

Thursday 5 November 2026

Day 1

TELLING THE TRUTH

All times are GMT (UK). Talks are 25 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions. Panels shown side by side run in parallel.

08:30 -
08:50

Opening

Practicalities and conduct — **Rachele De Felice**
Introduction from the conference chair — **Caroline Tagg**
Welcome remarks from the Open University Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research & Innovation — **Mark Brandon**

09:00 -
10:00

COLLOQUIUM: TRUTH, RHETORIC AND FICTION

09:00 - 10:00 | Elizabeth Ford
Truth, rhetoric and fiction: literary forms of truth from the Elizabethan Stage, the late eighteenth century, through to the present day
With contributions by **Tim Hammond, Elizabeth Ford, Richard Jones and Joanne Reardon**

COLLOQUIUM: DEMOCRACY, DISINFORMATION AND RELIGION

09:00 - 10:00 | Paul-Francois Tremlett
Democracy, disinformation and religion: the mobilisation of truth by religious actors, institutions and counter-cultural communities
With contributions by **Vickie Hudson and Joseph Powell**

10:00 -
11:30

MEDIATING VULNERABILITIES

Chair: Daria Chernysheva

10:00 - 10:30 | Tamara Polajnar
Making Harm Legible: AI and the Truth-Telling of Victims

10:30 - 11:00 | Lohita Raulo
Health Misinformation in the Digital Age among Vulnerable Communities in Odisha

11:00 - 11:30 | Kyrie Miranda-Farnell
Avoiding the Algorithm: Self-Censorship and Euphemistic Violence on Social Media

POETIC TRUTHS

Chair: Alex Tickell

10:00 - 10:30 | Elhadj Benmoussa
Whose Truth Travels? Translation, Memory, and the Politics of Authenticity in Contemporary Algerian Narratives

10:30 - 11:00 | Dulani Kulasinghe
Locating Eddy: Reading against the grain of family stories and the colonial archive

11:00 - 11:30 | Daniel Calvert
Ethnographic poetry and the (non-)representation of atmospheric truths in social science research findings

PUBLIC TRUTHS

Chair: Philip Seargeant

10:00 - 10:30 | Britta Schneider
The Intersection of Truth-Construction and Language Materialisation Meaning-Making in Contexts of Print Literacy and Machine Learning and the Future of Public Truth

10:30 - 11:00 | Frank Monaghan
Hillsborough: a telling 'truth', untelling the lie

11:00 - 11:30 | Johannes Angermuller
Truth matters. For a socio-epistemic approach to public discourse

11:30 -
12:30

Plenary Panel 1: Authorship

Andrew Bennett (University of Bristol) · **Edmund King** (The Open University) · **Karina van Dalen-Oskam** (University of Amsterdam and Huygens Institute)
Chaired by **Francesca Benatti and Karina von Lindeiner-Stráský**

12:30 -
13:00

LUNCH

13:00 -
15:00

TRUTHFUL CHARACTERS

Chair: Joanne Reardon

13:00 - 13:30 | Anlie Williams

An Able Pen: Reading the Selves of Harriet Jacobs's *LINDA: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Written by Herself (1861)

13:30 - 14:00 | Heather Fishwick

Retelling the Truth

14:00 - 14:30 | Dora Rusciano

Fiction as an Instrument of Social Deconstruction and Critical Analysis in Daniela Dröscher's Work

14:30 - 15:00 | Radvilė Bartkutė

Infected by Kukutis: The Genesis of a Poetic Character

TRAUMA AND TRUTHS

Chair: Kristina Hultgren

13:00 - 13:30 | Clare Best and Patricia Debney

Capturing complex truths through collaborative writing

13:30 - 14:00 | Amy Booth

Performing authenticity in a child sexual exploitation and abuse forum

14:00 - 14:30 | Evangelia Mourtzanou

Victimhood as Process: A Critical Discourse and Systemic Functional Study of Trauma, Identity and Agency

