

**English MA Thesis Supervisors' Topic Areas (Spring/Autumn 2025)**

*Note: This list includes all the English Dept. staff who expect to be able to supervise MA English theses in Spring and/or Autumn 2025. 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.*

**Bohn, Ocke-Schwen (takes a limited number of MA theses)**

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.

**Christensen, Ken Ramshøj**

Anything that begins with “syntax and...” or “language and...”, including language and the brain, language and cognition, language and communication, and language and human evolution; general English linguistics (syntax, morphology, semantics, pragmatics), language processing, cognitive bias, science and linguistic theory, experimental linguistics.

**Clasen, Mathias**

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; UK-Europe relations; Brexit; Canada–US relations; Intercultural Studies; international relations; political communication; political discourse and dialogue; political “voices”; political and cultural mythology; uses of irony, metaphor and humour in political language; history and political discourse; literary references and political discourse; populism; populist communication styles; digital humanities; nationalisms and national identities; Globalization Studies; transnationalism and transnational identities; cosmopolitanism; Peace and Conflict Studies.

**Hejná, 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 (only takes MA theses in the autumn of 2025)**

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; everything to do with Jane Austen and Karen Blixen/Isak Dinesen; literature in relation to history, politics and society; gothic, science fiction and the old and new weird; ecocriticism, ecofiction, ecopoetry, ecomedia and ecopolitics; green cultural studies and most issues concerning the relationship between culture and the natural environment.

**Pennington, Jody (takes a limited number of MA theses)**

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

**Rainsford, Dominic**

Charles Dickens. British literature of all periods, especially Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Swift, Romanticism (e.g. Blake, Wordsworth, Austen, Scott), Victorian (e.g. the Brontës, 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. Achebe and other West African literature, Coetzee, Les Murray, Anne Carson). Almost all poetry. Anglo-French and Anglo-Italian literary relations. Literature and philosophy, especially ethics. Literature and the visual arts (including film). Literary and critical theory. (Not digital media 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.

**Stephan, Matthias**

Postmodernism, Postmodern Theory and Criticism, Ecocriticism (especially climate change fiction), Romanticism, Modernism (including Late Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance), Women Writers (especially 19th–21st century), Gothic, Genre Fiction (Science Fiction, Fantasy, Crime Fiction (in particular Detective Fiction)), American Literature (especially 20th and 21st century), Race and Representation in Literature and Media, Transcultural Studies and Intercultural Theory, Adaptation and Adaptation Theory, Transmedia Storytelling, Cultural Industries, Film, Literary and TV Tourism, Media and Television Studies, Fandom Studies.

**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.