

Views from the Edge: the Short Story Revisited

9th International Conference on the Short Story in English

June 21-25, 2006

University of Lisbon, Portugal

Conference Workshops

The conference program is scheduled to start on the 21st of June and end by lunch time on the 25th. The following six conference workshops will take place in the morning as well as in the afternoon of the 21st of June.

Workshop 1. “Lá vamos contando e rindo”/ “Snow white and her 7 shortcuts”.

Convenor: Rui Zink, June 21st, 10am

Workshop 2. "Culture, Language, Fact, Fiction, Media."

Convenor: Amiri Baraka, June 21st, 10am

Workshop 3. “Unfinished Pieces: Keep or Trash?”

Convenor: Ana Castillo, June 21st, 10am

Workshop 4. "Reading like a Writer."

Convenor: Francine Prose, June 21st, 3pm

Workshop 5. “Portuguese & American Writing.”

Convenor: Katherine Vaz, June 21st, 3pm

Workshop 6. “Creating Fictional Art.”

Convenor: Robert Olen Butler, June 21st, 3pm

Participants wishing to join a workshop should register accordingly, stating preference. Each workshop has a maximum number of 15 participants. **Early registration is strongly recommended, as acceptance will depend on number of previous enrolments.**

Registration for Conference Workshops

Should you wish to join one or two workshops please register as follows.

- A. If you have already registered, please send an e-mail message to MBacalhau.lisboa@abreu.pt stating your name, identifying the workshop(s) you wish to join and giving permission to use your credit card number for the purpose of paying the additional workshop fee.
- B. If you have not registered yet, please do so at your earliest convenience by using the registration form available at: http://www.fl.ul.pt/eventos/short_story/ficha_inscricao.pdf . Please make sure you add the number(s) of the workshop(s) you wish to join.

June 21st, 10 am

Workshop 1. “Lá vamos contando e rindo”/ “Snow white and her 7 shortcuts”.

Convenor: Rui Zink



“Lá vamos contando e rindo” “Snow White and her 7 shortcuts”

Objectivos: 1) compreender por que motivos o conto é a única forma de ficção que se pode dar ao luxo de ser imperfeita; 2) aplicar esta apreensão teórica na execução de uma capelinha literária.

The goal is: 1) to understand why the short story is the only fiction form that can afford to be served raw; 2) to apply this principle in the creation of a tiny little tale.

Workshop 2. "Culture, Language, Fact, Fiction, Media"

Convenor: Amiri Baraka



How Culture shapes Language which determines Fact from Fiction and what is meant by Media in relationship to these.

Workshop 3. "Unfinished Pieces: Keep or Trash?"

Convenor: Ana Castillo



Some writers have trouble with beginnings, some with the middle and others can't finish. In this workshop we will each bring one story draft (8-10 pages, DS, 12 pts.) that we are not happy with to see if it is salvageable. Knowing what to do with your drafts (keep or trash) is key to saving time and sanity or just self-confidence. Also, it maintains you on the road toward 'developing your craft.' Every writer's process is different as to why a story isn't working. In some stories the trouble is at the very beginning. Other stories challenge us in the middle. Finally, how to finish

may be where you are stuck. We'll discuss and try exercises that may help us breathe new life into the story. (Lap tops are welcome.)

June 21st, 3 pm

Workshop 4. "Reading like a Writer."

Convenor: Francine Prose



How a writer reads. Students taking the class should have read John Cheever's story, "Goodbye, My Brother."

Workshop 5. "Portuguese & American Writing."

Convenor: Katherine Vaz



We'll read a story by F. Scott Fitzgerald as a way of illustrating how fiction works in terms of memory, narrative drive, imagery, setting, and ways of dealing with death and resurrection. We'll also take a look at a long excerpt from Portuguese author

João de Melo as a lead-in to a brief review of (so-called) magical realism. You're welcome to bring in a page (or two), plus six copies, if you'd like us to read and discuss a scene, fragment, or outline. We'll have time to talk about Luso-American writing, and we'll discuss how your own writing is faring.

Workshop 6. "Creating Fictional Art."

Convenor: Robert Olen Butler



The workshop will focus on the fundamentals of the creative process for any fiction writers, beginning or advanced, who aspire to create enduring literature. We will address such issues as what is art; what is distinctive about the way the artist addresses the world, the inner self, and the objects to be created; and what are the essential characteristics of fiction as an art form.

Last update: 29 April 2006