

# RACHEL ANN EMILY FALCONER

## Curriculum Vitae

### 1 PERSONAL DETAILS

Citizenship: United Kingdom  
Place and date of birth: Oxford (UK), 2 July 1962  
Current address: 26 Struan Rd, Sheffield S7 2EH  
Telephone: +44 (0)114 2580098  
Email: r.falconer@sheffield.ac.uk

### Profile

A specialist in modern and contemporary British literature, trained in classical literatures as well as English, with good reading knowledge of French and other modern languages (Czech, Italian). My published research is comparative in approach, wide-ranging, and informed by narrative theory. My PhD and early teaching career were in the early modern period, and I currently teach trans-historical which include the study of Virgil, Dante and Milton. I also have strong interests in children's literature and creative writing.

### Education

Yale University, 1980-1984 (BA)  
Exeter College, University of Oxford, 1984-1986 (BA); 1986-1989 (DPhil)  
Intercollegiate Centre for Classical Studies in Rome, Autumn, 1983  
University of Toronto, Directed Reading in Classics, Summer 1983

### Qualifications

Honours BA in Classical Languages and Literatures, Yale University, *magna cum laude*, 1984  
Honours BA in English Language and Literature, University of Oxford, Class 2.1, 1986 (MA granted in 1989)  
DPhil, University of Oxford, 1989, 'The Influence of Virgil on Milton's Style', supervised by Professors John Carey and Anthony Nuttall

### Distinctions and Awards

Distinction in Latin Literature, Yale University, 1984  
Amelia Jackson Scholarship, Exeter College, Oxford, 1986-1989  
Overseas Research Studentship, University of Oxford, 1987-89  
Quarrel Read Prize, Exeter College, Oxford, 1989

### Current Appointment

Reader in English Literature, School of English, University of Sheffield

## Previous Posts

Temporary Lecturer in English Literature at Exeter College, Oxford (1989-90)

Visiting Lecturer in English Literature, Charles University, Prague (1990-92)

Tutor of English Literature at Manchester College, Oxford, and Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London (1992-93)

## 2 RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### 2.1 Publications

#### Books

- Falconer, *Crossover Fiction and Cross-reading in the UK* (New York: Routledge, August 2008; currently being copy-edited)

Why are adults reading children's fiction? This book delves into the heart of the controversy over 'crossover fiction,' the fiction that crossed from children to adult readers over the millennial decade, and continues to do so today. I argue that cross-reading cannot be explained by the increase of sophisticated marketing alone; on the contrary, we must look to broader changes in the social fabric to understand the phenomenon more fully. Crossover fiction may be understood as an extension of 'kiddultery,' the celebration of youth culture in a society which places a premium on speed, flexibility and rapid capital turnover. In other respects, though, it can be understood as capitalism's antithesis: the expression of a desire for roots, for more stable and communally shared verities, as this study demonstrates. Beginning with a broad overview of crossover fiction and cross-reading in the UK, this study goes on to analyse texts by leading British crossover authors, including Rowling, Pullman, Haddon, Almond and McCaughrean. I also consider the contexts of publication, presentation of paratexts to dual-aged audiences, and reader response. A final chapter discusses the rise in publication of re-edited classic children's literature, and analyses the dynamics of childhood reading with a particular focus on C.S. Lewis.

- Falconer, *Hell in Contemporary Literature: Western Descent Narratives since 1945* (Edinburgh and Columbia: Edinburgh University Press, 2005), pp. 1-262. ISBN 0-7486-1763-9

This book explores the idea that modern, Western secular cultures have retained a belief in the concept of Hell as an event or experience of endless or unjust suffering. In the contemporary period, the descent to Hell has come to represent the means of recovering, or discovering selfhood. These ideas have combined with earlier literary and religious models of katabatic narrative to produce the notion of a self made ethical by its encounter with the underworld. In exploring these ideas, this book discusses descent journeys in Holocaust testimony and fiction, memoirs of mental illness, and feminist, postmodern and post-colonial narratives written after 1945. A wide range of texts are discussed, including writing by Primo Levi, W.G. Sebald, Sarah Kofman, Anne Michaels, Lauren Slater, Marge Piercy, Angela Carter, Margaret

