



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHAMPTON
School of The Arts



**Research Seminars, Gallery Shows
and Events, Spring 2015**

Spring 2015 Research Bulletin

The spring term in research at the School of the Arts has got off to a flying start with a number of great events and internal and external collaborations. For the first time SOTA worked directly with the School of Social Sciences to bring together the University of Northampton's contribution to Holocaust Memorial Day 2015. This included a keynote lecture by Professor David Cesarani OBE; an exhibition at the Guildhall by Dr Ralph Darbyshire (Subject Leader for Fine Art) and a short introduction given by myself at Northampton's Errol Flynn Film-theatre. January also saw Dr Phillippa Bennett contribute to the current William Morris revival by hosting and speaking at the Midlands Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar, while Dr Renate Braeuninger ensured the presence of research at Subject Future's Week through introducing students to University of Sheffield scholar, Dr Sam Ladkin and his AHRC funded project, 'Against Value in the Arts'.

As you will be able to see from this programme, we have a number of exciting events lined up from both SOTA staff members and visiting scholars. Dr Julie King on textiles, Dr Jodi-Anne George (The University of Dundee) on film-maker Derek Jarman, Dr David Wilkinson (The University of Reading) on Punk and sexuality and 'AHRC/BBC New Generation' thinker, Dr Greg Tate (The University of Surrey) on Wordsworth's poetry. These all attest to the quality, diversity and innovation of research within SOTA. We are also planning a number of forthcoming one-day symposiums, so do please get in touch if your research overlaps with literary constructions of authorship ('Personas in Production', 8 April 2015, contact: Professor Janet Wilson & Dr Larissa Allwork); digital television (12 May 2015, contact: Dr Lorna Jowett); trauma theory and the postcolonial ('Decolonizing Trauma Studies, 15 May 2015, contact: Dr Sonya Andermahr & Dr Larissa Allwork). We will be continuing our skills workshops this term with sessions open to all SOTA staff and postgraduates on finding unorthodox sources of research funding (11 February 2015, Helen Backhouse, RSBO) as well as a session on publishing led by SOTA Director of Research, Professor Janet Wilson (25 March 2015). Also, try and catch Dr Mike Starr introducing David Lynch's *Blue Velvet* at the Errol Flynn Film-house (25 February 2015).

Finally, it is time to give our congratulations for a number of research achievements over the last few months. For a small, teach intensive institution, SOTA performed well in the REF with Unit of Assessment English delivering 56.8% of research outputs at the standard of 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent' and 70% of impact recognised as internationally excellent. Unit of Assessment Art and Design performed exceptionally well in impact with 20% recognised as 'world leading' and 20% assessed as 'internationally excellent'. Positive developments in research have continued with Dr Sally Cook winning an Arts Council bid of £15,000 to research and develop a performance project that raises awareness of responsible drinking. Dr Sonya Andermahr has been asked to examine a PhD thesis on magical realism and trauma by a student at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia. Dr Nathan Wiseman-Trowse has been invited to Kingston University to speak on Bill Drummond (9 February 2015), Dr Gerri Kimber has just released a new book on Katherine Mansfield with Palgrave Pivot and Professor Janet Wilson was nominated for UK New Zealander of the year 2015. Also, we must congratulate John Sunderland and Abiodun Kafaru who successfully passed their practice based research PhDs and also give our well wishes to Nadia Anwar, Maurici Jimenez and Anna Maria Everding who have submitted their PhD theses for examination. Successes by our current research students also include CoHaB scholar Alba de Bejar who is co-editing the journal *Canada and Beyond* and will be participating at this year's CoHaB summer school held at SOAS, University of London (April 2015) as well as Jamie Callison who has been appointed to a 'Visiting Researcher' position at the Editorial Institute, Boston University, USA. During spring 2015, Jamie will be researching the works of T.S. Eliot and his Boston stay has been facilitated by The University of Northampton's Chancellor's Fund.

I hope that you are enthused by these successes and that you are looking forward to participating in this term's research seminars, events and gallery shows.

