

David Savill: REF Output Research Statement:

This PAR publication is a literary novel exploring the relationship between memory and concepts of truth in the context of trauma. *They Are Trying To Break Your Heart* was written over a five year period between 2011 and 2016, and published by Bloomsbury in the UK, US, Australia and New Zealand in April 2016. The book also contributes to cultural representations of the Balkan conflicts of the 1990's, and the Asian Tsunami of 2004.

The novel's impact is demonstrable. It was shortlisted for the UK's only debut fiction prize, *The Desmond Eliot Prize*, in 2017, and chosen from competition by 3000 French readers, as representative of English Language debut novels, at Le Festival De Premier Roman, in France, in May 2018. It was reviewed with praise in *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Chicago Review of Books*, *New York Book Review*, *People Magazine*, *Publisher's Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*. It was chosen as book of the month by NetGalley, the publishing industry preview service. I was broadcast in discussion with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's show, *As It Happens*, and wrote editorials for *The New Statesman*, *Fiction Writer's Review*, and *Writer's And Artist's Yearbook*.

The book was the subject of discussion at three literary festivals in 2016: The Oxford Literary Festival, The Bath Festival, and The Glasgow Festival of Literature. In a paper given in Sarajevo, in June 2017, I explored the book's contribution to conflict resolution interventions by the arts, in a paper, and as part of the conference, 'Why Remember', organised by University Arts London, and Salem State University, Massachusetts.

This work in the field of conflict resolution has, at the time of writing led, to an Arts Council bid for training in the field of narrative conflict resolution with charity Narrative4.