**UNIL’s English Department:**

**MA Supervisors’ Expertise and Research Interests**

**Anita Auer**

As Professor of English Linguistics, 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, bi- and multilingualism, language and politics, discourse, language learning and teaching; British Englishes, North American Englishes

**Sarah Baccianti**

I am interested in supervising *mémoires* in Old English, Old Norse and Anglo-Latin literature, with a particular focus on: historiography, creation of national identities, medieval translation studies,

literature and history of Viking Age England, history of science, Old Norse romances, and modern

adaptations/appropriations of medieval literature.

**Joanne Chassot**

I welcome *mémoire* proposals in the areas of African diaspora, African American and Caribbean literature and culture, postcolonial studies and literature, gender and queer studies, trauma studies and literature. I have particular expertise in ghosts, zombies and other gothic figures in 20th and 21st century literature and popular culture, slave narratives and neo-slave narratives, slavery and the Middle Passage, and orientalism.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

1. *Writing the Black Body in Toni Morrison’s* Beloved

2. *Defining and exploring Chicano hybrid identity in three novels written by Lucha Corpi, Ana*  *Castillo and Mario Alberto Zambrano*

**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:**

1. *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

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

3. *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)*

**Kevin Curran**

My expertise lies in the literature and drama of the early modern period in England (1500-1700), including especially the work of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. I have historical interests in early modern law, science, philosophy, and material culture (including book history). I have theoretical interests in phenomenology, objects, animal studies, ecotheory, and performance.  

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**  
1. *Female Sovereignty and Shakespeare's Plays*2. *Networks of Social Debt in Early Modern Literature*3. *Court Performance and Anglo-Ottoman Relations in Jacobean England*

**Rachel Falconer**

As Professor of Modern and Contemporary Literature, I am happy to consider supervising any mémoire on post-1945 British or Irish literature, especially poetry and fiction (and some drama, for example, Pinter or Churchill).

Writers of particular interest: Kazuo Ishiguro, Ian McEwan, Helen MacDonald (fiction); Seamus Heaney, Kathleen Jamie, Ted Hughes (poetry).

I also have expertise in classics (especially Virgil) and early modern literature (especially Milton), and am particularly interested in comparative approaches which juxtapose contemporary texts with literature of earlier periods. Studies of how post-1945 writers have revised classical myth from socially marginal positions (feminist, northern, working class, children's lit, etc.) would be very welcome. The descent to Hell (katabasis) in classical and contemporary literature is a subject of particular expertise.

My interests in poetry are extensive, but I would above all encourage MA students to explore its soundscapes, to seek out parallels with musical expression. I would consider supervise any comparative memoire exploring links between music and literature.

 My current research is on the subject of posthuman relations to nature (eco-criticism, nature writing, animal stories), so I would welcome any topics on the representation of human-animal, or human-nature relations in literature from 19C to the present.

I use an eclectic range of literary theory and philosophy, but any mémoire supervised by me would need a solid foundation in nuanced, close reading of literary texts.

My style of supervision is to encourage the student to develop their individual critical voice. I work best with independent, creative thinkers who like to challenge themselves with big questions, but are at the same time very careful and attentive to detail.

I can supervise a maximum of five mémoires per semester. Please inquire early to avoid disappointment. If you'd like advice about other potential supervisors in Modern English, don't hesitate to ask me.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

1. *Hear in my Voice: Storytelling, Music and the Arts in Amy Beth Kirsten's* (speak to me) *[a retelling of the myth of Echo and Narcissus, for solo piano and voice]*

2.(*Re)defining 'nature' in Alice Oswald's* Dart *and Kathleen Jamie's* Findings *and* Sightlines

3. *Metamorphic Selves in Contemporary Underworld Fiction*

**Mary Flannery**

I welcome proposals for mémoires dealing with later medieval and 'early' Early Modern English literature and culture (c. 1300-1600).  Writers on whose work I have particular expertise include: Chaucer; authors of late fourteenth-century political verse; the *Gawain*​-Poet; fifteenth-century poets (including Hoccleve and Lydgate); the Middle Scots poets (esp. Henryson and Dunbar),and John Skelton.

Given my research interests in dangerous speech, emotions, gender, and media, I would be happy to speak to any students interested in pursuing a mémoire on these or related topics.  My own work has been shaped by historicist approaches and gender studies, as well as by anthropology and media theory, and this background informs my guidance of mémoire students.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

Topics ranging from the reception of Christine de Pizan in later medieval England to Elizabeth I's translation of Boethius.

**Martine Hennard Dutheil**

I welcome memoires focussing on

* 19th-21st century fiction (especially the novel and the short story), especially Dickens, the Brontës, Conrad, Wilde, Nabokov, Atwood, Carter, Donoghue, and Atwood.
* The fairy tale tradition (reception, adaptation, translation, rewriting in different genres and media from Antiquity to the present;
* Comparative literature/comparative studies.