15:00 -
16:45

HISTORICAL STORYTELLING

Chair: Samuel Sargeant

15:00 - 15:30 | Arunima Chakraborty

WhatsApp Histories: Digital Propaganda and the Crisis of Historical Truth

15:30 - 16:00 | Katie Hazel

Telling the truth of the past: Emotional authenticity and historical storytelling in *Call the Midwife*

16:00 - 16:30 | Lauren Alex O'Hagan

Constructing Truth, Selling Heroism: Commercial Narratives of Captain Scott's Antarctic Expedition (1910-13)

TRUTHS ACROSS LANGUAGES

Chair: Rodrigo Hernaiz Gomez

15:00 - 15:30 | Abdelhamid Ahmed and Lameya Rezk

Telling the truth across languages: University students' use and metalinguistic understanding of evidentials in L1 Arabic and L2 English argumentative writing

15:30 - 16:00 | Azzeddine Tamlakoutan

The Cognitive Grammar of Asymmetric Warfare: Force Dynamics and Spatial Proximization in Elite News Discourse

16:00 - 16:30 | Paloma Simone Seger

Al parecer: Evidential Marking in Mexican Journalism and Expert Reports on the Ayotzinapa Case

16:30 - 16:45 | Irina Zhilina

Why Russian truth cannot be pretty: "krasivy" vs "prekrasny" **[LIGHTNING TALK]**

16:45 -
17:45

Plenary Panel 2: Authenticity

Maxine Ali (University of Reading) · **Siobhan Campbell** (The Open University) · **Matti Kangaskoski** (University of Jyväskylä) · **Trask Roberts** (Kent State University)

Chaired by **Korina Giaxoglou** and **Daria Chernysheva**

18:30 -
20:00

Translation, Truth, and Textual Afterlives: An Evening of Transformation

Bianca Maria Alecu (University of Bucharest) · **Matthew Reynolds** (University of Oxford) · **Helen Zaltzman** (Broadcaster, writer, and producer of the linguistics podcast *The Allusionist*)

In conversation with **Daria Chernysheva** (The Open University)

08:00 -
09:30

REPRESENTING TRUTHS

Chair: Karina von Lindeiner-Stráský

08:00 - 08:30 | JD Davids

Oral History, Artifacts and Collaborative Testimony: Whose Authority Narrates Queer/Trans Experience?

08:30 - 09:00 | Carly Speed

The Hidden Truths of Deaths in Psychiatric Detention

09:00 - 09:30 | Rod Hermeston

Disability Stylistics: From Stereotypes to Positive Potential

INFLUENCING THE TRUTH

Chair: Olivia Kelly

08:00 - 08:30 | Maxine Ali

Commoditized controversy in post-truth digital wellness economies

08:30 - 09:00 | Nicola Wilson-Torch

Instagram, Inauthenticity and the Platformed Autobiography of Caroline Calloway

09:00 - 09:30 | Melissa Avdeeff

Mediating Environmental Truths: UK Outdoor Influencers and Informal Sustainability Discourse on Instagram

09:30 -
11:30

FICTIONAL TRUTHS

Chair: Francesca Benatti

09:30 - 09:45 | Emily Bullock

The Truth of Ghost Stories [LIGHTNING TALK]

09:45 - 10:15 | May Ouma

Author Authenticity, Censorship, and Conspiracies of Silence

10:15 - 10:45 | Nicolas Mugavero

The Truth as Fiction

10:45 - 11:15 | Louise Kari Mareau

Cynicism: a tool to sincerity?

