

## **MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literature**

### **Core 2: Texts and Contexts, 1914 to the Contemporary**

David Trotter

#### **Women, Men, Modernism, and the Short Story**

Using stories by Katherine Mansfield as a focus, this seminar will consider representations of masculinity in crisis as a way to think about the highly distinctive contribution made to literary modernism by experiments in short form fiction. Its method will be comparative.

##### *Set Texts*

Elizabeth Bowen, 'Making Arrangements' (1925)

----- 'A Living Writer', in Jan Pilditch, ed., *The Critical Response to Katherine Mansfield* (1996), 70-6

Katherine Mansfield, 'Bliss' (1918), 'The Stranger' (1920), 'Marriage à la Mode' (1921)

All three texts can be downloaded from the Katherine Mansfield Society site:

<http://www.katherinemansfieldsociety.org/short-stories-by-katherine-mansfield/>

'Bliss' was first published in the important modernist periodical, *The English Review*, on 27 August 1918. It can, and should, be read in this context at:

<https://archive.org/stream/englishreview081918londonoft#page/n0/mode/2up>

James Joyce, 'The Dead', in *Dubliners* (1914)

D.H. Lawrence, 'Prologue' to *Women in Love* (1920).

Texts by Bowen, Joyce, and Lawrence will be available via Moodle.

##### *Contextual Sources*

Elizabeth Bowen, *Collected Stories* (Penguin 1983)

James Joyce, *Dubliners* (World's Classics 2000)

D.H. Lawrence, *Women in Love* (CUP 1987)

Katherine Mansfield, *Collected Stories* (Penguin 2001)

*Selected Secondary Reading*

There is no definitive critical study of Mansfield's writing, but the publication of collected editions of her writing and of her letters has produced something of a critical bonanza.

Gerri Kimber and Janet Wilson, eds., *Celebrating Katherine Mansfield: A Centenary Volume of Essays* (2011).

Janet Wilson, Gerri Kimber, and Susan Reid, eds., *Katherine Mansfield and Literary Modernism* (2011)

Janet Wilson, Gerri Kimber, and Delia da Sousa Correa, eds., *Katherine Mansfield and the (Post)colonial* (2013)

Todd Martin, ed., *Katherine Mansfield and the Bloomsbury Group* (2017)

The most recent comprehensive survey of approaches to the literature of the period is Vincent Sherry, ed., *The Cambridge History of Modernism* (2016), which includes several essays of direct relevance to aspects of our topic.

Further critical material may be added to Moodle closer to the date of the seminar.