My research interest include English/French/German/Latin (Italian) literatures; word & image studies; translation practice and theory, especially the interplay of translation and rewriting; *transcreation* and transposition in different languages, cultures, genres and media; world literatures in English. I am also interested in supervising interdisciplinary projects with French/Francophone literature, Asian studies, German, Italian, Latin, History of medicine, History of Art, and Film Studies.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

1. *Philip Pullman’s Translation Project in* Grimm Tales for Young and Old (2013)

2. *Dancing Between Words and Media: Textual and Visual Metamorphoses of Oscar Wilde’s* Salome

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

**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 multi-lingualism 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:**

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

2. Female Agency in three Middle English Popular Romances

3*. 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*

**Patricia Ronan**

I welcome memoires focussing on: language variation and change; languages and cultures in the British Isles and Ireland; Forensic Linguistics and Authorship Attribution; English as a Second Language; English in Switzerland; Language Attitudes; Morphosyntax; Pragmatics.

I also work on Medieval Celtic Literature (8th - 14th century; both Irish and Welsh literature).

The Language Varieties I predominantly work with are:

Present Day English (British, Irish and International Varieties), Early Modern English, Old- and Middle English, Irish Language, Welsh Language.

My main fields, methodologies and frameworks are: Language Variation, Historical Linguistics, Language Attitudes; Quantitative and Qualitative methods; Corpus linguistics, Language Typology, Grammaticalisation theory; Medieval Celtic Literature.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**  
1. *Attitudes of Swiss-Italian High School Students of the Lugano District Towards English: A Comparison With the Swiss National Languages*

2. *Language and Cultural Attitudes of Eritrean Immigrants in Romandie towards French and Tigrinya: A Case Study of Two Generations*

3. *Media provision in a context of language revival: the case of Manx in the Isle of Man*

**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, are encouraged to submit proposals for MA theses.

As Professor of American Literature, I also welcome students interested in genres such as the fantastic, the gothic/horror, melodrama, adventure or science fiction and students with an interest in cultural studies issues such as race, class, politics, or the postcolonial. *Mémoires* with a special focus on critical theory are also invited, as well as eco-criticism, neo-Marxism, and gender studies. Finally, students wishing to write about African American or Native American literature and culture are welcome.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

1. “The Figurative Power of Science Fiction: the Vietnam War in Joe Haldeman’s The Forever War”

2. “Graphic Memoirs and Vivid Characters : A Comparative Analysis of Alison Bechdel’s Are You My Mother ? and Nicole J. Georges’s Calling Dr Laura”

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

**Jürg Schwyter**

I am happy to supervise *mémoires* that examine all aspects of aphasia, language recovery and/or multilingualism after a stroke.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

1. Multilingual Aphasia: Assessment, Treatment and Recovery

2. Language Recovery after a Stroke: A Case Study

**Enit Steiner**

I look forward to supervising *mémoires* on works written between mid-seventeenth century to mid-nineteenth century, in particular works by Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft, Frances Brooke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau (in particular his impact on British Romanticism), Aphra Behn, William Godwin, Byron.

Students also interested in the fiction of post-colonial authors like Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai, Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie are welcome to approach me with their ideas.

Research topics may include and combine:

Representations of race, gender, class; depictions of home and abroad; travel narratives, space, curiosity, exoticism; Romantic ideologies; philosophy of cosmopolitanism, i.e. "being citizens of the world"; American and French Revolution; Gothic and Oriental tropes; education, discipline and the body (with special emphasis on totalitarianism and surveillance); emotions, manners and theatricality, the rise of the novel genre; Enlightenment and its own critique; the role of literature and reading; utopian fiction; questions of style such as irony, narration, genre, and cinematic adaptations.

Students will be encouraged to draw on insights and methods of New Historicist, gender, postcolonial, psychoanalytical and queer theory.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

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

**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:**

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

2. *Post-Identity: an analysis of identity formation in Gray's* Lanark *and* 1982Janine  
3. *Subversion and the Supernatural in Modern Scottish Literature*

**Jennifer Thorburn**

I welcome MA *mémoires* on the following topics: Language variation and change, sociolinguistics,

minority language communities, second language/dialect acquisition, language commodification,

dialect/language use in film/TV/ music/media, language attitudes, language and gender, language and sexuality, bi- and multilingualism, endangered languages, language maintenance and revitalisation, perceptual dialectology.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

1. *Investigating sex stereotypes in male and female athletes' speech: A case study of hedging devices*

2. *A study into the use of* um *and* uh *in BBC radio interviews*

3. *The high rising terminal: an analysis of high rising intonation across seven television sports*

*broadcasters*

**Marije Van Hattum**

I am happy to supervise *mémoires* on the following topics: Attitudes to language, Corpus Linguistics, Historical sociolinguistics, Historical syntax, Irish English, Language and Identity, Language and Migration, Language and Power, World Englishes.

**Recently supervised *mémoires* include:**

*1. An Analysis of the use of multimodality to create satire in political advertising*

*2. Do you hear what I hear? An investigation into the factors affecting attitudes to accents of the UK and Ireland*

3. *A Game of Tones: the use of British accents to create a North-South divide in the TV show Game of Thrones*

**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.

**Supervised *mémoires* (30+) covered topics including:**

Urban space and the Postmodern Novel; Homoeroticism and American Biopolitics in the Fiction of James Baldwin; Empathy and the literary imagination; Postfeminism in the Novels of Margaret Atwood; The Performance of Tropes in the Writings of Christopher Columbus.