Atwood, Gloria Naylor, Alice Notley, Alasdair Gray, and Salman Rushdie. Drawing on theoretical writing by Bakhtin, Derrida, Charles Taylor, David Harvey and Paul Ricoeur, the book addresses such broader theoretical issues as: narration and identity; the ethics of the subject; trauma and memory; descent as sexual or political dissent; the interrelation of realism and fantasy; and Occidentalism and Orientalism. John Constable writes: ‘impressive scholarship’; ‘informative and closely argued study’; ‘impressive . . . discussion of *If This is a Man*’ (*The Use of English* 57.1, Autumn 2005). Christopher Burdon writes: ‘extensive and sensitive reading of Primo Levi . . . the most powerful chapter [is the] analysis of Alasdair Gray’s witty, humane, dystopian, socialist novel *Lanark* . . . which Falconer explores wisely and sympathetically—opens up more urgently than any of the other books what she calls “the transformative possibilities of the journey through Hell” . . . Falconer’s wide reading, cultural awareness and alertness to classical archetypes make this a convincing survey not only of the persistence of Hell but of the possibilities of redemption. In an age of “furious religion” such fantastic realism or realistic fantasy is all the more needed.’ (*Literature and Theology*, May 23, 2007)

- Adlam, Falconer, Makhlin, Renfrew, eds. *Face to Face: Bakhtin Studies in Russia and the West* (London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 1997), 20 contributors, pp.1-394. ISBN 1850756961

This volume evolved from the Seventh International Bakhtin Conference in Moscow, 1995, hosted by Professor Makhlin. The Russian contributions were translated and edited by Adlam and Renfrew, the English-language contributions and the volume as a whole edited and introduced by me. Reviewers’ comments: ‘it sets a new standard of excellence for English-Russian forums (Prof. Caryl Emerson, *The Slavonic and East European Review* 77:2, April 1999); ‘achieves the status of a landmark volume . . . an unparalleled accomplishment’ (*Slavic Review* 58:4, Winter 1999); ‘essential reading for Bakhtin scholars’ (*Journal of European Studies*), ‘a work of remarkable scholarship’ (*Canadian Slavonic Papers*).

- Falconer, *Orpheus Dis(re)membred: Milton and the Myth of the Poet-Hero* (London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 1996), pp. 1-227. ISBN 1850756090

This monograph provides a close reading of Milton’s many allusions to Orpheus, in poetry and prose, as self-reflexive meditations on the role of the poet in times of historical and personal crisis.

### **Book Chapters**

- ‘Teaching Primo Levi’, in *Teaching Holocaust Literature and Film*, ed. by Robert Eaglestone and Barry Langford (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2007), pp. 114-125, ISBN-13:978-0-230-01936-2 (hbk), ISBN-10:0-230-01936-6 (pbk)
- ‘Tolkien, Dante, and Crossover Epic’, in *Books and Their Boundaries: Writers and Their Audiences*, ed. by Patricia Pinsent (Staffordshire: Pied Piper Publishing, 2004), pp. 98-113, ISBN 09546384-3-3
- ‘Crossover Literature’, in *The International Companion Encyclopaedia of Children’s Literature*, ed. by Peter Hunt, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 2 vols (Routledge: London, 2004), Vol 1, pp. 556-575, ISBN 0 415 29053 8

- ‘Thomas May’, in *Dictionary of British Classicists, 1500-1960*, ed., by Robert Todd, 3 vols (London: Thoemmes Continuum, 2004), ISBN 1-85506-997-0
- ‘Selfhood in Descent: Primo Levi’s *The Search for Roots* and *If This is a Man*’, in *Representing the Holocaust*, ed. by Sue Vice (London: Valentine Mitchell, 2003), pp. 203-230, ISBN 0-8530-3495-8
- ‘The Epic’, in *The Continuum Encyclopaedia of British Literature*, ed. by Steven Serafin and Valerie Grosvenor Myer (New York: Continuum Press, 2003), ISBN 0-8264-1456-7
- ‘Genres and Modes: Epic’, in *A Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*, ed. by Michael Hattaway (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000), pp.327-339, ISBN 0-631-21668-5
- ‘Readings: a Wyatt Sonnet’, in *A Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*, ed. by Michael Hattaway (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000), pp. 176-186
- ‘Telescoping Timescapes: Short Fiction and the Contemporary Sense of Time’, in *Moments of Moment: Aspects of the Literary Epiphany*, ed. by Wim Tiggs (Rodopi: Amsterdam, 1999), pp. 445-466, ISBN 90-420-0636-6
- ‘Introduction’, *Face to Face: Bakhtin Studies in Russia and the West*, ed. by Adlam, Falconer, Makhlin, Renfrew (London: Continuum, 1997), pp. 23-43
- ‘Bakhtin, Milton and the Epic Chronotope’, in *Face to Face: Bakhtin Studies in Russia and the West*, ed. by Adlam, Falconer, Makhlin, Renfrew (London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 1997), pp. 254-272