Dr Larissa Allwork, The School of the Arts.

Avenue Gallery Shows

All these shows are curated by Suzanne Stenning. More information, including dates of Private Views will be made available by Suzanne throughout the spring term.

12 – 21 January 2015

Northamptonshire Schools Art Competition

The Fine Art team at the University of Northampton is delighted to present its first annual Northamptonshire Schools Art Competition, which has seen sixth form students from across the county and its surrounding areas battling for over £3000 of prize money. The winners and other selected entries will be displayed in a public exhibition at the University's Avenue Gallery from 12-21 January 2015.

26 - 30 January 2015

An Embarrassment of Stains: Camp Joffre Ralph Darbyshire

An Embarrassment of Stains, Camp Joffre (2013), examined the remnants of internment Camp Joffre in South West France, in which 5,714 Jewish internees, 110 of which were children, were held for onward transport – principally to Auschwitz. The project documented the disintegration of the camp since 2005, combining found objects and photographic documentation. Parts of this exhibition will be showing simultaneously at Northampton Guildhall (27-29 January 2015).

2 -27 February 2015

A Picture of Research

The Graduate School presents an exhibition of images and texts by research students and staff from across the University of Northampton, who were invited to capture the essence of their research in a visual, artistic or photographic medium.

5 -27 February 2015

Tug of War Drawing Project: Stefan Gant

Private View: 5th February, 5pm-8pm

The exhibition and project, '*Tug of War Drawing Project*' contains moving image, sound and sculptural work derived from a partnership between the artist and the Welsh Tug of War Association, supported by the Arts Council of Wales.

6 -13 March 2015

Spring Show: BA (Hons) Photographic Practice year 2

18 - 23 March 2015

Spring Show: BA (Hons) Fine Art and BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting and Drawing Year 2

26 March - 1 April

Spring Show: BA (Hons) Fine Art and BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting and Drawing Year 2

Each year, second-year Fine Art, Fine Art Painting & Drawing and Photographic Practice students are given the task of organising a group exhibition of their own artwork as part of their Professional Practice studies. Always lively and varied, the Spring Show provides the students with what is often their first opportunity to take their work out of the working studios and present it to the public in a formal gallery setting.

This year the Spring Show will be split into three consecutive themed exhibitions (dates and details to be confirmed).

Research Seminars and Events, Spring 2015

All Seminars will be held in Room MY120 at 2.15pm unless otherwise stated. There will be refreshments and biscuits. All SOTA staff and students welcome to attend.

Wednesday 21st January – Holocaust Memorial Day Event, 1pm onwards, Park Campus. Keynote Lecture: Professor David Cesarani (Royal Holloway, University of London) with Dr Larissa Allwork, Dr Paul Jackson, Dr Sam Knowles and featuring the photography of Dr Ralph Darbyshire.

Friday 23rd January – Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Studies Seminar, 11am-4pm, Room MY120, Avenue Campus with a keynote lecture by Dr Philippa Bennett, 'Educate and Agitate: William Morris and the Meaning of Education.'

Thursday 29th January – Dr Sam Ladkin (The University of Sheffield), 'Against Values in the Arts.' Venue: Isham Light.

Wednesday 4th February – Dr David Wilkinson (The University of Reading), LGBT History month: 'Ever Fallen In Love (With Someone You Shouldn't've?): Punk, Politics and Same-Sex Passion.' Venue: Avenue Boardroom.

Wednesday 11th February – Helen Backhouse (Research & Strategic Bidding Office), 'SOTA Research Skills Workshop: Finding Unorthodox Sources of Research Funding.' Venue: MR34.

Wednesday 18th February – Dr Greg Tate (The University of Surrey), 'William Wordsworth, Humphry Davy, and the Forms of Nature'. Venue: Avenue Boardroom.

Wednesday 25th February – Dr Julie King (The University of Northampton), 'Textiles: 250 Shades of Grey'. Venue: MY120.

Wednesday 4th March – Dr Laurence Marriott (The University of Northampton), 'Masculine sentimentality in the short stories of O. Henry and Damon Runyon.' Venue: MY120.

