

# Christiana Gregoriou

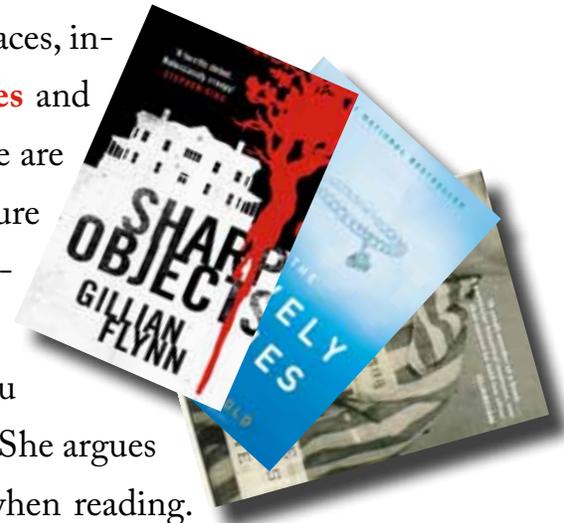
## University of Leeds

### *Mind Style Voices in Contemporary Fiction*

Friday, 19 July; Hagey Hall 334, 1:30-2:30

As an **art form**, literature transports its readers to imaginary spaces, invites them to take part in ordinary or **extraordinary adventures** and pleurably shows readers what different sorts of fictional people are thinking. Through **access to fictional others'** thoughts, literature invites readers to adopt different ways of seeing the world. Applying Fowler's concept of **mind style**, covering **all linguistic areas** (phonology, lexis, semantics, grammar and pragmatics), Gregoriou distinguishes between narratorial and character voice / thought. She argues that style enables readers to take particular subject positions when reading.

**Novel reading is mind reading** (Palmer (2007: 83); readers can only understand literary texts by synching with the minds of their characters, synching with their emotions, attitudes, and ideologies. **Style enables readers** to mind-read the world via the focalised characters of the work. In this talk, Gregoriou focuses on three contemporary literary character-focalisers: a child in *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, an obsessive self-harmer in *Sharp Objects*, and an angel character-narrator situated in heaven in *The Lovely Bones*. Her analyses show how language enables readers to think about, even question, their own positions and grounding in the world they actually inhabit. [Palmer, A. (2007), Attribution Theory: Action and Emotion in Dickens and Pynchon, in Lambrou, Marina and Peter Stockwell (eds.) *Contemporary Stylistics*. London: Continuum, 81-92.]



## Christiana Gregoriou

is an internationally recognized scholar of cognitive stylistics, specializing in the poetics of deviance in contemporary crime fiction. She has published widely in journals (including *Style* and *Language and Literature*) and scholarly collections (including *The Millennial Detective: Essays on Trends in Crime Fiction* and *The Cambridge Handbook of Stylistics*); she is the author of two monographs, *Deviance in Contemporary Crime Fiction* and *Language, Ideology and Identity in Serial Killer Narratives*).