

南山大学外国語学部国際化推進事業 英米学科主催講演会
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」共催
(一般公開: Language: 英語)

Frankenstein's 'Old Familiar Faces': Charles Lamb, Mary Shelley and Domestic Horror

Date and Time: 3月15日(火) 15:00-16:30

Place: B46

Summary:

Mary Shelley was a friend and admirer of Charles Lamb, and alludes to his poem 'The Old Familiar Faces' (1798) when describing Victor Frankenstein's departure from Geneva to Ingolstadt in *Frankenstein*. This lecture will think through the implications of this allusion by considering parallels between the two texts. It will also place them in relation to some of Lamb's other poems and his troubled personal history, most notably the murder of his mother by his deranged sister Mary. I will argue that the allusion is significant and deliberate, for through it Shelley is implying that Frankenstein's temporary absence from his family will lead to more permanent losses. Furthermore, the whole of Lamb's autobiographical poem resonates with the themes and narrative of *Frankenstein*, particularly through its repeated refrain, 'All, all are gone, the old familiar faces'. Examining echoes between the two texts sheds light on both, and in particular on their shared anxieties about the incursion of "horror" into the domestic sphere. Lamb and Shelley both emphasise the fragility of friendships and familial relationships, and the plight of individuals who are bereft of them.

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