Wednesday 11th March – Prof. Dr. Abbas Deygan Darweesh Al-Duleimi (The University of Babylon), 'The Importance of Teaching Listening Comprehension at the University Level'. Venue: MR36.

Wednesday 25th March – Professor Janet Wilson (The University of Northampton), 'SOTA Research Skills Workshop: Publishing for Academics.' Venue: MR10.

Wednesday 1st April 2015 – Dr Jodi-Anne George (University of Dundee), 'Derek Jarman's Medievalism'. Venue: MY120.

Wednesday 8th April 2015 – 'Symposium: Personae in Production' with Professor Janet Wilson and Melanie Wattenbarger (The University of Mumbai). Venue: MY120, start time tbc.

If you would like to attend any of these events, but are external to the School of the Arts, please contact Larissa.Allwork@northampton.ac.uk to book a place.

Speakers and their Presentations

Professor David Cesarani
Royal Holloway, University of London

21 January 2015

'The Second World War and the Fate of the Jews'

Abstract: It is well-known that the German leadership allowed the alleged power of the Jews to exert a powerful influence on their geo-strategic thinking. This lecture will show that German anti-Jewish policy was integrally bound up with their conduct of the war, but it will suggest that strategic and operational decisions by the Allies also had a decisive influence on the treatment of the Jews and their ultimate fate. While the Germans believed that they were fighting a war against the Jews and interpreted Allied decisions accordingly, the Allies were unaware that their moves imperilled the Jews in German-occupied Europe and never framed military policy with this in mind. The result was catastrophic for Jewish populations under German domination.

David Cesarani is Research Professor in History at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author of *Eichmann: His Life and Crimes* (2004) and *Justice Delayed: How Britain Became a Refuge for War Criminals* (1992). He is a Trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and has contributed to BBC and Channel 4 documentaries on the Holocaust.

This lecture will be presented at Park Campus with the History Division as part of the University's contribution to Holocaust Memorial Day 2015.

Dr Philippa Bennett
(The University of Northampton)

23 January 2015

'Educate and Agitate: William Morris and the Meaning of Education'

Abstract: William Guest, Morris's time-travelling narrator in *News from Nowhere* (1890), wakes up in the twenty-second century to a world at once familiar and strange. In order to understand how this world works, he engages in a series of conversations with several friendly, accommodating and patient Nowherians. One of those conversations is about education, a conversation doomed from the start in that Dick, Guest's interlocutor on this occasion, admits: 'I have never met anybody who could give me a clear explanation of what it means'. Dick's statement assumes a new and pressing relevance for us in the second decade of the twenty-first century in which debates about the meaning and role of education have become increasingly impassioned and partisan. But whilst Dick, with his Nowherian wisdom, would probably look back with bemused incomprehension at some of the issues being debated in the twenty-first century, Guest (a thinly disguised William Morris) would no doubt smile wryly and knowingly were he gifted with a glimpse of these things to come. Morris similarly lived through a period in which education was a fiercely contested subject, not least because it was a period in which the foundations of the education system as we now know it were being laid. This talk will thus consider how our own current debates about education revisit many of those that took place in the nineteenth century, and how the contributions of Morris in particular to those debates can help us to understand the nature, purpose and value of education in the twenty-first century.

Phillippa Bennett is a Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Northampton where she teaches nineteenth-century literature. She has published widely on William Morris, specialising in his Last Romances and his political activism, and co-edited *William Morris in the Twenty-First Century* (Peter Lang, 2010) with Rosie Miles. She has recently had a chapter published in *To Build a Shadowy Isle of Bliss: William Morris's Radicalism and the Embodiment of Dreams*, edited by Michelle Weinroth and Paul Leduc Brown (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015) and is currently finishing a monograph on the Last Romances. She is a member of the Editorial Board for *The Journal of William Morris Studies*, and has served as Secretary and Vice Chair of the William Morris Society.

