

## Discussion and Talk

**Friday**  
**21 March 2014**  
**19:30**  
**In English**

Theory thrives on divisions: the transcendental and the empirical, fiction and reality, the performative and the constative – to name a few. These divisions enable a theoretical architecture that may be variously and endlessly deconstructed, renovated, emended, and expanded. But all of these operations begin with division, and in doing so they leave unthought what “it” is that they are dividing.

This event proposes literality as a way of naming this “it,” or as a way of unnamng the divisions according to which “it” is divided. To refuse such division is to insist on the identity between reality and language, and between philosophy and literature. Literalit refuses the theoretical choice between the limitation of language and the renewal of realism, between metaphorical erasure and referential location. It refuses them by interrupting – literally – their work, by insisting on itself.

**Tom McCarthy** is a writer and artist whose work has been translated into more than twenty languages. His first novel, *Remainder*, which deals with questions of trauma and repetition, won the 2008 Believer Book Award and is currently being adapted for cinema. His third, *C*, which explores the relationship between melancholia and technological media, was a finalist in the 2010 Booker Prize. McCarthy is also author of the non-fiction book *Tintin and the Secret of Literature* and the novel *Men in Space*, as well as numerous essays that have appeared in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The London Review of Books*, *Harper's* and *Artforum*. In addition, he is founder and General Secretary of the International Necronautical Society (INS), a semi-fictional avant-garde network of writers, philosophers and artists. In 2013 he was awarded the inaugural Windham-Campbell Prize for Fiction by Yale University.

**Daniel Colucciello Barber** is a Fellow at the ICI Berlin. He is the author of *Deleuze and the Naming of God: Post-Secularism and the Future of Immanence* (Edinburgh UP, 2014) and *On Diaspora: Christianity, Religion, and Secularity* (Cascade, 2011), as well as contributing co-author of *Dark Nights of the Universe* ([NAME], 2013). His work, which has appeared in various journals and volumes, is presently focused on the idea of conversion.

**Alice Gavin** is a Fellow at the ICI Berlin. Her work has been published in *Textual Practice* and *Critical Quarterly*, while *Our Tale Was True, Our Tale Was A Lie*, co-authored with Nahal Naficy, is forthcoming in the Dead Letter Office imprint of Punctum Books. Her first monograph (also forthcoming) concerns early twentieth-century literature and silent film.

### PROGRAMME

- 19:30 **Manifesto** by Daniel C. Barber and Alice Gavin  
*The Literalit Manifesto; or Keep It Real*
- 20:00 **Talk** by Tom McCarthy  
*Get Real; or, What Jellyfish Have to Tell Us about Literature*
- 20:50 **Cypher** with Tom McCarthy, Daniel C. Barber, and Alice Gavin

**With Tom McCarthy,  
Daniel C. Barber,  
and Alice Gavin**

