

English MA Thesis Supervisors' Topic Areas (Spring/Autumn 2022)

Note: This list includes all the English Dept. staff who expect to be able to supervise MA English theses in Spring and/or Autumn 2022. 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.

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Bohn, Ocke-Schwen

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.

Carter, Dale

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.

Christensen, Ken Ramshøj

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.

Clasen, Mathias (only during Spring 2022; on leave in the Autumn)

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.

Dalsgaard, Inger Hunnerup

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.

Eaton, Mark Ølholm

British, Irish, Canadian and Commonwealth history, society and culture; political communication; political language; political discourse and dialogue; political and cultural mythology; irony, metaphor and humour in political language; uses of history in political language; digital humanities; digital methods; nationalisms and national identities; globalization; UK and globalization; intercultural studies; UK-Europe relations; Canada–US relations; international relations; international studies.

Hejné, Michaela

Language Variation and Change; sociolinguistics; English accents and dialects; history of English; phonetics and phonology. In particular: production of consonants, voice quality, production of vowels; theory of sound change; phonetic and phonological typology; Welsh English; UK accents; gender, sex, and attraction; age and ageing; hormonal factors in language variation; sociopragmatic aspects of non-L1 acquisition; linguistic stereotyping and discrimination.

Joyce, Stephen

Media industries; film, television, and video games aesthetics; transmedia storytelling; fan studies; world-building in sci-fi and fantasy across media. Apocalyptic, post-apocalyptic, and conspiracy genres. Asian American literature; tragedy; autobiography; postcolonial theory; Naturalist fiction; existentialist philosophy and literature.

Khair, Tabish

Contemporary Novels, Contemporary Poetry, Speculative Fiction, Gothic Literature, Science Fiction, South Asian History and Literature, Postcolonial Literatures, Postcolonial Theory, 19th-century Literature, 20th-century Literature, Literary Theory, Travel Writing, Life Writing.

McQuaid, Sara Dybris

20th- and 21st-century British and Irish politics and society and Four Nations history. Particularly contemporary Northern Ireland, Brexit, Abortion and historical and contemporary debates about nationalism, ethnicity, multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue. Peace building and Conflict studies in general – and particularly Northern Ireland and creative processes of reconciliation. Transnationalism in general, and particularly in political culture, social movements, memory and migration. Memory Studies in general, and particularly in commemorating war; building peace and migration of memories.

Mortensen, Peter

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.

Nyvad, Anne Mette

The fields of language acquisition (first, second/foreign, bilingual), psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, comparative linguistics, language variation and change – especially as they relate to syntax, morphology, semantics and pragmatics.

Pennington, Jody (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.

Rainsford, Dominic

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). Almost any poetry. Anglo-French and Anglo-Italian literary relations. Literature and philosophy, especially ethics. Literature and painting/sculpture. Literary and critical theory. (Not digital media, horror, sci-fi or teen/young adult fiction.)

Schjoldager, Anne

Various aspects of translation in theory and practice, including audiovisual, literary and cultural translations, for instance: translation norms and language politics; professional translation ethics and strategies; translation problems due to syntactical and/or semantic differences; translation problems due to culture-specific norms and references.

Sterrett, Joseph

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.

Vikner, Sten

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.

Visser, Jacco

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).