Dr David Wilkinson
(The University of Reading)

4 February 2015

To mark LGBT History Month: 'Ever Fallen In Love (With Someone You Shouldn't've?): Punk, Politics and Same-Sex Passion'

Abstract: Looking back at the early years of punk in Britain, what becomes clear is that the movement's approaches to same-sex passion were both varied and compellingly contradictory. Between McLaren and Westwood's provocative fashion designs, the post-glam decadence of the Bromley Contingent and the street-level liberation of the Buzzcocks, not just spit but also sparks flew. So far this issue has been addressed only sporadically.

In this paper I consider existing academic takes on punk and same-sex passion. I reflect on the limitations of such interpretations and argue that a new approach is needed. I aim to achieve two things: an accurate historical portrayal, and an assessment of the ways in which punk approaches to same-sex passion might inform crucial issues faced by LGBTQ people and countercultural forces in the present. What resources of hope might punk offer, and how might we learn from its missteps and dead ends, which, to be fair, are always easier to see in hindsight?

Dr David Wilkinson was awarded a PhD from the University of Manchester in 2013. The thesis has developed into a monograph, *Post-Punk, Politics and Pleasure in Britain*, which is due for publication with Palgrave Macmillan in 2016. He is currently Research Assistant on the Leverhulme project 'Punk, Politics and British Youth Culture 1976-1984'. He is keen to share his research both academically and in a broader context. To this end he has, for example, worked with Dave Haslam and Manchester District Music Archive on the digital archiving of post-punk fanzine *City Fun* and written music reviews for *The F Word*.

Dr Greg Tate
(The University of Surrey)

18 February 2015

'William Wordsworth, Humphry Davy, and the Forms of Nature'

Abstract: At the start of the nineteenth century the chemist Humphry Davy made a sustained case for the value of chemical research by differentiating it from poetry and the arts. William Wordsworth, too, consistently defined poetry in opposition to science, and this opposition was rooted, for both writers, in the difference between poetic and scientific understandings of nature: while the formal structures of verse embodied a view of nature as permanent form, the analytical practices of chemistry

defined it as a changing process. This paper discusses Romantic debates about the relation between the seemingly immutable forms of nature and processes of physical change, and considers how Wordsworth and Davy used their differing approaches to this issue as grounds for distinguishing between the epistemological concerns of chemistry and poetry.

Greg Tate studied at the University of Sheffield and at Linacre College, Oxford, and he is currently a Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Surrey. His first book, *The Poet's Mind: The Psychology of Victorian Poetry 1830-1870* (2012), studies the connections between poetry and the developing science of psychology in the mid-nineteenth century. In 2013 he was named as an AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinker, and in November 2014 his documentary about scientists who write poetry was broadcast on Radio 3. His work on the documentary was linked to his current research project, which considers how poetry and the physical sciences were brought into contact in the nineteenth century through a shared concern with the concept of "matter" and with philosophies of materialism.

Dr Julie King
(The University of Northampton)

25 February 2015

'Textiles: 250 Shades of Grey'

Julie King is the Head of Fashion at the University of Northampton School of the Arts. Prior to this she was Head of the Department of Fashion and Textiles at DeMontford University and she has also worked as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Clothing and Textiles at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her doctorate on colour trend prediction was completed at the London College of Fashion.

Dr Laurence Marriott (The University of Northampton)

4 March 2015

'Masculine sentimentality in the short stories of O. Henry and Damon Runyon.'

Laurence Marriott started university life at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, with a County Major Award to read Arabic in 1969. Following a twenty-year career in music and theatre, he took a PhD in literary history from Leicester University. He has been teaching English, Media and American Studies at Northampton since January 1999.

Laurence's research and literary interests include late-Victorian British literature, including slum fiction and naturalism, nineteenth-century French literature, and American literature from 1890-1940. He is currently working on an article on the influence of naturalism on British proletarian fiction of the 1930s, an article on Frank Norris, and an edited collection of naturalist short stories. He has given international conference papers in the USA on the works of Sherwood Anderson and Frank Norris.

