

## English Department MA Supervisors' Expertise and Research Interests

### **Anita Auer**

I welcome *mémoire* proposals on the following topics: History of English, Philology (Old English, Middle English and Modern English), language variation and change (past and present, regional and social), corpus linguistics, stylistics (language of literature), dialectology, (socio)historical linguistics, language standardisation, language and gender, language and identity, language acquisition and language attrition, language and migration, bi- and multilingualism, language and politics, discourse, as well as language learning and teaching.

### **Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*English Textbooks in Swiss Baccalaureate Schools: Reflections on Culture*

*The Language of Young Irish People Online: A Sociolinguistic Corpus Investigation*

*The African American Matter Through The Eyes of a 20th Century White Southern Man. A Historical Sociolinguistic Perspective on Raymond Floyd Evans' Diary*

*Spanish Language Maintenance and Shift in the Anglo-Chilean Community in Sheffield*

### **Jessica Brown**

My research interests centre around linguistics, in particular how people understand and process grammar (psycholinguistics, syntax). I'm especially interested in how people adapt to hearing and seeing grammar that is unexpected for them, for example in language learning or multilingual contexts, and how that adaptation process drives change. My newest project looks at language learning and change in Vaud English speakers. I welcome students on any topic connected to my research: change, grammar, language learning, English in non-anglophone countries, comparisons between English and other languages. I also - very much - welcome any work in linguistics that uses computational or experimental methods (i.e., anything that interacts with data science), regardless of the linguistic topic, and can provide full support in setting up a project of this kind.

### **Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*Perceptions of English in Urban and Rural Vaud*

### **Valérie Cossy**

My research interests hinge on the building of gender through literature: focussing on a period that goes from the late Enlightenment to the present day, I am particularly interested in how the understanding of gender can be seen to be shifting between essentialist, on the one hand, and political or cultural definitions, in English and in French, on the other. I therefore welcome proposals on works by Jane Austen, Mary Wollstonecraft, Elizabeth Braddon, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, D. H. Lawrence, Jeannette Winterson, Margaret Atwood, and on how these can intersect (or not) with texts from the same period in French (by Rousseau, Isabelle de Charrière, Stendhal, Flaubert, Zola, Alice Rivaz, Simone de Beauvoir, Annie Ernaux...).

### **Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*Re-writing the 'feminine' in the 1950s and Thinking about gender now: Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar,*

*Margaret Drabble's The Millstone, and Ian McEwan's On Chesil Beach*

*Indefinite Sovereignty: empire, captivity, and narratives of sovereign power*

*Feminist discourses and their poetics in science fiction novels between the 1980s and now: The example of Margaret Atwood's contemporary fictions (The Handmaid's Tale (1986), Oryx and Crake (2003), The Year of the Flood (2010), and MaddAddam (2013))*

**Rory Critten**

My research focuses principally on late-medieval literature in England in English and French. I would be happy to supervise Masters theses on any medieval topic. Particular interests include: the histories of authorship and autobiography; the conceptualization of the home; medieval English multilingualism and the history of language instruction; and historical gender studies.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*The Auchinleck Manuscript: A Mother's Book? Family, Lineage, and Education in Booklet One*  
*Using the 'language of Sutholke speche': Vernacular hagiographies of women in fifteenth-century East Anglia*

**Kevin Curran**

My expertise lies in the literature and drama of the early modern period in England (1500-1700), especially the theater of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Historical and theoretical interests that relate to theater include law (judgment and forgiveness, peace and reconciliation, witnessing and testimony), science, philosophy, material culture, and performance. I will also consider supervising select topics in modern and contemporary theater, especially if they connect to seminars I have taught.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

Experiments in Community on the Contemporary Shakespearean Stage  
Dancing Shakespeare: Transposing Text into Movement in Three Shakespearean Ballets  
French Shakespeare: Translation, Performance, Gender  
Staging the New Past: Irish Drama and the Representation of History in the Late Twentieth Century

**Diana Denissen**

I welcome *mémoire* proposals on any medieval topic. My particular research interests include medieval women as authors and readers, religious literature and culture, the history of reading, manuscript studies (palaeography, codicology), early-print culture, or any other aspect of the material text. I would also be happy to supervise – and help students find – editing projects of yet unpublished medieval texts. I furthermore welcome students interested in the connections between medieval England and continental Europe, especially (present-day) Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

