Anita Auer was elected president of Section d'anglais at the Assemblée de Section on 13 June, while Denis Renevey was elected vice-president. Anita takes over as head of department from August 2018.

The newsletter will take a break over the summer and return in October. Information to be included in the October newsletter should be submitted to benjamin.pickford@unil.ch by Friday 28 September

Staff News

PhD Defences

Philip Lindholm successfully defended his PhD thesis “Synaesthesia in British Romantic Poetry” on 14 June. His external examiners were Prof Nicholas Roe (University of St Andrews), Prof Tim Fulford (DeMontfort University, via Skype) and Prof Simon Swift (University of Geneva).

Rachel Nisbet successfully defended her PhD thesis “Anthropocene River Narratives” on 12 June. Her external examiners were Prof Kate Rigby (Bath Spa University), Dr David Higgins (University of Leeds) and Dr Martin Hugo Leer (University of Geneva).

Research and Publications

Hazel Blair gave a paper entitled “Materiality and Materialism in the Middle English Life of St Robert of Knaresborough” at the the 6th International Anchoritic Society Conference at the University of East Anglia (UEA), 27-30 June.

Kevin Curran delivered a keynote lecture at the University of Cambridge on 2 July entitled "The Face of Judgment in Measure for Measure".

Martine Hennard Dutheil gave a talk at “Angela Carter and Japan”, a conference hosted by UEA on 30 June. The title of Martine’s talk was “‘Morning Glories of the Night’: Angela Carter’s Fireworks, from Baudelaire’s Fusées to Bashō’s haikus”.

Rachel Falconer will be interviewed this summer for a video on Seamus Heaney and Translation, to be shown at the National Library of Ireland.

Maria Rosa Garrido Sardà taught a block course at the University of Luxembourg on 1-2 June. The bilingual French/English course was entitled Multilingualism and Mobilities in the Global Economy, and formed part of UNILU’s Masters in Learning and Communication in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts. Maria Rosa also organised two events: the first, II EDiSo International Seminar-Assembly: Discourse and Society in the 21st Century- Key issues and challenges, held at the University of Vigo, Spain, on 12 June. Details: https://www.edisoportal.org/attachments/article/1351/Programme_def ENG.pdf. The second was part of the International seminar series on the politics of knowledge production in sociolinguistics: Le « non-dit » sur le terrain ethnographique /The unspoken in the ethnographic field, at the University of Fribourg on 20 June.
Staff News

Isis Giraldo was officially awarded the Best Essay Prize for her article “Coloniality at work: decolonial critique and the postfeminist regime,” published in 2016 in the journal Feminist Theory, during the Feminist Theory Annual Lecture on 11 June at Goldsmiths (University of London).

Cécile Heim gave a workshop entitled “Decolonizing Justice: Reimagining Justice within and without Legal Terms” at the Critical Ethnic Studies Associations’s annual meeting at the University of British Columbia, Canada, 20-24 June. Cécile also organised the 15th Annual Meeting of the Emerging Scholars’ Forum of the Association for Canadian Studies in German-speaking Countries, University of Bern, on the theme “Witnessing Resurgence: Self-Determination and Allyship” between 29 June - 1 July.


Department Events

The John Donne Society conference in Lausanne (27-30 June) was a great success, both academically and socially. The academic papers, a poetry reading, and the usual spirited camaraderie at various receptions left many conference delegates declaring they would move to Lausanne at the first opportunity!

Staff News

The FNS Research Team on Late Medieval Devotion to Northern English Saints, led by Denis Renevey, organised two three-paper sessions and a four-paper roundtable, all entitled “Remembering the Northern Saints” at the Leeds International Medieval Congress, 2-5 July, where the respondent will be Professor Jocelyn Wogan-Browne. All three members of the team are presenting papers, on St Bega, St Robert of Knaresborough, and St Aelred of Rievaulx. Denis was also interviewed in Allez savoir! in May on the topic of Robin Hood (details: http://wp.unil.ch/allezsavoir/aux-fraises-robin/). Additionally, Denis’s essay “Grandson in the World: From the Pays de Vaud to Edward III’s Court”, was published in in The Medieval Translator/Traduire au Moyen Âge, ed. C. Batt and R. Tixier (Turnhout: Brepols, 2018). Finally, Denis acted as external examiner for a thesis cohosted by UNIL and Paris Sorbonne on 25 June. The thesis - “L’écriture de la voix poétique du rondeau sans musique à la fin du Moyen Âge (1350-1465)” - was successfully defended by Mathias Sieffert.

