

English MA Thesis Supervisors' Topic Areas (Spring/Autumn 2026)

Note: This list includes all the English Dept. staff who expect to be able to supervise MA English theses in Spring and/or Autumn 2026. 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.

Christensen, Ken Ramshøj

Anything that begins with “language and...” including language and brain, cognition, psychology, communication, development, and/or evolution; general English linguistics (syntax, morphology, semantics, pragmatics); language processing; cognitive bias; experimental linguistics.

Clasen, Mathias (only in Autumn 2026)

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. Women in US politics and American First Ladies. American science, technology, e.g. 20th century rocket programs. American literature and literary periods e.g. Herman Melville, Thomas Pynchon, postmodernism, sci-fi and cyberpunk literature. 19th century and contemporary romantic literature, Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, YA, fanfiction, fantasy, romance and other genre fiction. Mental health, neurodiversity and critical disability theory.

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

Sociolinguistics; English accents and dialects; history of English; phonetics and phonology. In particular: gender, sex, sexuality, desire; love studies; age and ageing; linguistic stereotyping and discrimination; language in popular culture; sociopragmatic aspects of non-L1 acquisition; linguistic construction of personae; voice quality; phonetic typology.

Jacobsen, Ushma Chauhan

Inter/Transcultural communication; English as a global/international language; Post/Decoloniality; Greenland; professional and organizational communication; transcultural media flows; intercultural theatre practices; cultural and creative industries; cultural intermediaries; cultural translation.

Joyce, Stephen

Media production and reception; cultural 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 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.

Kjeldgaard-Christiansen, Jens

American history, society, and culture; American studies; American popular culture; biocultural theory; cognitive media theory; evolutionary aesthetics; Donald Trump's political communication; heroes, villains, and moral psychology; horror studies; media studies; morality and ethical criticism; political polarization; populism; professional wrestling; relations between science and the humanities; video games.

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 (takes a limited number of MA theses)

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.

Nyvad, Anne Mette

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

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; Southern cities (New Orleans, Louisiana; Miami, Florida; Key West, Florida; Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina) – culture (including architecture) and history; climate change and the South (hurricanes, crisis communication during hurricanes, coastal regions); 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.

Vikner, Sten (only in Autumn 2026)

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, pragmatics, the lexicon, and linguistic theory.