

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

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)*

Rory Critten

My research focuses principally on late medieval literatures in English and French and on the history of the book during this period. Particular interests include the histories of French- and English-language authorship, the conceptualisation of the home in late medieval England, and medieval English multilingualism. I have also worked on earlier medieval English literature and have an article forthcoming on the Old English poem, *The Ruin*. I would be happy to supervise masters theses on any medieval topic. I would also be interested in developing projects with students that treat my research themes (book history, authorship, home life, multilingualism, ruins) in post-medieval contexts.

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

I welcome mémoire proposals on any aspect of 19-21C British or Irish literature, especially poetry and fiction. I am also a specialist of the 17C poet Milton's work. Thematic expertise: descents to Hell narratives; crossover literature (child/adult fiction); music and poetry; Romantic, nature, and eco-writing; epic narrative (poetry or prose); the lyric (theory/poetry); contemporary fiction (esp. Ishiguro, McEwan); poetry of any period.

Recently supervised *mémoires* include:

1. *'I stand in my own pain'*: Eurydice in modern and contemporary poetry
2. *(Re)defining 'nature' in Alice Oswald's Dart and Kathleen Jamie's Findings and Sightlines*
3. *Metamorphic Selves in Contemporary Underworld Fiction*

For further examples of previous supervision, see my web-page:

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

Maria Rosa Garrido Sarda

My research areas are critical ethnographic sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology. I am interested in language, mobilities and social exclusion; the sociolinguistic construction of transnational identities in international NGOs and social movements; multilingualism in globalised workplaces; and language education. My on-going postdoc project explores the management of linguistic resources at a major international organisation with a focus on humanitarian workers' trajectories across linguistic and national borders. I also participate in a funded research project that investigates the appropriation of English as a global language in international schools, state schools and semi-private Catholic schools.

I welcome MA *mémoires* on the following topics: multilingualism in society, the management of multilingualism in institutions (NGOs, public institutions, private companies), language policy, language and globalisation, language education, language policy, language and transnational identities, language and migration, language at work, language and social movements, language and identity in hip hop, linguistic landscaping, narratives and storytelling.

Martine Hennard Dutheil

I welcome memoirs 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*

Benjamin Pickford

I welcome MA *mémoire* proposals on nineteenth and early-twentieth century American/Anglophone literature and culture; literature in relation to philosophy, the history of ideas, and critical theory (Marxism in particular); literature and capitalism; literature and religion/theology; poetics; and theories of authorship. I have particular expertise and interest in American Transcendentalism (Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, etc.); the “American Renaissance” (Melville, Hawthorne, etc.); and the novel in American culture (Twain, Adams, Chopin, Dreiser, Wharton, James, Dos Passos, etc.)

I also have some more niche interests that may appeal to certain students, including the Beat writers and their legacy; nuclear weapons in US culture; the aesthetics of punk/post punk (in music, cinema, art, and literature).

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*

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 1982 Janine*
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*

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.

Juliette Vuille

My interests as a medievalist are quite wide. I would welcome *mémoires* in:

- Chaucer studies, particularly in Chaucer’s use of Latin and medieval French sources, and metapoetics (Chaucer’s writing of poetry about poetry).
- Gender studies, the representation of femininity, female sexuality and the body in Old and Middle English literature, but also the study of women in space, of female mystical writers such as Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe, or of female saints’ lives.
- Hagiography in Old and Middle English
- Palaeography and Manuscript studies