



平成21年度採択 文部科学省 大学教育推進プログラム(GP)  
英米学科「多文化社会における英語による発信力育成」  
講演会(一般公開:Language: 英語)

# *Hidden London: Magic and the Modern City*

日時: 3/17(木)15:00-16:30

場所: D34

**内容:** This lecture investigates how **London** has been imagined by **writers** and **filmmakers** as a place of **magic** and **mystery**. I identify two related trends. One emphasises how the complexity of the modern city dissolves individual identity, leading to a sense of ghostliness ('spectrality'). The other emphasises that the experience of London is an encounter with layers of history, and that these layers reveal a hidden world of strange connections and supernatural power. 'Reading' these layers becomes a way of investigating the city's dark secrets, and at the same deflecting anxieties about them. Beginning with **JK Rowling's Harry Potter novels and associated films**, I then move backwards in time to consider the London writings of two Romantic authors: William Blake and Thomas De Quincey. Finally, I suggest that **Alan Moore's graphic novel From Hell (1999; film version 2001)** and China Miéville's recent novel *Kraken* (2010) powerfully combine a sense of London's occult history with an awareness of its endless modernisation.

## Dr. David Minden Higgins (University of Leeds)

David Higgins is Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Leeds. He is the author of *Romantic Genius and the Literary Magazine* and *Frankenstein: Character Studies*, and co-editor of *Studying English Literature and Teaching Romanticism*.



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