**Missing, Presumed Dead:
the Absent Mother in the Cultural Imagination**

Department of Language Studies, Umeå Centre for Gender studies,
The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences

Humanities building
Room HB210

Thursday 11 June

08.30-09.00 Registration, tea and coffee

09.00-09.10 Welcome
Berit Åström, Department of Language Studies

09.10-10.15 Keynote address
Professor Marilyn Francus, West Virginia University, USA:

“The Lady Vanishes: The Rise of the Spectral Mother.”

10.15-11.45 Chair: Berit Åström

Helen Whall, College of the Holy Cross, US: “Banishing the Virgin Mother from Webster’s *Duchess of Malfi*.”

Mattia Cinquegrani, Università degli studi di Roma Tre, Italy:
“The Absence and Presence of the Mother in *Hidden Mother Photography*.”

Emilia Halton-Hernandez, University of British Columbia, Canada: “Melancholia, Maternal Loss and Eliot’s Philosophy of Sympathy in *The Lifted Veil*.”

11.45-12.45 Lunch at Universum

12.45-13.45 Keynote address

Dr Rebecca Feasey, Bath Spa University, UK:
“Television and the Absent Mother: Why Girls and Young Women Struggle to Find the Maternal Role.”

13.45-15.15 Chair: Valerie Heffernan

Eike Träger, University of Cologne, Germany: “Symbolic Matricide Gone Awry: On Absent and – Maybe Even Worse – Present Mothers in Horror Movies.

Patricia Frederick, Northern Arizona University, US: “The Forgotten Mother: Searching for Cultural Identity in Francophone Fiction and Film.”

Joanna Wilson, University of Leicester, UK: “Dead or Alive, Traumatizing Mothers Still Traumatise Men: the Language of Rebirth in Violent American Literature.”

15.15-15.30 Coffe/ tea

15.30-17.00 Chair: Berit Åström

Gemma Elliott, University of Glasgow, UK: “‘Punctuation Is Invisible’: Finding the Absent Mother in Dorothy Richardson’s *Pilgrimage*.”

Kathy Rees, Anglia Ruskin University, UK: “Gosse Answers Back: Conversations with the Spectral Mother in *Father and Son*.”

Andrew McMillan, Liverpool John Moores University, UK: “*I Am Made by Her, and Undone*: the Absence of the Mother in the Poetry of Thom Gunn.”

19.00 Conference dinner at Hansson & Hammar, Bildmuseet

Friday 12 June

09.00-10.30 Chair: Berit Åström

Laura Lojo-Rodriguez, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain: “Michèle Roberts’s ‘Charity,’ or the Search for the Absent Mother.”

Kirsten Møllegaard, University of Hawai’i at Hilo, US: “Stolen by Fairies: the ‘Missing Mother’ as Narrative Script in Holly Black’s *The Good Neighbors*.”

Katarina Labudova, Catholic University in Ruzomberok, Slovakia: “Absent Mothers in Slovak and Roma Fairy Tales: The Curse of the Unwanted.”

10.30-10.45 Coffee/ tea

10.45-12.15 Chair: Patricia Frederick

Valerie Heffernan, National University of Ireland Maynooth, Ireland: “The Murdered Mother of YA Fiction: Alina Bronsky’s *Broken Glass Park* (2008).”

Remmy Shiundu Barasa, Pwani University, Kenya: “Murdered Mothers in Gendered Self-Narratives in *Secrets no More* and *Waiting: a Novel of Uganda at War* by Goretti Kyomuhendo.”

Kylo-Patrick Hart, Texas Christian University, US: “Gone but Not Forgotten: Burgeoning Adolescence and the Desire for (Missing) Maternal Support in *The Mudge Boy*.”

12.15-13.30 Lunch at Universum

13.30-15.00 Chair: Kirsten Møllegaard

Oliver Penny, University of East Anglia, UK: “Obscuring Grief: the Death-Bearing Mother in Elizabeth Bowen’s *The Death of the Heart*.”

Ignatius Chukwumah, Federal University, Wukari, Nigeria: “Haunting Past: the Mother-Link to Inviting Roots in Chika Unigwe’s *Night Dancer*.”

Aleksandra Gajowy, University of Edinburgh, UK: “Always-Already Absent Mother – the Role of Empty Spaces in Martin Creed’s *Mothers* and Louise Bourgeois’ *Maman*.”