

**Conference Report on 'The State of Fiction: Don DeLillo in the Twenty First Century',
University of Sussex, 10 June 2015.**

**Funded by the RLIF, the Centre for Creative and Critical Thought and the Centre for
American Studies.**

Organising Committee: [REDACTED]

In terms of organisation the event went very smoothly on the day. We felt it was well timed, with adequate breaks between panels, and enough coffee and refreshments for everyone, and we kept within the scheduled time frame. The lunch, as well as the coffee and refreshments were well received, as was the closing wine reception. The catering (provided by the French Revolution) was very good quality, and we went for dinner at the Eastern Eye afterwards which was also a success.

The venue (Jubilee 144) was a great space, really suitable in terms of its size and layout. The only problem we encountered was that throughout the hot and sunny day it became increasingly warm, which two people noted in their feedback. We put up signs for the event from the train station and throughout campus, which seemed to work well. Lunch was served in the Arts B social space, and while we tried to collect everyone to walk back to Jubilee together, one person noted that they had some trouble finding their way back.

For our keynote speaker who was travelling from the US we provided a hotel room and taxis between Brighton and campus, and he was happy with all the hospitality arrangements. Many of the speakers and attendees thanked us for a great day, and the feedback forms are extremely positive. One thing that might have improved the day would be setting up a temporary wifi spot so that attendees from outside the university could access the internet.

We also organised a second event, a publishing talk that took place the next day. This was well attended, and there was a general feeling that it was very helpful and informative. It was held in Jubilee G31, and turned out to be extremely popular - if there were a similar event in the future it might be a good idea to book a larger space.

When buying a ticket from the online shop attendees were asked to provide information on their staff/student status, where they were coming from and their reason for coming. We also handed out feedback forms to complete on the day. Of the 25 attendees 15 completed feedback forms.

Feedback from Surveys

1) How would you describe your job or role?

Speaker	1
Roundtable participant	1
Lecturer	1
PhD Student	6
MA Student	3
Student (unspecified)	2
Writer/journalist	1

2) How did you hear about the conference?

Word of mouth	6
Internal Sussex email	3
Invitation from organisers	2
Academia.edu	1
The DeLillo Society	1
BAMS newsletter	1
Call for papers on UPenn	1

3) What was your main reason for attending the conference?

To learn about new ideas emerging in DeLillo studies	1
My research focus is on DeLillo/Relevant to my current work	6
To learn more about DeLillo/General interest	4
Supporting a friend	1

To present and network	2
Chairing a panel/General interest	1

4) How many conferences do you attend per year (approximately)?

One	3
Two	3
Three	1
Three - Four	2
Four	1
Four - Five	2
Five	2
Five - Six	1

5) Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the below aspects of the conference.

	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied
Venue:	15	0	0
Registration process:	14	1	0
Food and drink:	15	0	0

Comments:

'food delicious'

'top biscuits'

'well organised, good and plentiful food and coffee'

6) Overall, were you satisfied with the conference?

Very	4
Immensely	1
Absolutely	1
Yes	9

Comments:

'quality of papers was consistently high'

'very professional organisation, day really well-structured and really enjoyed whole panel discussions/Q&A. And a fantastic keynote, too!'

7) Did you learn anything from the conference? If so, what?

A lot	2
Yes	1
Introduced to new exciting approaches or perspectives	3
Too much to summarise here	5
The phrase 'the long dirt nap'	1
It was engaging and enlightening	1
Interesting to learn about the DeLillo archives at the University of Texas	1
'Where DeLillo papers can take one'	1
'Good level of intellectual debate and engagement'	1

8) Do you have any suggestions for ways the conference could be improved?

No	11
Room needed air conditioning/ better windows	2
Panels should be limited to 3 papers each instead of 4	1
Lunch venue too far from conference venue	1

Comments:

'Excellently organised'