

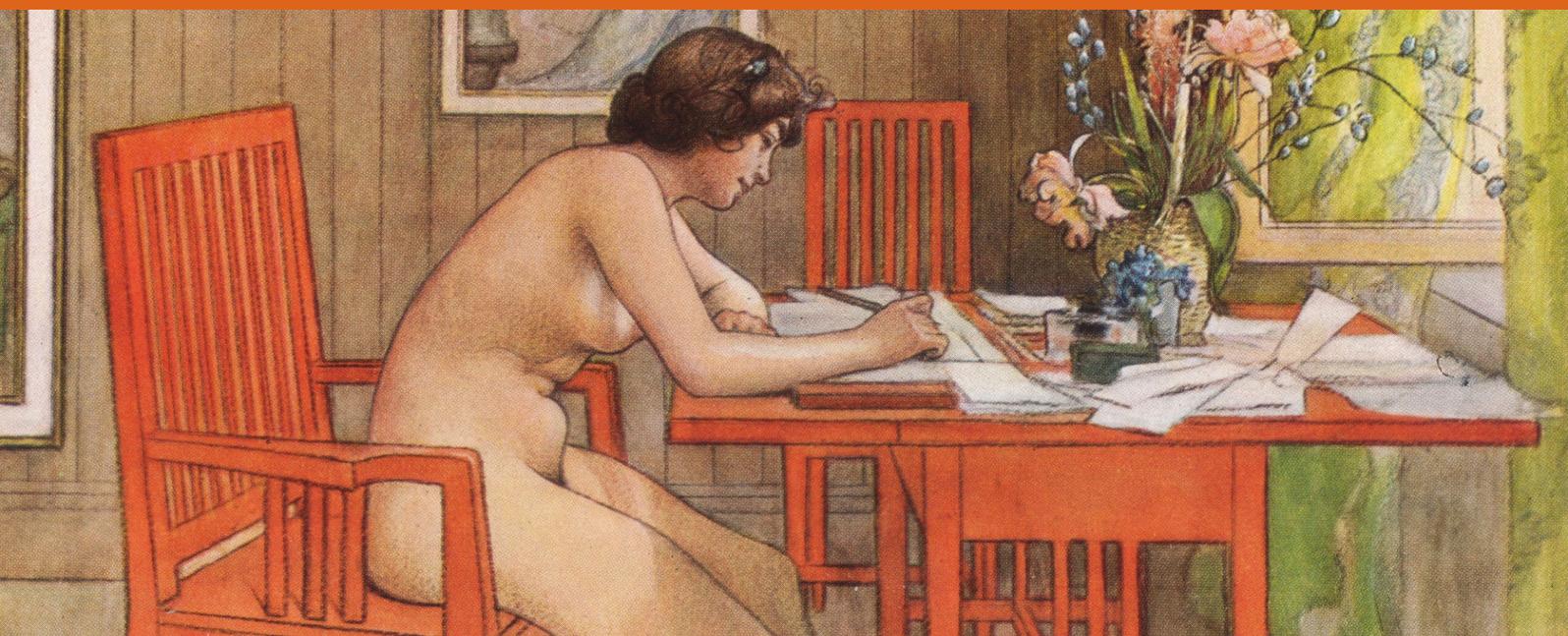
# Women Writing Pleasure

3 July 2015

Research Centre for Literature & Cultural History  
Liverpool John Moores University

**Keynote Speaker**

**Professor Patricia Duncker**



The representation of female pleasure has been a topic of much notoriety and discussion in contemporary popular culture as well as having a literary and cultural history of its own that, of course, begins much earlier than the heated debates over E. L. James's *Fifty Shades* trilogy. Women's expressions of pleasure have been policed, pathologised, silenced, celebrated, and fetishized, and have, over the centuries, taken on a plethora of forms, particularly in literature, ranging from Radclyffe Hall's infamous single sentence to the lavish images of excess created by writers such as Angela Carter and Margaret Atwood. The heroines of the female Gothic are dangerously thrilled by novels, while many a feminist's protagonist expresses the pleasures achieved from intellectual as well as sexual and other physical pursuits. Others again grapple with the competing pleasures of the body, the mind, and the material realm, including the works of writers such as Charlotte Roche and Sarah Hall. This one-day symposium seeks to chart the ways in which women writers have expressed, interrogated, and celebrated female pleasure, its manifestations, and its origins in a variety of genres from the nineteenth century through to the present day and in a range of constellations, including, but by no means limited to: sexual pleasure; histories of women and pleasure; the body as a source of pleasure; psychological and intellectual pleasures; the feminist politics of female pleasure; pleasure, consumerism, and consumption; pleasure and addiction; pleasure and pain; pleasure and excess.

Please email abstract of 300 words to [organisers@womenwritingpleasure.com](mailto:organisers@womenwritingpleasure.com) no later than **31 January 2015**. Speakers will be notified by 15 February 2015. We welcome submissions from researchers at all stages of their careers. The conference is organised by Chloe Holland, Dr Nadine Muller, and Krystina Osborne.