

## PREMIS

**16-18, 21 November 2018, Helikon (A202), Arken**

### **The Englishness of Street Verse**

Our November seminar speaker is Guy Gunaratne. He has wide-ranging work experience in journalism, design, and documentary-making and is the co-founder of two technology companies, but most recently he has been focusing on writing. He has released one novel and is working on a second.

During the seminar, Guy will share some of his thoughts on literature and its relationship to the city and to culture, and give a short reading from his first novel, *In Our Mad and Furious City*. The novel recounts the aftermath of a terrorist killing on a London council estate, especially centering on the experiences of three young men called Ardan, Yusuf, and Selvon. The novel was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize and the Gordon Burn Prize, all in 2018.

Guy will also host a seminar on Contemporary London Literature with Jason Finch on Tuesday 20 November 16-18, to which all students, staff, and researchers are welcome. Please sign up by Monday 12 November by sending an e-mail to [aihaataj@abo.fi](mailto:aihaataj@abo.fi). On 13 November a text for discussion in the seminar will be circulated to those who have signed up.

#### Sources:

Hancox, Dan. 'Interview. Guy Gunaratne: "I read writers who make me feel brave"'. *The Guardian*, International edition, 25 Aug. 2018, [www.theguardian.com/books/2018/aug/25/guy-gunaratne-interview-read-writers-make-me-feel-brave-mad-furious-city](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/aug/25/guy-gunaratne-interview-read-writers-make-me-feel-brave-mad-furious-city). Accessed 5 Nov. 2018.

Bari, Shahidha. 'In Our Mad and Furious City by Guy Gunaratne review – grime-infused tinderbox debut'. *The Guardian*, International edition, 13 Apr. 2018, [www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/13/our-mad-furious-city-guy-gunaratne-review-wiley-skept](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/13/our-mad-furious-city-guy-gunaratne-review-wiley-skept). Accessed 5 Nov. 2018.

*Guy Gunaratne*. [guygunaratne.com](http://guygunaratne.com). Accessed 5 Nov. 2018.