PLATFORMING TRUTHS

Chair: Korina Giaxoglou

09:30 - 10:00 | Nikos Papadopoulos

Hypernarrativity and/as narrative capital: Performed authenticity and aura farming in postdigital platform ecologies

10:00 - 10:30 | Abdelhamid Adarrab

The Architecture of Authenticity in Post-Truth Social Media Ecologies: A Discursive Analysis of Truth-Claims by Moroccan Content Creators Elmaliki, Essou, Raghieb, and Swinga

10:30 - 11:00 | Olivia Kelly

Truth in the age of social media algorithms

11:00 - 11:30 | Rachele De Felice

Email as platform for truth in an emerging pandemic: the construction of Anthony Fauci's authority

11:30 -
13:00

DISCURSIVE TRUTHS

Chair: Kristina Hultgren

11:30 - 12:00 | Mohammad Aboomar

Shock or Appease: How Contradictory Truth Claims Shaped Evolution Popularisation in Arabic

12:00 - 12:30 | Edmund King

Truth Telling in Hypernormalised Times

12:30 - 13:00 | Nikolay Ternov and Dmitry Mikhailov

The lexemes "fascist" and "Nazi" in the Telegram discourse of military bloggers

SOCIAL MEDIA TRUTHS

Chair: Frank Monaghan

11:30 - 12:00 | Xiangyu Zhang

Constructing recognizable masculinities through identity play in parody videos by female content creators on Douyin

12:00 - 12:30 | Kyu Hyun Park

Truth as Emotional Resource: Affective Truth-Claims and Community Negotiation in Korean Guilty Pleasure YouTube Discourse

12:30 - 13:00 | Nicola Pelizzari

Pseudo-authority and Health (mis)information on TikTok. A corpus-assisted multimodal discourse analysis

13:00 -
13:30

LUNCH

13:30 -
14:30

Plenary Panel 3: Audiences

Dawn King (playwright and author of the acclaimed play *The Trials*) · **Stuart Johnstone** (crime fiction writer and former police officer) · **Lara Frumkin** (The Open University)
Chaired by **Dónall Mac Cathmhaoill**

14:30 -
16:00

TRANSLATING TRUTHS

Chair: Daria Chernysheva

14:30 - 15:00 | Katharina Walter

Augmented, Not Automated: Authorship, Authenticity and Truthfulness in AI-Mediated Translation

15:00 - 15:30 | Jesús De Prado Plumed

Hebrew Truth and Christian Polity from Anti-Jewish Spain: Emplotment, Mediation, and the Contingency of Truth-Claims in an Early Modern Case Study

15:30 - 16:00 | Brinda Nair

When Chitra Becomes Painting: Translation, Authenticity, and Sacred Visual Discourse

PERFORMING TRUTHS

Chair: Jonathan Gibson

14:30 - 15:00 | Madeline Muravchik

Faking it, Honestly: Inherent and Staged Authenticity in Contemporary French Autobiographical Theater

15:00 - 15:30 | Sabrina Francesconi

The female voice-over and truth-telling in audiovisual discourse

15:30 - 16:00 | Charles Cathcart

Marston, Montaigne, and telling the truth

16:00 -
17:30

UNRELIABLY NARRATED TRUTHS

Chair: Francesca Benatti

16:00 - 16:30 | Rebecca Connor-Evans and Alison Gibbons

Who remembers?: Cognitive Operations and Perspectival Mechanisms of Unreliability

16:30 - 17:00 | Antonella De Blasio

Ambiguous Truths: Autofiction and the Poetics of Unreliability

17:00 - 17:30 | Carmen Gomez-Galisteo

Truth Is a Story Someone Told Better: Unreliable Narrators in *Gone Girl* and *Verity*

CONTESTING AND CORRECTING TRUTH ONLINE

Chair: Philip Seargeant

16:00 - 16:30 | Ulisses Tadeu Vaz De Oliveira

Defining Truth and Harm in Digital Platforms: A Sociosemiotic Analysis of Hate Speech Policies on Social Media

16:30 - 17:00 | Harith Alani

Telling the Truth to the Unwilling: Audience Reactions to Automated Corrections in the Wild

17:00 - 17:30 | Sadia Choudhri

Constructing Truth: Exploring Hypertext Framing in Counterfeit News of Fact-checking Websites

17:30 -
18:00

Closing

Practicalities — **Rachele De Felice**
Reflections on the conference and concluding remarks — **Kristina Hultgren and Alex Tickell, The Open University**
Farewell and next steps — **Caroline Tagg**