

**D. H. LAWRENCE, DISTANCE AND PROXIMITY**  
**AN INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM**  
**12–14 JULY, 2021**

*'What a pity that distance remains distance, so absolutely'*



In our time of pandemic that necessitates social distancing and raises concerns about our proximity to others, we propose a series of online roundtables and workshops of short papers to consider D. H. Lawrence on or from a distance and in or on proximity. From the horizon-gazing Brangwen women in *The Rainbow* to the reclusiveness of 'The Man Who Loved Islands', distance is a recurring theme in Lawrence's work as well as in his much-travelled life. Distance is also inherent in modernist notions of 'impersonality', relating to the Baudelairean flaneur and informing the original idea of 'social distance' coined by Georg Simmel (*Soziologie*, 1923). Theories of proximity abounded too, from a modernist focus on the everyday and concepts of the *heimlich* (Freud and Heidegger) to burgeoning nationalism and Lawrence's own ideas about 'blood consciousness'.

We invite proposals for Lawrence-themed workshops, which might include:

- Thematic uses of distance and/or its tension with notions of proximity;
- Distant and/or close readings of Lawrence;
- Centenary reassessments of Lawrence in the 1920s;
- Lawrence's distance from / proximity to modernism and/or his contemporaries;
- Networks, affiliation, belonging, integration;
- Social, spatial, geographical or geometric distances;
- Detachment, alienation, boredom, flaneurs, outsiders, recluses, isolation;
- Bodies, illness, contagion, quarantine, medicalisation;
- Masks, barriers, borders, protection, separation;
- Travel and cultural distance; notions of home or of nationalism;
- Lawrence on history and historicised perspectives on Lawrence's work and life;
- Memory, memoirs, biography, letters and life-writing;
- Distance from or proximity to nature and ecocritical readings;
- Distances or proximity between people, sexes, genders, races, classes;
- Critical, interpretative, philosophical, emotional and psychoanalytical distances;
- Interdisciplinary approaches and new work in Lawrence studies.

At this point, we invite 200-word proposals for workshop topics from anyone who would like to lead a workshop, with a short bio, by **28 February 2021**. Please see further guidance below and send your submission, or any questions and expressions of interest, to [dhlsymposium2021@gmail.com](mailto:dhlsymposium2021@gmail.com).

In March 2021, workshop discussion topics accepted by the Committee will be circulated via a call for position papers (5-10 minutes) inviting abstract proposals for specific workshops. At that time, we will also consider abstracts for position papers on other topics, which we will try to group by theme or as general work-in-progress workshops.

**The symposium will be hosted on Zoom by the D. H. Lawrence Society of Great Britain with no fee for registration and everyone is invited to attend any or all of the events, regardless of whether you are scheduled to present.**

Above all, we aim to bring Lawrence scholars and enthusiasts from around the world back into proximity with Lawrence and each other. Accordingly, the symposium will be scheduled to accommodate international time zones. We also aim to offer opportunities for online publication of papers as well as print publication of finished research.

#### **International Committee**

Susan Reid (Organiser)

Kate Foster (D. H. Lawrence Society)

David Game (Australia)

Andrew Harrison (UK)

Holly Laird (USA)

Stefania Michelucci (Italy)

Nanette Norris (Canada)

Doo-Sun Ryu (Korea)

**Website: [www.dhllawrencesociety.com/symposium](http://www.dhllawrencesociety.com/symposium)**

#### ***Further guidelines for workshop leaders***

*1. Workshop proposals (200 words) should set out the parameters of a chosen topic for discussion under a short heading with a brief explanation of the rationale for and relevance of the topic; it may also be useful to suggest research questions for participants to consider. If you intend to present a paper yourself as part of your proposed workshop, then please also include a short abstract (200 words) with your proposal by the deadline of 28 February 2021. **Please note that the aim of a workshop is to stimulate research and share work in progress among a small group (c. 6 people) rather than present finished work or conclusions.***

*2. Workshop proposals accepted by the Conference Committee will then be circulated via an open call for position papers (5-10 minutes) to which individuals can respond with abstract proposals. **As we expect to be oversubscribed individuals should only submit one abstract.***

*3. The primary role of a workshop leader is to co-ordinate with participants to give further guidance and then **share papers (4 weeks) in advance** of the workshop, and to introduce and facilitate the reading and discussion of papers in relation to the broader topic at the workshop session. If workshop leaders wish to present a paper themselves (and there is no obligation for them to do so) then they should ensure that this does not detract from their role as facilitator. **Workshops will also be open to auditors and workshop leaders are encouraged to leave time for general comments and questions at the end of the workshop.***