**Rachel Falconer**

As Professor of Modern English Literature, I welcome MA *mémoires* on a range of topics in modern and contemporary literature. Please do approach me early (one or two semesters before you intend to start) as I tend to get booked up in advance. One of my areas of expertise is in reinterpretations of the literary descent into the underworld, and more broadly, the reception of classical literature and myth in contemporary literature. Another strong interest is in any aspect of environmental writing, from poetry and prose, to mixed media and interdisciplinary forms, especially environmental art that engages with the science of climate change. *Mémoires* on the reception of earlier literature in contemporary times are also welcome (for example, environmental, post-colonial or feminist approaches to Milton's *Paradise Lost*). I'm happy to consider co-supervising comparative and interdisciplinary *mémoires* that involve partnering with colleagues from other departments. For a selection of student projects I've previously supervised, see:

<https://people.unil.ch/rachelfalconer/maresearch-supervision/>

### **Martine Hennard Dutheil**

My expertise lies in modern English literature, comparative literature and translation studies (theory, practice, reception), with a focus on the interplay of translation and rewriting, and the poetics and politics of translation. I welcome projects on Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll, the Brontës, Joseph Conrad, Oscar Wilde, Samuel Beckett, Vladimir Nabokov, and Angela Carter; relatedly, I have a particular interest in fables, tales and fairy tales, their translations, rewritings, adaptations and transmediations from Antiquity to the present. The projects should adopt a comparative approach (English/French/German/Latin/Italian): Translation Studies; Adaptation Studies; Word & Image Studies; transcreation and transmediation; world literatures in English. I am also interested in supervising interdisciplinary projects with colleagues working in French literature, German, Italian, Latin (Classics), Russian, History of Art, and Film Studies.

### **Recently supervised mémoires include:**

The Interplay of Word and Image in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and Two Illustrated Editions by Fritz Eichenberg and Paula Rego: A Comparative Analysis

Down the Rabbit Hole of Claude Ponti's *Ma Vallée* (1998) and its Translations: A Comparative Analysis of Dual Address

Nancy Huston's Poetics of Self-translation in *Dolce Agonia* and *L'empreinte de l'ange*: "Habiter deux langues" / Dwelling in Two Languages

Dancing Between Words and Media: Textual and Visual Metamorphoses of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*

Vladimir Nabokov's Lifelong Conversation with Lewis Carroll's Alice, from Anya to Lolita

Joseph Jacobs' *English Fairy Tales* and Italo Calvino's *Fiabe Italiane*: Collecting Folklore, Inventing National Culture

### **Isis Giraldo (co-supervision only)**

Interdisciplinary in nature, my work belongs in the fields of cultural and media studies, particularly within critical approaches that recentre power and social justice. Currently, I am particularly interested in works that emphasise colonial legacies and the afterlives of Empire(s). My broad research interests include latinx literature; feminist, and/or queer, and/or postcolonial literature; Native American literature and history; African American literature, history, and culture; comparative literatures (English, French, and Spanish) and theories. I welcome proposals on literary and/or media and/or cultural studies from intersectional and critical perspectives and from students willing to engage with a wide range of theoretical approaches including feminist theories, affect theory, critical race theory, queer theory, and postcolonial/decolonial theories.

### **Denis Renevey**

As Professor of Medieval English, I am interested in supervising *mémoires* in a broad range of topics linked to medieval literature and culture, mainly from 1150 to 1500, but I would also consider topics linked to the Anglo-Saxon period. I would welcome *mémoires* dealing with Chaucer, the Gawain author, Gower, and Langland, from a large variety of perspectives, including gender studies and emotion studies. I am also aware of the importance of medieval religious culture in general, and the role of lay and religious women as authors, patrons and readers of religious texts in particular. Relations between England and the continent, as well as issues of multilingualism and translation, are also areas I am very keen to investigate. I also find the interface between religious and medical discourses fascinating, and would welcome *mémoires* on this aspect as well. I welcome a broad variety of theoretical perspectives, as long as close reading and historical perspectives receive proper attention.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*Redefining the Consolatio: On the Primacy of Emotions in Pearl and the Book of the Duchess*

*Female Agency in three Middle English Popular Romances*

*Addressing People of “simple knowyng” through the Concept of Compilatio: The Prospects of a Wider Readership. The Devotional Text Contemplations of the Dread and Love of God in Light of its Textual Agency and its Manuscript Contexts*

### **Esther de Leeuw**

I welcome the supervision of *mémoires* that have to do with bi/multilingualism and regional and social variation, particularly through acoustic analysis and experimental design. Specific areas of interest of mine range from language acquisition and attrition to language variation and change. Below, there is an example list of MA theses that I have supervised in the past in London, UK and I am looking forward to continuing similar projects in Lausanne, Switzerland.

