

SPECTRES OF CLASS: REPRESENTING SOCIAL CLASS FROM THE FRENCH REVOLUTION TO THE PRESENT

UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER, 15 - 16 JULY 2011

CALL FOR
PAPERS

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to give a name to one of many spectres haunting the West: the spectre of class (manifested as movements, protests, identities, and inequalities). The gap between the rich and poor in the UK is currently the widest since the Second World War, according to a 2010 report by the National Equality Panel and, as the consequences of global recession deepen, the cuts imposed by governments in the West are likely to exacerbate social inequalities. In response to these forces, the Spectres of Class conference will consider the ways in which class is represented in language, literature and other cultural formations since the French Revolution, seeking to understand the historical basis of class identities and their manifestations today. Class was a central preoccupation of academic discourse in the twentieth century. In the last twenty years, however, the emphasis on class identity has become less pronounced as academics explore the power imbalances associated with gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability status and nationality. Many important studies have emerged from these investigations. However, class issues cut across all these areas and, in the current climate of economic uncertainty, the material basis of class identities may come to challenge poststructuralist notions of identity as a lifestyle 'choice'.



We welcome papers on all aspects of the representation of class.

POSSIBLE TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:

- **Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) studies of class, ideology, hegemony etc.**
- **Protest movements (Chartists, anti-Poll Tax Unions, trade union action)**
- **Material and cultural influences on class identities**
- **Rereading Marx**
- **Class as performative**
- **Social mobility/stasis**
- **Class cultures: bourgeois, aristocratic, gentry, working class**
- **Performances of class (art, music, theatre, photography, film and television)**
- **Corpus linguistic studies of 'class' in news media and other genres**
- **Representations of revolution and reform**
- **Humorous/satirical representations of class**

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words by
Friday 25 March 2011 to: matt.davies@chester.ac.uk

For further information contact Dr Matt Davies at
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Chester