#### Articles in Refereed Journals

- ‘Crossover Literature and Abjection: Geraldine McCaughrean’s *The White Darkness*’, *Children’s Literature in Education* 38:1 (March 2007), pp.35-44, ISSN: 0045-6713. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10583-006-9026-0>>
- ‘Shape-Changing in Hell: Metamorphosis and Katabasis in Rushdie’s *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* and Levi’s *The Truce*’, *E-REA: e-Revue d’Études Anglophones* 2.2 (Autumn 2004), pp. 1-10, ISSN 1638-1718 <[www.e-rea.org](http://www.e-rea.org)>
- ‘Bouncing Down to Hell: Rushdie’s *The Ground Beneath her Feet* and classical *katabasis*’, in *Twentieth Century Literature* 47.4, special issue on Salman Rushdie ed. by Sabina and Simona Sawhney (Winter 2001), pp. 467-509, ISSN 0041-462X
- ‘Bakhtin’s Chronotope and the Contemporary Short Story’, in *Bakhtin/“Bakhtin”:* *Studies in the Archive and Beyond*, special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly* 97:3/4, ed. by Peter Hitchcock (Summer/Fall 1998), pp. 699-732, ISBN 0-8223-6461-1

#### Edited Journal

- Guest co-editor, with Karin Littau, ‘Invention: Literature and Science’, *Comparative Critical Studies*, the Journal of the British Comparative Literature Association, vol 2.2 (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2005), ISSN 1744-1854

## Broadcast Interviews

- **Interview** for 'The Current', Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC Radio 1 (9 April 2007), programme on the history of Hell and its contemporary relevance <<http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/>>
- **Interview** for 'Odyssey', Chicago Public Radio (4 March 2005): cultural studies programme, special broadcast devoted to representations of Hell and the Devil in recent American films  
<[http://www.wbez.org/audio\\_library/od\\_ramar05.asp](http://www.wbez.org/audio_library/od_ramar05.asp)>

## Reviews in Refereed Journals

- 'Zoe Waxman, *Writing the Holocaust: Identity, Testimony, Representation*', reviewed in *The Journal of Jewish Culture and History* (2006)
- 'Jennifer Fraser, *Rite of Passage in the Narratives of Dante and Joyce*', reviewed in *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* (2004)
- 'Catherine Maxwell, *The Female Sublime from Milton to Swinburne: Bearing Blindness*', reviewed in *The Tennyson Research Bulletin* 7:5 (November 2001), pp.270-272, ISSN 0082-2841
- 'David Norbrook, *Writing the English Republic*', reviewed in *Milton Quarterly* 34:1 (March 2000), pp. 25-29, ISSN 0026-4326.4
- 'William Kilbrener, *Milton's Warring Angels: a Study of Critical Engagements*', reviewed in *English Language Notes* 36:3 (March 1999), pp. 82-85, ISSN 00138282
- 'Colin Graham, *Ideologies of Epic: Nation, Empire and Victorian Epic Poetry*', reviewed in *The Tennyson Research Bulletin* 7:2 (November 1998), pp. 103-106, ISSN 0082-2841
- 'Sue Vice, *Introducing Bakhtin*', reviewed in *Dialogism: an International Journal of Bakhtin Studies* 1 (1998) pp. 118-19, ISSN 1365-0367
- 'Cutting the Heroics: Ferdowsi's *The Legend of Seyavash* translated by Dick Davis', reviewed in *Edebiyat: the Journal of Middle Eastern Literatures* 6:1 (1995), pp. 143-66, ISSN 0364-6505