#### **Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

Effect of age of acquisition and use on degree of foreign accent in Cantonese-English bilinguals in London, UK

Phonological L1 attrition in Albanian-English late bilinguals

Phonetic stress realization in the L1 speech of L1 Polish – L2 English bilinguals in London, UK

A formant analysis of situational style-shifting in Multicultural London English

Executive control and phonetic interaction in elicited code-switching: Analysing the impact of age of acquisition and language use on Italian-English bilinguals' control of speech production in a bilingual mode

Language maintenance in minority language speakers from large versus small minority language groups

### **Sangam MacDuff (co-supervision only)**

My research focuses on anglophone literature from the eighteenth century to the present, with a particular interest in the development of the novel, Romantic poetry and poetics, literary epiphanies, modernism, postmodernism, 20th-21st century Scottish and Irish literature, literary theory, and synergies between literature, science, mathematics and logic. I would welcome *mémoire* proposals on James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, Samuel Beckett, J. M. Coetzee, or any aspect of modernist or postmodernist literature, as well as research projects on literature and logic, mathematics or philosophy, from 1850 to the present.

### **Matt Scully**

My research focuses on the literature and culture of the United States from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, with a particular interest in problems of democracy, equality, and freedom. I work in a range of disciplines, including literary theory, visual culture and film, Black studies, Asian American studies, queer theory, Marxism, psychoanalysis, and Indigenous studies. Within the context of these broader fields, I am especially concerned with the relation between art and politics; questions of genre and form; the realist tradition; modernism vs. postmodernism; histories of anarchy and revolt; and how both individuals and communities are shaped by formations of gender, sex, race, and class. I would be eager to supervise *mémoires* on any of these topics or others related to the broader traditions of American literature, film, and art.

### **Agnieszka Soltysik**

Students who are interested in any aspect of American culture or literature, especially from the late 18th century to the present, or who want to work on feminism, gender or queer studies in relation to American texts or films, or who wish to write on American cinema or visual culture (graphic novels, photography, media), are encouraged to submit proposals. I welcome students interested in genres such as science fiction, the gothic/horror, melodrama, adventure, war narrative, nature writing, or autobiography as well as students with an interest in cultural studies issues: race, class, politics, or the postcolonial. *Mémoires* with a focus on eco-criticism, political criticism, and gender

studies are especially welcome. Finally, students wishing to write about African American or Native American literature and culture are also invited to contact me.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*The Figurative Power of Science Fiction: the Vietnam War in Joe Haldeman's "The Forever War"*

*The Representation of Journalism in "The Newsroom" by Aaron Sorkin*

*Ideology and American Empire: Narrating 9/11 and the War on Terror in Speeches by George W. Bush and Barack Obama*

*Queer Madness in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper", Shirley Jackson's "The Haunting of Hill House" and Darren Aronofsky's "Black Swan"*

*"Ecotopia" Revitalized: Imagining our Way to a Sustainable Future*

*"Redefining National Identities and Illustrating Erasure". A Political Reenactment of Indigenous Identities in Australian Graphic Novels*

**Rachael Stanley (co-supervision only)**

I would be delighted to supervise a *mémoire* on any aspect of British literature from the twentieth century. I have a particular interest in female modernists (authors I work on include Djuna Barnes, Mary Butts, Katherine Mansfield, Jean Rhys and Virginia Woolf) but I would be happy to work on anything focussed on the modernist era. I am also interested in the legacies of realism and naturalism in the twentieth century, a context I have applied to research on the works of James Joyce, George Orwell, J.G. Ballard and Ian McEwan. Some themes that interest me are: eroticism, literary inheritance, the gaze, ekphrasis, genre, Francophone influences on British writers.

### **Enit Steiner**

I look forward to supervising *mémoires* on works written between late-seventeenth century to mid-nineteenth century (e.g. A. Behn, D. Defoe, J. Austen, M. Wollstonecraft, M. Shelley, the Wordsworths, Byron, P. Shelley, W. Collins, etc.), as well as works of post-colonial literature (e.g. by authors such as A. Roy, J. M. Coetzee, C. Achebe, C. Ngozi Adichie, K. Desai, etc.).

Here some suggestions for research topics: representations of race, gender, class; slavery; travel narratives; ecopoetics/ecosophy, curiosity, exoticism; philosophy of cosmopolitanism, i.e. "being citizens of the world"; 18<sup>th</sup>-century revolutions and human rights; Gothic and Oriental genre; education, discipline and the body (e.g. with emphasis on totalitarianism and surveillance); emotions; (post)-Enlightenment; utopian fiction; questions of style such as irony, narration, genre; cinematic adaptations.

#### **Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*A Queer Novel of All Times: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*

*Black Women's Hair: Symbol of Womanhood and Race, Locus of Oppression*

*Villainizing the East?: Oriental Despotism in William Beckford's Vathek and Wilkie Collins' The Moonstone*

*Incest, Romanticism and Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things*

### **Kirsten Stirling**

I am happy to supervise *mémoires* particularly on English literature of the early modern period and the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and Scottish literature of any period. I have particular expertise/interest in the following authors: John Donne, J.M. Barrie, Alasdair Gray; and the following topics: word and image studies; literature and religion; literature and nation; fantasy and supernatural literature.

