

# The Novels of Nicola Barker

A Symposium at Manchester Metropolitan University, in partnership with the International Anthony Burgess Foundation

**9.30-10.00 Registration and Refreshments**

**10.00-10.30 Introductions (*Nicola Barker & Berthold Schoene*)**

**10.30-11.15 --- Panel 1**

Chair: *Berthold Schoene*

Indie style: Nicola Barker's early fiction and a turn-of-the-century aesthetic  
(*Ben Masters*)

'The sure caress of this silence': minimalism and expansiveness in *Small Holdings*'  
(*Andrew Biswell*)

**11.15-12.00 --- Panel 2**

Chair: Ellie Byrne

'All at sea in familiar territory': dislocation, impermanence and island survival in *Wide Open*  
(*Daniel Janes*)

'Flying in formation. But madly': spatial discombobulations in *Five Miles from Outer Hope*  
(*Ginette Carpenter*)

**12.00-12.45 --- Panel 3**

Chair: Ginette Carpenter

Puerile shithead? We need to talk about Wesley in Nicola Barker's *Behindlings*  
(*Eileen Pollard*)

"Woah there a moment. Time out!" The measured art of looking, listening and slowing down in *Clear: A Transparent Novel*  
(*Beccy Kennedy*)

**12.45-1.45 LUNCH**

**1.45-2.30 --- Panel 4**

Chair: Eileen Pollard

'You grew up in this shit-hole, then?' Geographic writing and the Thames Gateway series  
(*Len Platt, Goldsmiths*)

In the Approaches: exuberant narration, metaphysical magic, and the creation of community  
(*Berthold Schoene*)

**2.30-3.30 --- Panel 5**

Chair: Andrew Biswell

Laughter and tears, paradox and contradiction: Nicola Barker and comedy  
(*Huw Marsh*)

'But let's shift our focus to some other places in the world': spanning the globe in *The Cauliflower*  
(*Rainer Schelkle*)

'Tuning into my "awareness continuum": self-monitored attention from *The Yips* to *H(A)PPY*  
(*Alice Bennett*)

**3.30-4.30 Refreshments, accompanied by**

Approaches to place with Nicola Barker  
(*Tim Brennan & Nicola Barker*)

**4.30-5.15 – Panel 6**

Chair: Berthold Schoene

The pursuit of happiness in *H(A)PPY*  
(*Ellie Byrne*)

Beneath the thin veneer of the modern: Nicola Barker's medievalism  
(*Chris Vardy*)

**5.15-5.45 Conclusions & Close**

**7.00 DINNER (for speakers)**

at HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place, M15 4FN