Below: The John Donne Society Conference

Information for inclusion in the October 2018 newsletter should be submitted to benjamin.pickford@unil.ch by 28 September
Student News

Mémoire Defences

The staff of the English department extend their congratulations to the following students who successfully defended their MA mémoires in the June examination session:

Tatiana Aguiar E Silva: Food, Body and Gender in Late Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Century Literature

Florence Antonioli: Thomas Cromwell and the Tudor Court in Hilary Mantel's "Wolf Hall" and "Bring up the Bodies" : Between Historic Reality and Literary Fiction

Johanne Boulat: The Passing Mirror: Identity in Boys Don’t Cry, Giovanni’s Room, and From Caucasia, With Love

Billy Bruchez: Second language acquisition in childhood. Syntactic structures and mistakes in oral productions by children learning English as a second language

Marina Bundgaard: The Neoliberal System and the Culture of Violence in Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam Trilogy. A response to our current ecological plea

Sophie Jouillerot: The Black Female Bodies: Gendered and Racialized Representations in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Purple Hibiscus and Americanah

Ladina Knuesli: Sollte dies mein Geschreibsel meine theure Heymuth erreichen : Linguistic Variation in the Diary of a 19th-century Swiss German Migrant

Chelsea Lechevallier: The Pleasure and Pain of Female Sexual Awakenings in Caribbean Fiction : Reading Representations of Puberty in Jamaica Kincaid’s Annie John and Oonya Kempadoo's Buxton Spice

Noémie Licini: A Comparative Study Of Post-Stroke Aphasia in India and Switzerland. Prof. Jürg Schwyter specifically commends this mémoire’s “proposals to improve speech and language therapy, and the cognitive, behavioural and emotional well-being of stroke survivors”, adding that “it may help stroke survivors particularly in developing countries”

Lila Mabiala: I Dream It, I Work Hard, I Grind ’til I Own It. Black Women’s Emancipation and Hair in Beyoncé’s “Lemonade”

Laura Marchand: High School Students’ Attitudinal and Motivational Variables in Second Language Acquisition: A Comparison Between the Regular EFL Curriculum and the Bilingual French-English General “Baccalaureate” Degree

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

Alice Moraz: Pervasiveness of commerce and functions of the market(place) in Shakespeare’s The Comedy of Errors and The Merchant of Venice and Middleton’s A Chaste Maid in Cheapside

Valentina Praekelt San Martin: Natalist campaign on Facebook: the "Fertility Day" case

Elodie Rogliardo: Every Word out of Our Mouth is a Song: The Power of Words to Overcome the Trauma of Rape and Slavery in Ntozake Shange’s Works

Ileana Romano: Spanish Language Maintenance and Shift in the Anglo-Chilean Community in Sheffield

Saana Tuuli Vallotton: First-generation Finnish Immigrants in the Swiss Romandie: Language Choice and Use

Victoria Von Doderer: Twenty-First Century Hemingway: The Rescue of an Immortal Soul

Information for inclusion in the October 2018 newsletter should be submitted to benjamin.pickford@unil.ch by 28 September
Study Trips

The Shakespeare Trip 2018 to London and Stratford took place on June 25-29, and - as the photograph suggests - its participants enjoyed some singularly un-British weather!

Forthcoming Events

Forthcoming Summer Schools for 2018 featuring staff from the English Department include the 12th Summer School in Historical Sociolinguistics, organised by Anita Auer and Tino Oudesluys, between 22-29 July (details: http://wp.unil.ch/summerschools/courses/historical-sociolinguistics/) and the Summer School on Postcolonialism, 27-31 August, which will be cotaught by Isis Giraldo (details: http://wp.unil.ch/summerschools/courses/postcolonialisme/)

The Formation Continue one-day course for teachers of English for 2018, “Medievalism and Literary Representations of the Past”, will be held on 7 September, 8h45-18h30, at UNIL/EPFL. The aims of this one-day course are to explore the ways in which the medieval has appealed to generations of writers, filmmakers, and artists, and to explore ways in which medieval texts and culture can be offered in the classroom, via the use of adaptations in particular. Details: https://agenda.unil.ch/display/1525787232977

Open Calls for Papers


Information for inclusion in the October 2018 newsletter should be submitted to benjamin.pickford@unil.ch by 28 September