern amongst scholars in the humanities, evidenced by innumerable attempts to think across social, geographical, political, conceptual, and disciplinary boundaries. Since the global outbreak of COVID-19, however, this theme has taken on new meaning and urgency, as people have sought to respond to large-scale societal changes wrought by the pandemic. As the OED states, ‘hybrid’ refers to ‘anything derived from heterogeneous sources, or composed of different or incongruous elements’. Stemming from the concept of biological interbreeding, ‘hybridity has been used by authors in the social sciences, literary, artistic, and cultural studies to designate processes in which discrete social practices or structures, that existed in separate ways, combine to generate new structures, objects, and practices in which the preceding elements mix.’ (García-Canclini, 2001). The term has currency in the social sciences as well: ‘Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari offer hybrid views of conjoined bodies formed of human, nonhuman, and technology making new entities with new capacities for action. For example, a rider, a horse, and riding technology (saddle, stirrup, and reins) together become a new entity which has new power and space/life-making potentials’ (Jones, 2009). As this brief outline shows, hybridity is a polysemous term encompassing multiple subjects, capable of investigation from any number of disciplinary standpoints.

Funded by the Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership, this conference aims to be a space to present, discuss, and debate the theme of ‘hybridity’ in any and all forms. It will allow attendees to introduce their work to the broader research community, to establish new connections, and to spotlight new areas for collaboration. This opportunity is open to arts and humanities doctoral researchers of all subjects, from the University of Cambridge, the Open University, the University of Oxford, a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University, the Australian National University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Stockholm University.

We welcome proposals for 20-minute papers, 5-minute lightning talks, and themed panels. Potential topics and approaches could include, but are not limited to:

- Hybridity and identity
- Hybrid methods and interdisciplinary approaches
- Digital humanities, hybrid in-person/remote interfaces, and post-covid ways of living
- Hybrid genres
- Hybridity and the environment

- Race and theory
- Humans, space, and technology
- Traditions and modernity
- Hybrid linguistic registers
- Global economic flows and connections
- Dialogues between cultural production, artisanry, human, and technology
- Interactions between the rural and the urban, and between local and supralocal cultures
- Human and more-than-human perspectives
- The agency of individuals and networks
- Ethics, and discourses of purity and impurity, and otherness
- Discourses of 'monstrosity' in literature studies and other disciplines

All proposals should include a title, a brief abstract (no more than 300 words for full papers and panel proposals, 200 for lightning talks), and a brief speaker biography of no more than 150 words. They should be submitted via email to your university contact by no later than 16<sup>th</sup> May—proposals for panel sessions should be submitted this way also. We will aim to let all applicants know the outcome of their submission by 6<sup>th</sup> July. We especially welcome applicants from underrepresented backgrounds.

Please address any questions to [hybridity2022@gmail.com](mailto:hybridity2022@gmail.com)