Performing Live: News, Shows and Shipwrecks considers the history of the shipwreck as (impossibly) “live” performance. The talk will focus on 1819 and on Byron’s treatment of a fatal shipwreck in the first instalment of his serial poem Don Juan and Géricault’s oil painting, The Raft of the Medusa, which was simultaneously on show at the Egyptian Hall in London. Both Byron’s poem and Géricault’s picture elicited strong sentiments of disgust: the talk suggests that this reaction was a result of both their reference to a “real” news item, and their creation of virtual bodies to represent catastrophic death.