## Non-Refereed Publications

- 'The One Not Chosen', poem translated into Czech and published as 'Ten nepravý', in *Deník rychlého člověka* by Tomáš Míka (Prague: Argo, 2007), pp. 82-83, ISBN 978-80-7203-908-1
- 'Theatre in Prague, Past and Present', *Contemporary Review* 262 (January 1993), pp. 32-39, ISSN 0010/7565
- 'Edinburgh International Festival and Fringe', review article in *Divadelni Noviny*, Prague (September, 1992)
- '*Divadlo Na Zbradli: Back Again*', in *Prognosis*, Prague (12 June, 1992): article on the history and re-opening of Vaclav Havel's Theatre on the Balustrade
- 'Prague Impromptu', *Exeter College Association Register* 1992, pp. 61-67

## 2.2 Research Funding

1 October 2003-31 January 2004, Arts and Humanities Research Board,  
Research Leave Scheme, sole investigator, 4-month non-London HEI award.

Total value: **£13, 153**

## 2.3 Contracted Research in Progress

- ‘Carrollizing Dante: *Wonderland* and *Inferno* in Contemporary Women’s Memoirs of Mental Illness’, 6000-word chapter for *The Space of Lewis Carroll’s Wonderland*, ed. by Christopher Hollingsworth (Iowa: University of Iowa Press, forthcoming, 2009). The chapter is written and accepted; a final draft is being submitted by 15 April 2008.
- 6000-word essay on ‘Crossover Literature’ to be written for Open University course U300, ‘Children’s Literature. MS contracted for submission, 31 August 2008.
- 5000-word chapter on ‘Young Adult Fiction and the Crossover Phenomenon’ for *Routledge Companion to Children’s Literature*, ed. by David Rudd (New York, London: Routledge, 2009). MS contracted for submission, December 2008.
- 8000-word chapter entitled ‘Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials* and its Intertexts: *Paradise Lost* and *The Narnian Chronicles*’ for *Critical Perspectives on Philip Pullman’s His Dark Materials*, ed. by Katharine Cox (McFarland Publishing, 2009). The chapter has been written and accepted; no deadline has been given yet for submission of final drafts.
- ‘Genres and Modes: Epic,’ in *A Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*, ed. by Michael Hattaway, currently being revised and updated for 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (Oxford: Blackwell, forthcoming, 2009).
- I am involved in a Department bid for a major grant to the European Union’s ‘Framework Seven Programme’. The grant bid will include individual project proposals by colleagues from the English, French and German Departments of the University of Sheffield, Université de Paris X (Nanterre) and the Heinrich Heine Institute, Dusseldorf. The general research topic is the study of writers’ use of foreign words, at three particular junctures of European history: the French Revolution, the ‘long’ fin-de-siècle, and the late twentieth century. My part of the proposal fits into the third section, and explores ideas of ‘Frenchness’ in Angela Carter’s fiction.

## 3 TEACHING

### 3.1 Supervision of research students

#### Current PhDs, primary supervision

- Crossover Literature, Psychoanalytic and Reader Response Theory (upgraded to PhD, June 2006).
- Space and Identity in Young Adult Literature (upgraded to PhD, June 2006).
- Magic Realism and Holocaust Fiction (from September 2006).

### **Current PhDs, secondary supervision**

- Middle English Satire (due to complete 2008).

### **PhDs completed, primary supervision**

- Early Modern Women's Writing (completed 2001; is now Lecturer in Renaissance Literature at University of Sheffield)
- Contemporary Women's Fiction and Feminist Theory (completed 2003; is now Lecturer at Northumbria University)
- Contemporary Autopathography and Narrative Theory (completed 2004; is now Teaching Lecturer at University of Sheffield)

### **Other completed post-graduate supervision**

- (PhD) Theories of Agency in Bakhtin and Queer Studies (secondary supervisor, completed 2001)
- (PhD) Holocaust Literature (secondary supervisor, completed 2002)
- (MPhil) Representations of Subjectivity in African-American Women's Writing (completed 2001)

### **Internal PhD examining**

- Theories of Agency in Bakhtin and Queer Studies (completed 2001)
- Gender Performance in European Lesbian and Gay Fiction of the Inter-War Period (completed 2006)

### **Internal examining for upgrade to PhD**

- Melancholy in the works of W.G. Sebald (upgraded, 2005)

