

English Department MA Supervisors' Expertise and Research Interests

Anita Auer (on research leave in 2022P)

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, language and migration, bi- and multilingualism, language and politics, discourse, as well as language learning and teaching.

Recently supervised *mémoires* include:

1. *English Textbooks in Swiss Baccalaureate Schools: Reflections on Culture*
2. *The Language of Young Irish People Online: A Sociolinguistic Corpus Investigation*
3. *The African American Matter Through The Eyes of a 20th Century White Southern Man. A Historical Sociolinguistic Perspective on Raymond Floyd Evans' Diary*
4. *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:

1. *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:

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), especially the theatre of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Historical and theoretical interests that relate to theatre include law (judgment and forgiveness, peace and reconciliation, witnessing and testimony), science, philosophy, material culture, and performance.

Recently supervised *mémoires* include:

1. *Dancing Shakespeare: Transposing Text into Movement in Three Shakespearean Ballets*
2. *French Shakespeare: Translation, Performance, Gender*
3. *Wit in Seventeenth-Century London Comedy*

Diana Denisson

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

I am interested in contemporary poetry, fiction, and documentary, essay writing. My scholarly research has recently resulted in the publication of *Seamus Heaney, Virgil and the Good of Poetry*, and previously, *Kathleen Jamie: Essays and Poems on her work*. Advanced research into both these poets would be encouraged. If you are interested in translation studies, a *mémoire* on the present poet laureate Simon Armitage would be a great idea. New nature writing is a particular interest, in line with with environmental activism (seeking ways to extend conversations with people outside the university context). I teach MA courses on environmental writing, on memory as a theme in contemporary UK fiction, and would be happy to supervise *mémoires* on this topic (e.g., the novels of Kazuo Ishiguro). I have further research interests in crossover fiction (children's literature read by adults) and fantasy fiction (Carroll, C S Lewis, Tolkien, Philip Pullman), and can supervise a limited number of *mémoires* on these authors. As a specialist of John Milton's poetry, I will gladly supervise *mémoires* on *Paradise Lost*, or any aspect of Milton's poetics. Comparative *mémoires* which look at the relation between 20-21C literature and classical myth, classical genres and literature would also be very welcome, as my first degree was in classics (specialising in Virgil's poetry).

Recently supervised *mémoires* include:

1. *(Re)defining 'nature' in Alice Oswald's Dart and Kathleen Jamie's Findings and Sightlines*
2. *'I stand in my own pain': Eurydice in modern and contemporary poetry*
3. *Chronotopic Ethics: Fleshing Out Time and Space in Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go*

4. *'Man is to live; and all things live for Man': Nature and Ecology in John Milton's Paradise Lost*
5. *Ovidian Myth in Amy Beth Kirsten's Music* (Co-supervised with Mathilda Reichler, Musicologue at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Lausanne)

For further examples of previous supervision, see my webpage:

<http://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 especially; relatedly, I have a particular interest in ancient 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/Francophone literature, Asian studies, German, Italian, Latin, History of Art, and Film Studies.

Recently supervised *mémoires* include:

1. *John Constantine: The Bastard Spirit of the British Invasion in Comic Books*
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 (on research leave in 2022P)

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*

Matthew Scully

My research focuses on the literature and culture of the United States from the late 18th 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:

1. *The Figurative Power of Science Fiction: the Vietnam War in Joe Haldeman's "The Forever War"*
2. *The Representation of Journalism in "The Newsroom" by Aaron Sorkin*
3. *Ideology and American Empire: Narrating 9/11 and the War on Terror in Speeches by George W. Bush and Barack Obama*
4. *Queer Madness in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper", Shirley Jackson's "The Haunting of Hill House" and Darren Aronofsky's "Black Swan"*
5. *"Ecotopia" Revitalized: Imagining our Way to a Sustainable Future*
6. *"Redefining National Identities and Illustrating Erasure". A Political Reenactment of Indigenous Identities in Australian Graphic Novels*

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"; 18th-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:

1. *A Queer Novel of All Times: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*
2. *Black Women's Hair: Symbol of Womanhood and Race, Locus of Oppression*
3. *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:

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

Jennifer Thorburn

I welcome *mémoires* on the following topics: sociolinguistics; language variation and change; language attitudes and ideologies; computer-mediated communication; 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:

1. *Authorship in Fanfiction: Textual and Paratextual Analysis of Identity Performance*
2. *English Language Acquisition in the Canton de Vaud: A critical Analysis of More!8e*
3. *"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*
4. *Identity Construction and Self-Presentation in Vlogs: A Multimodal and Discursive Analysis of YouTube Beauty Gurus' "Favorites" Videos*
5. *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:

1. *Urban Space and Postmodern Novel*
2. *Homoeroticism and American Biopolitics in the Fiction of James Baldwin*
3. *Empathy and Literary Imagination*
4. *Postfeminism in the Novels of Margaret Atwood*
5. *The Performance of Tropes in the Writings of Christopher Columbus*