

## Iris MURDOCH and the Ethical Imagination: Legacies and Innovations

This centenary conference on Iris Murdoch's ethical imagination, the first to be held in France since the 1978 conference in Caen, aims to reassess her legacy at the beginning of the 21st century, both as a moral philosopher and as a novelist. By redefining goodness as a matter of vision, perception and loving attention, by shifting the paradigms of morality from choice, will or action to the ethical imagination, Murdoch anticipated several significant trends in contemporary philosophy, such as the turn to narrative ethics or the ethics of care and vulnerability. In the field of literature, critics have also drawn attention to the distinctiveness of Murdoch's position in the literary canon, arguing that the dialectic in her novels between realism and romance, fantasy and "the meticulous naturalistic rendering of detail" (Peter Conradi, 2001), the probing of her characters' ethical motivations and the emphasis on textual artifice make her "a crucial link in the evolutionary chain of the English novel," combining aspects of a liberal humanist heritage with an ambivalent postmodernism (Head 2002; Rowe 2006). A number of contemporary British writers (A.S. Byatt, Ian McEwan, Alan Hollinghurst, Zadie Smith...) have explicitly acknowledged Murdoch's influence and this conference aims to explore these lines of descent and fruitful connections.

Colloque organisé par Camille Fort ([camille.fort@u-picardie.fr](mailto:camille.fort@u-picardie.fr))  
et Marie Laniel ([marie.laniel@u-picardie.fr](mailto:marie.laniel@u-picardie.fr))  
<https://murdoch2019.wordpress.com/>

■ Illustration : Iris Murdoch par Tom Phillips Huile sur toile, 1984-1986 © National Portrait Gallery, Londres ■  
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COLLOQUE pour le centenaire  
INTERNATIONAL de la naissance d'Iris Murdoch

## Iris MURDOCH and the Ethical Imagination: Legacies and Innovations

### Conférenciers invités :

**Sandra Laugier**  
Professeure de Philosophie  
Université Paris 1 - IUF

**Peter J. Conradi**  
Professeur émérite  
Université de Kingston (Londres)  
FRSL

**Anne Rowe**  
Professeure émérite  
Université de Chichester

**Miles Leeson**  
Directeur du Centre de recherche sur Iris Murdoch  
Université de Chichester

**Logis du Roy**  
Square Jules Bocquet - Amiens  
**10-11 octobre 2019**

## Jeudi 10 octobre 2019 / Thursday, 10 October 2019

Logis du Roy (Amiens)

9h00 Accueil des participants / Registration

9h30-10h30

Présidence / Chair : **Camille Fort**

**Sandra Laugier** (Université Paris 1-IUF)

*The Moral Texture of Ordinary Life*

10h30-11h30

Présidence / Chair : **Silver Bronzo**

**Layla Raïd** (UPJV)

*The Ordinary Language Man*

**Emmanuel Halais** (UPJV) :

*Iris Murdoch et la preuve ontologique*

11h30-11h45

Pause café / Coffee break

11h45-12h45

Présidence / Chair : **Hibi Pendleton**

**Annalisa Paese** (Higher School of Economics, Moscow)

*Interiority and Idiosyncrasy: Two Kinds of Privacy in Murdoch's Conception of Mental Life*

**Miranda Boldrini** (UPJV - Sapienza Università di Roma)

*"Art and Morality Are One": Exercises of the Imagination and Moral Perfectionism in*

*Iris Murdoch*

Déjeuner / Lunch

14h00-15h00

Présidence / Chair : **Layla Raïd**

**Miles Leeson** (University of Chichester) :

*Iris Murdoch and the Ethics of Care*

15h00-17h00

Présidence / Chair : **Catherine Bernard**

**Jean-Michel Ganteau** (Université Montpellier 3)

*"If I could have given Willy my full attention this morning": Ethics as Perceptive*

*Attention in Iris Murdoch's The Nice and the Good*

**María Gila Moreno** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

*The Place of Forgiveness in the Work of Iris Murdoch*

**Barbara Servant** (Université Rennes 2)

*Filling the Blanks in Murdoch's Novels: Towards a Modern Ethical Way of Reading*

**Peter Mathews** (Hanyang University, Séoul)

*The Scrambled Script: Reading Iris Murdoch's The Green Knight*

17h00-18h30 Visite de la cathédrale d'Amiens / Guided tour of Amiens Cathedral

Dîner / Dinner

## Vendredi 11 octobre 2019 / Friday, 11 October 2019

Logis du Roy (Amiens)

9h00 - 10h00

Présidence / Chair : **Marie Laniel**

**Anne Rowe** (University of Chichester)

*Archives and Afterlife: Reading Iris Murdoch in the Twenty-First Century*

10h00-12h15

Présidence / Chair : **Jean-Michel Ganteau**

**Natasha Alden** (Aberystwyth University)

*Grace and the Novel: Goodness and Chance in Murdoch, Hollinghurst and Robinson*

**Sabina Lovibond** (Worcester College, Oxford)

*Post-Existentialist Moments: Murdoch and Highsmith*

11h00-11h15

Pause café / Coffee break

**Christian Moraru** (University of North Carolina, Greensboro)

*Murdoch after Postmodernism: Metafiction and the Aesthetic of Presence*

**Cornelius Crowley** (Université Paris-Nanterre)

*The Bell and Other Novels: The Way We Read and the Way We Live Now: Reading*

*Iris Murdoch with Henry James and Michel Houellebecq*

Déjeuner / Lunch

13h15-14h15

Présidence / Chair : **Anne Rowe**

**Peter Conradi** (Emeritus Professor Kingston University, FRSL)

*Iris Murdoch and Discipleship*

14h15-15h45

Présidence / Chair : **Cornelius Crowley**

**Mathilde La Cassagnère** (Université de Savoie)

*On Dogs and Good: Iris Murdoch's Animal Imagination*

**Frances White** (University of Chichester)

*Anti-Nausea: Iris Murdoch and the Natural Goodness of the Natural World*

**Lucy Oulton** (University of Chichester)

*Loving by Instinct: Iris Murdoch's Environmental Imagination*

15h45-16h00

Pause café / Coffee break

16h00-17h00

Présidence / Chair : **Auréli Thiria-Meulemans**

**Simla Dogangun** (Dogus University, Istanbul)

*The Fate of the Crystalline Novel: the Immigrant in Zadie Smith and Hari Kunzru's Fiction*

**Maria Peacock** (University of Chichester)

*Displacement and the Chain of Rootlessness in Iris Murdoch's Fiction*