

English MA Thesis Supervisors' Topic Areas (Spring/Autumn 2021)

Note: *This list includes all the English Dept. staff who expect to be able to supervise MA English theses in Spring and/or Autumn 2021. In some cases they may only be available for one semester (as indicated below). If a particular staff member is unavailable for either semester, or does not appear on the list at all, that may be for a number of reasons, e.g. a sabbatical, parental leave, etc. Even if a staff member is available, there is no guarantee that they will be able to take all of the students who list them as first priority. Each member of staff can only take on a certain number of students. You should therefore think carefully about different options, and try to find at least three potential supervisors.*

Ocke-Schwen Bohn

Psycholinguistics, especially first and second/foreign language learning, bilingualism, speech perception, speech production, foreign accent, language and thought, the mental lexicon, lexical semantics, morphology, sociolinguistics, accents and dialects of English, language change.

Sune Borkfelt

Animals in literature (all genres and periods, but especially 20th- and 21st-century British, American, and Postcolonial prose fiction); animals in history and culture, especially British and colonial history; emotions and literature, particularly empathy and/or sympathy for literary characters; critical animal studies and animal theory; posthumanism; transhumanism; transgressive literature; literature and the natural environment (esp. in the 20th and 21st centuries); climate change and literature; literature and food; meat, cannibalism, and body politics; literature and the senses; graphic novels; particular authors: Upton Sinclair, Tillie Olsen, J. M. Coetzee, Ruth Ozeki, Michel Faber.

Dale Carter

The history of the United States; 20th- and 21st-century American society and politics; US foreign relations since 1865; the US and globalization; American popular and folk music, 1900–1975; the civil rights movement and black/white relations in the United States; the life and times of John F. Kennedy.

Ken Ramshøj Christensen

Psycholinguistics (language processing, language and cognition, language and mind), neurolinguistics (cognitive neuroscience, language and the brain), general English linguistics (syntax, morphology, semantics, pragmatics), language and human evolution, science and linguistic theory, experimental linguistics.

Mathias Clasen

The horror genre (literature, film, digital games; primarily US and UK), Gothic/fantasy/science fiction literature and media. Literary Darwinism, evocriticism, biocultural criticism, media psychology, cognitive poetics, evolutionary aesthetics, experimental and quantitative literary/film study. Relations and interactions between science and literature/media.

Inger Hunnerup Dalsgaard

American studies, cultural studies, popular culture and gender in the USA, history and philosophy of technology in the USA, American literature and literary periods, American art history,

American First Ladies, American modernism and modernity, postmodernism. Thomas Pynchon, sci-fi and cyberpunk literature. Jane Austen and contemporary romantic literature genres.

Mark Ølholm Eaton

British, Irish, Canadian and Commonwealth history, society and culture; globalization; UK and globalization; UK and Europe; Canada–US relations; nationalisms and national identities; foreign and security policy studies; international relations.

David Harding

All aspects of American History and Society; History of the British Empire; Special Relationship between the UK and US; Native American and First Nations Literature; Film and other Media Representations; Beat Generation and 1960s Literature – including song lyrics as literary texts; Literature of the Fantastic – especially Tolkien; The Western Genre in Film, Literature and Popular Culture; Graphic Novels; Media Studies in general; Globalization; Intercultural Communication; Political Communication; Corporate Communication. Additionally, various aspects of Intercultural Studies including Globalization, Intercultural Communication (including business, political and personal contexts), and Global Media (TV, Film, Music, and the Internet), with an emphasis in all three areas on the impacts, both positive and negative, that result from inter- and cross-cultural contacts.

Michaela Hejná

Language variation and change: related to phonetic and phonological phenomena. Language variation and change: related to sex/gender/sexuality and age. English accents and dialects (phonetics–phonology, morphology, lexicon, pragmatics). Attitudes to dialectological variation. History of the English Language (phonetics–phonology, morphology, lexicon).

Stephen Joyce

American cinema and television; 19th- and 20th-century American literature, especially Naturalist fiction and Asian American literature; tragedy; existentialist philosophy and literature; autobiography; transmedia storytelling.

Tabish Khair

South Asian History and Literature, Postcolonial Literature(s), Postcolonial Theory, 20th-century British Literature (poetry and fiction only), Neo-Marxism and Literary Theory, Travel Writing, Gothic Fiction, Science Fiction, Racism, Xenophobia.

Peter Mortensen

19th- and 20th-century British and American literature, especially romanticism, post-romanticism, modernism and postmodernism; literature in relation to history, politics and society; science fiction; ecocriticism, ecofiction, ecopoetry and ecopolitics; green cultural studies and most issues concerning the relationship between culture and the natural environment.

Jody Pennington (please note: takes limited number of MA theses)

The US South history and culture (non-literary); heritage tourism (US South); Florida history and culture; the US South today; the US South in film, television series, and music.

Dominic Rainsford

British literature of all periods, especially Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Swift, Romanticism (e.g. Blake, Wordsworth, Austen, Scott), Victorian (e.g. Dickens, George Eliot), Modernist (e.g. Conrad, Woolf, T. S. Eliot) and some contemporary (e.g. Tony Harrison, Nicola Barker, Ali Smith). Irish literature, especially Wilde, Joyce, Beckett and Heaney. Some American literature (e.g. Emily Dickinson, Henry James; modern poetry) and some postcolonial literature (e.g. Coetzee, Les Murray, Anne Carson). Anglo-French literary relations. Literature and philosophy, especially ethics. Literature and the visual arts. Literary and critical theory. (Not computer games, horror, sci-fi or teen/young adult fiction.)

Susan Yi Sencindiver

Dark romanticism and Gothic studies (primarily the long 19th century); sexuality, body, motherhood, age, and gender studies in literature, culture, and media; critical feminisms (especially intersectionality, new materialism, third wave, postfeminism); psychoanalytic theory (Freudian, Feminist, Queer, Lacanian, Žižekian); post-constructionist frameworks and the material turn; contemporary American celebrity- and popular culture; adaptation and remediation.

Matthias Stephan

Postmodernism, Postmodern Theory and Criticism, Romanticism, Science Fiction, Crime Fiction (in particular Detective Fiction), Cannibalism in Literature, American Literature, Modernism (including Late Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance), Women Writers, Gothic, Transcultural Studies, Adaptation and Adaptation Theory, Fandom Studies.

Joseph Sterrett

Theories of trust and risk in the literature of any period, including systemic risk: theories of the end-times or the apocalypse in literature. Violence and taboo in the literature of any period. All early-modern literature, especially Shakespeare and his contemporary playwrights. Poetry, new and old, and poetic forms. Seventeenth-century and eighteenth-century literature, Milton, Swift, Blake. Historic approaches to literature. Prayer in literature. The literature of the American South. Drama from any period, performance and performance theory.

Sten Vikner (please note: Autumn 2021 only)

All areas of English linguistics, in particular: syntax, morphology, historical linguistics, comparative linguistics (comparing English to other languages, e.g. Danish, German, French...), dialectology, phonology, semantics, the lexicon, and linguistic theory.

Jacco Visser

Commemoration of war and conflict, memory studies, migration, diaspora, diversity policy, nationalism, populism, human rights, reconciliation, culture (as a concept), multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, globalization, transnationalism, postcolonial studies, qualitative methods, discourse analysis and policy analysis. Especially topics in relation to 20th- and 21st-century migration in the UK context (immigration policy, Windrush, the hostile environment policy, transnational networks, etc.), and commemoration of war and conflict in the UK and South Asia (WWII, Partition of India, Bangladesh War, among others).