



Università degli Studi di Messina  
Dipartimento di Civiltà Antiche e Moderne



Centro Europeo di Studi su  
Mito e Simbolo



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

# One Hundred Years of **K**kafka

*International Conference*



Walter Benjamin pointed out that to truly grasp Kafka's work, one must consider his perceived failure, as evidenced by his last will, which directed that his works be destroyed. This notion of failure suggests that attempts to interpret his writings might also be flawed. Yet, it is within this context of failure that Kafka crafted a new vision of humanity. He developed a keen sense of emerging laws and relationships, despite the lack of guarantees, which is ironic for him who was an insurance agent.

Kafka, much like his character the eternal wanderer Hunter Gracchus, was an outsider. This is mirrored in the animals of his stories, who are secluded beneath the earth, shielded from the world above. From this unique perspective, Kafka was able to look beyond the mundane and identify 'messianic splinters'—small yet significant glimpses of possible future transformations scattered amid the debris of the present.

**26 OCTOBER 2024**

**On-line** 08:30-15:30 (London) / 09:30-16:30 (Rome)

**TO JOIN:**

**Scientific and Organising Committee**

Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)

Valentina Surace (University of Messina)

## Morning Session

**Opening remarks** 8:30 (London) / 9.30 (Rome)  
Giuseppe Ucciardello (University of Messina)

**Panel 1** 8.45-10.30 (London) / 9.45-11.30 (Rome)

**Chair** Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)

Caterina Resta (University of Messina)  
*Kafka e la "malattia della tradizione". Il divergente accordo tra Benjamin e Scholem*

Nataschia Mattucci (University of Macerata)  
*Kafka pro and contra. Critical profiles of membership*

Sandro Gorgone (University of Messina)  
*The vertigo of guilt. Günther Anders' duel with Kafka*

**Flash Presentation** Chiara Vita (University of Messina)  
*The attentiveness to creatures. Walter Benjamin interpreter of Kafka*

### Discussion

**Panel 2** 10.40-12.00 (London) / 11.40-13.00 (Rome)

**Chair** Sandro Gorgone (University of Messina)

Rebecca Bamford (Queen's University, Belfast)  
*Kafka and Nietzsche on perspectivism and affect*

Annalisa Caputo (University of Bari)  
*Una letteratura minore? Kafka come cartina di tornasole*

Craig Wallace (Queen's University, Belfast)  
*The "logic of a dream... or a nightmare":  
Animated Film Adaptations of Kafka's The Trial and Metamorphosis*

### Discussion

**Lunch Break** 12.00-14.00 (London) / 13.00-15.00 (Rome)

## Afternoon Session

**Panel 3** 14.00-15.30 (London) / 15.00-16.30 (Rome)

**Chair** Craig Wallace (Queen's University, Belfast)

Valentina Surace (University of Messina)  
*Kafka between Law and Exile*

Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)  
*The Edge of Endurance: Kafka's A Hunger Artist and  
the Hunger Strikes on The Argenta Prison ship.*

Caterina Marino (University of Calabria)  
*Kafka and the Law of the Father*

**Flash Presentation** Dominic Harkin (Queen's University, Belfast)  
*Gracchus among the Eleatics: Notes on an Aspect of Kafka's Humour*

### Discussion

**Closing remarks** Aisling Reid and Valentina Surace