

## THE 20<sup>th</sup>-CENTURY CALENDAR

When I think about the conference calendar, I tend to associate it with the 'Joyce Year'. This begins roughly in February with the annual James Joyce Graduate Conference (alternating between Rome and Dublin), extends through the April Colloquium (Dublin), the International or North American Symposiums in June, the 'Joyce Camps' (the Trieste and Dublin Summer Schools) and is capped off by the annual Workshop at the Zürich James Joyce Foundation in August. And those are just the main events! Thus, in many ways, the concept of the year becomes as relevant to the Joycean as it does to, say, an accountant who thinks in fiscal years, or students who follow the academic year.

The unusually full Joyce calendar tends to attract a lot of disbelieving and, dare I say, envious comments from fellow doctoral students specializing in other authors. I interpret their name-calling ('Joyce geeks') as an indication that their authors have nothing to compare to the Joyce calendar. Together, we have tried to envision what a 'Woolf camp' would be like (something similar to Habitat for Humanity in the building of a Room of One's Own?) and whether this year's 'Beckett camp' would involve burying oneself in the sand up to one's neck. And why is there no 'Pound camp'? In all this, I did discover that most major authors of the twentieth century have, at the very least, an annual conference in their honour. In an effort to map out how these communities intersect (admittedly with an eye on potentially attending the said events), I started to input the various conferences, summer schools and calls-for-paper deadlines into my Google calendar. These initial attempts, along with inputting the various twentieth-century-based seminars offered in Oxford and at the Institute of English Studies in London, marked the beginnings of what has now become 'The Twentieth-Century Calendar'.

When I began to co-convene the Twentieth-Century Research-in-Progress seminar at Oxford, I approached the graduate administrator at the Faculty of English Language and Literature for a complete list of twentieth-century researchers at Oxford in order to advertise to a target audience. Somewhere along the way, I

started getting responses, asking me to advertise other twentieth-century events and asking me to include more recipients. Soon the emails were getting longer and longer, and I worried that the weekly emails were becoming tedious lists. Since I was inputting all these events into my personal calendar anyway, I thought it might be more efficient to make my Google calendar into a public domain. As the scope of the events expanded, so too did the list of recipients.

Although it is still at the grassroots stage, my goal is to create a calendar of events which can be used as a database and resource for those interested in any aspect of the Twentieth Century and beyond. At the moment, the calendar is too Oxford- and London-centric, simply on account of my current location and the limited time I have to research the various conferences. So, if any readers of the Broadsheet know of relevant information that could and should be added to the calendar, I would be grateful if you could email me the details at: [michelle.witen@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.witen@gmail.com). Similarly, if readers would like to be added to the list of recipients, feel free to email me, or simply have a look, as often as you like, at the URL: <http://tinyurl.com/ell20thc>. The calendar is regularly updated, and I send out an email on a monthly basis if significant changes occur.

**Michelle Witen**