

Sympathies and Antipathies:

Altruism and Emotional Response Across the Disciplines

29 - 30 May 2009
CRASSH ~ 17 Mill Lane

Briton Rivière 1840-1920 *Sympathy* (c. 1878). The Tate Gallery



Confirmed speakers

- Dr Fay Bound Alberti, *History, Queen Mary*
Dr Carolyn Burdett, *English, Birkbeck*
Dr Ildiko Csengei, *English, Cambridge*
Dr Thomas Dixon, *History, Queen Mary*
Prof Christopher Frith, *Neuropsychology, UCL*
Dr Loraine Gelsthorpe, *Criminology, Cambridge*
Dr Emma Mason, *English, Warwick*
Prof Tilottama Rajan, *English, Western Ontario*
Prof Keith Tester, *Sociology, Hull*
Dr Sylvana Tomaselli, *History and Social and Political Sciences, Cambridge*
Heather Tilley, *English, Birkbeck*
Prof Arne Johan Vetlesen, *Philosophy, Oslo*
Dr Margot Waddell, *Psychoanalyst, Inst. of Psychoanalysis and Tavistock Clinic*
Dr Paul White, *History and Philosophy of Science and University Library, Cambridge*

Once a fundamental concept in early modern and enlightenment medicine and philosophy, sympathy has re-emerged as a subject of investigation in a wide range of modern disciplines. This conference will begin to chart this territory in which earlier models of fellow-feeling, compassion, and commiseration are taken up in modern science, fiction, film, and social policy; and to explore how these models are re-worked in conjunction with new constructs like empathy, altruism, and humanitarianism.