'The Importance of Teaching Listening Comprehension at the University Level'

Abstract: This paper focuses on the important role that listening comprehension plays in English language teaching. Listening skill has been neglected for many years and most universities have excluded this skill from their curriculum in spite of the vital impact that listening skill has in developing learners' knowledge about language. The study shows some definitions of listening and the processes of listening. It also reveals some of the difficulties faced by students while learning English language. The teachers' role is also explored through this study. A questionnaire has been conducted and distributed to university teachers to express their viewpoints of the role and strategies of listening comprehension. One of the main conclusions of this study is that listening comprehension skill should not be neglected particularly at the university level. Instead, listening should gain the priority over other skills due to the significant role listening plays in enhancing other skills.

Professor. Dr. Abbas Deygan Darweesh Al-Duleimi has acted as the Assistant Dean of the College of Education at the University of Babylon. He is a specialist in Linguistics and Translation, who has published over thirty peer reviewed academic papers and spoken at academic conferences internationally.

Dr Jodi-Anne George

01 April 2015

'Derek Jarman's Mediaevalism'

Abstract: While he is often portrayed as having a particular affiliation with the Renaissance, the films of Derek Jarman in fact engage with a highly eclectic array of influences, both early and modern. For example, *The Angelic Conversation* (1985) is often described as a film version of Shakespeare's Sonnets. However, the film's imagery owes far more to the Old English elegy, *The Wanderer* and upon closer inspection, a good many of Jarman's films have their roots in mediaeval literature. Indeed, he viewed his punk film *Jubilee* as 'a healing fiction' that 'harked back to *Pearl* and *Piers Plowman*'; while he claimed that *The Last of England* was structured like a mediaeval dream vision. Jarman's work is unusual in that it is simultaneously experimental *and* traditional. *The Garden* (1990), for example, also takes the form of a dream vision, and borrows from works like the Anglo-Saxon poem, *The Dream of the Rood*, while at the same time recalling avant-garde *trauma films* such as Jean Cocteau's *The Blood of a Poet* (1930).

This talk will offer a close reading of the mediaeval aspects of several key Jarman films. It will also consider important references to mediaeval literature in his journals and notebooks and will look at his unfilmed "Medieval epic" *Bob Up-A-Down*. Finally, I will also argue that Jarman belongs to a clear line of European filmmakers, including Sergei Eisenstein, Ingmar Bergman, Robert Bresson and Pier Paolo Pasolini and British filmmakers such as Michael Powell, Ken Russell and John Boorman who have shown a fascination with the Middle Ages in their work.

Jodi-Anne George is a Senior Lecturer in English and Theatre Studies at the University of Dundee, where she also directs the JOOT Theatre Company. Jo has

published widely on Old and Middle English poetry, early drama, the Pre-Raphaelites and the history of the animal welfare movement. She is currently working on a book chapter on 'Derek Jarman's Mediaevalism' as well as a monograph on the Pre-Raphaelites and the theatre.

Symposium: 'Personas in Production'

08 April 2015

Convened by: Professor Janet Wilson, Melanie Wattenbarger (The University of Mumbai) & Dr Larissa Allwork.

This symposium will examine the typefication, marketing practices and consumption of an author's identity in the publishing process. By "publishing process" this examination is intended to focus on any time frame from the moment the author finishes writing her piece, through the editing process, to the point when the physical work is available on book shelves.

Some questions to consider include: How does the publishing industry create and sell a persona of authors with hybrid/hyphenated identities? Are authors presented as fully assimilated to the host country or as concretely tied to "ethnic" roots? Particularly when second and third generation immigrant writers are being marketed in relation to the motherland, how is their identity accepted as authentic? How does current scholarship on identity, nationhood, ethnicity, groupism and diaspora apply to the actual practices in the publishing field? As academics, how do scholars contribute to the perception, reception and dissemination of authors' personas to a wider reading public? How has the development of Digital Humanities and social media affected the process of the production and perception of authorial identity?

The symposium's keynote lecture will be delivered by Dr Caroline Davis (Oxford Brookes University).