#### **Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*Maps, Spheres and Places in Donnean Love. Donne's spatial representations in the Songs and Sonnets*

*Post-Identity: an analysis of identity formation in Gray's Lanark and 1982 Janine*

*Subversion and the Supernatural in Modern Scottish Literature*

*The James Plays: A Case Study in Nation, Theatre and the Influence of the Female*

### **Jennifer Thorburn (on research leave for the 2023-24 academic year)**

I welcome *mémoires* on the following topics: sociolinguistics; language variation and change; language attitudes and ideologies; digitally-mediated discourse; language maintenance and revitalisation; language commodification; dialect/language use in film, TV, music, and media; language and gender; language and sexuality; perceptual dialectology; second language/dialect acquisition.

#### **Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*Authorship in Fanfiction: Textual and Paratextual Analysis of Identity Performance*

*English Language Acquisition in the Canton de Vaud: A critical Analysis of More!8e*

*Identity Construction and Self-Presentation in Vlogs: A Multimodal and Discursive Analysis of YouTube Beauty Gurus' "Favorites" Videos*

*"In My Head and In My Body, A Million Things Happen and It's Incredible": An Analysis of Ten Women's Discourse on Female Pleasure*

*The Last of Us Part II: Queerphobic Discourse in Video Game Reviews*

### **Boris Vejdovsky**

I welcome *mémoire* proposals in Early American/colonial, 18th Cent./Revolution, American Renaissance, The Harlem Renaissance—Jazz, Cinema, Modernism and Pomo.



Writers of particular interest: Columbus; Cotton Mather; Marie Rowlandson; Anne Bradstreet; Thomas Jefferson; St John de Crèvecoeur; American Renaissance: Melville, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Whitman, Emerson, Dickinson; Henry James; Modern American poetry: Stevens, Langston Hughes, William Carlos Williams, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, James Baldwin, Richard Wright; Beat poetry: Allen Ginsberg, Diane di Prima, Lawrence Ferlinghetti; Nancy Huston, Margaret Atwood.

I also welcome students interested in American rhetoric; America and Americans as metaphor; Literature and/as space; Gender and sexuality (representations thereof); Race and/in American literature/studies; Film, film and literature, and The Western.

Students will be encouraged to draw on insights and methods of “Theory” (Deconstruction and Postmodern); Rhetorical reading, and Close reading.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*Urban Space and Postmodern Novel*

*Homoeroticism and American Biopolitics in the Fiction of James Baldwin*

*Empathy and Literary Imagination*

*Postfeminism in the Novels of Margaret Atwood*

*The Performance of Tropes in the Writings of Christopher Columbus*

**Juliette Vuile**

I welcome *mémoire* proposals focussed on a broad range of topics linked to medieval literature and culture. My particular areas of interest and expertise lie in Old English poetry, hagiography (saints' lives), gender studies, Chaucer, and writing poetry about writing poetry.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

The *Lignum Maris* in Translations of Old English Poetry

Failures of Secular and Religious Femininity in Pre- and early Post-Conquest English

Literature: Exploring the Queer Regendering of Virginal Militancy in *The Life of Christina of Markyate*

Gender and Authorship in the Lives of Christina of Markyate, Elizabeth of Spalbeek,

Christina Mirabilis, Marie d'Oignies, and *The Book of Margery Kempe*

“On þyrzas ond firas”, Monsters, Identity, and Religion in Anglo-Saxon Literature

**Marie Walz (co-supervision only)**

I welcome *mémoires* in modern English literature and comparative literature. I have particular expertise and interest in cross-period comparative studies, especially feminist and young adult rewritings of fairy tales, fantasy, and speculative fiction, as well as in intermedial studies, especially in comic books and between text, film, and music. I am happy to supervise projects particularly on the following authors: Angela Carter, Francesca Lia Block, Bill Willingham, Neil Gaiman, and Ursula K. Le Guin.

**Christiania Whitehead (co-supervision only)**

I welcome *mémoire* proposals in all fields of medieval English literature from 1100-1500, but have a particular interest in religious writing, including saints' lives, religious lyrics, and visionary and mystical discourses, especially those aimed at or generated by women. I have taught Arthurian literature extensively, from Geoffrey of Monmouth to Thomas Malory, with a secondary focus on the afterlife of the Arthurian myth from 1800 to the present (Tennyson, Pre-Raphaelite poets and artists, Mark Twain, T.H. White etc.), and would enjoy directing *mémoires* in this field. More broadly, I am happy to supervise work on key Middle English authors and genres such as Geoffrey Chaucer, the *Gawain*-poet, dynastic and popular romance, Breton lai, dream-vision and allegory.