### **New PhDs beginning 2008-09**

- Angela Carter and the Visual Arts

## **3.2 POSTGRADUATE TEACHING**

### **Current postgraduate teaching**

- Theory of Narrative, MA in English Literature (Feb-June), usually 10 students, 2 hours weekly; runs alternate years, rotating with Memory and Narrative
- Memory and Narrative, MA in English Literature (Sept-Jan), co-taught with Professor Sue Vice, usually 10 students, 2 hours weekly

### **New postgraduate teaching for 2008-09**

- Contributor to School of English MA in Creative Writing; I will teach a section entitled, 'Short Fiction: Theory, Analysis, Practice'
- Contributor to interdisciplinary MA module, 'Representing Childhood', part of new MA in International Childhood Studies, run by Professor Adrian Jones, director of Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth

### **Previous postgraduate teaching**

- Poetry of John Milton, MA in Early Modern Literature (1998-2003), 2 hrs weekly, usually around 5 students: in-depth study of Milton's major prose and poetry, alongside writing by his contemporaries.
- Jewish Writing before the Holocaust, MA in Holocaust Studies (2001), 2 hrs weekly, 6 students.
- Teaching Practice, a required module for PhD students undertaking teaching in the Department of English Literature. Usually 5-10 students/tutors, 1 hr weekly seminar plus individual observation of teaching and feedback sessions, for PhD and other part-time tutors: covers preparation and organization of seminars, setting and marking assessment, and all other aspects of teaching in the department (see also under Administration).
- MA dissertations supervised (selected):

'Chronotopic representations of Glasgow in Alasdair Gray'; 'Constructions of subjectivity in Margaret Atwood and Marge Piercy'; 'Mapping space and the subject in postmodern narratives about war'; 'Problems of Gender in Katabatic literature'; 'The postmodern subject in Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman* and Paul Auster's *New York Trilogy*'; 'The Enduring Lightness of Being in Milan Kundera's Fiction'; 'Ritual and rebellion in Mervyn Peake's *Titus* novels'; 'The Child Soldier in Crossover Fiction'; 'Representations of the Feminine in Ursula LeGuin and Philip Pullman'.

### **3.3. UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING**

#### **Current undergraduate teaching (see also 3.4 below)**

- Contemporary Literature (Feb-June), core module, 2 hours weekly, course convener for 220 students, and seminar tutor for 12 students, Level 3. As convener, I am responsible for drawing up and contributing to the lecture series, co-ordinating assessment across module groups, chairing course review, and compiling student evaluation reports.
- Theory of Narrative: Criticism and Literary Theory II (Sept-Feb), core module, 3 hours weekly, 25 students, Level 3.
- Literature of Descent (Sept-Feb), elective module, 3 hours weekly, 25 students, Level 3: descents to the underworld, from Virgil to Rushdie.
- Crossover Literature (Feb-June), elective module, 3 hours weekly, 25 students, Level 2: contemporary literature for children and adults.
- Undergraduate dissertation supervision (2007-08): Music in the novels of Haruki Murakami; Identity, Naming and Cyclical Time in Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and Morrison's *Song of Solomon*; Terrorism and Politics in *Harry Potter*; Representations of evil in 20th-century children's literature.

#### **Previous undergraduate teaching at Sheffield**

- Introduction to Advanced Literary Studies (1994-97), core module, 3 hours weekly, around 25 students, Level 1.



- Renaissance Literature (1994-2004), core module, 3 hrs weekly, around 25 students, Level 1.
- Restoration to Eighteenth Century Literature (1997-2000), core module, 3 hrs weekly, 12-24 students, Level 2.
- Shakespeare (1994-96), core module, 3 hrs weekly, 25 students, Level 2.
- Romanticism (1994-96), core module, 3 hrs weekly, 25 students, Level 2.
- Modernism (1997-98), core module, 3 hrs weekly, Level 3.
- Contemporary Short Fiction (1997-98), elective module, 1 hr weekly, 12-24 students, Levels 2-3.
- Criticism and Literary Theory I (1995-98), core module, 3 hrs weekly, 12-24 students, Level 2: general introduction to theory of literature.
- Mikhail Bakhtin (1997-98), 1 hour weekly, around 10 students, an elective option within core module, Criticism and Literary Theory II, Level 3.
- Undergraduate dissertation supervision (selected): ‘*Propriété* in Angela Carter’; ‘The adult reader of crossover literature’; ‘Stream of consciousness in Joyce and Woolf’.

#### **Undergraduate teaching, prior to Sheffield**

- Renaissance Literature paper, 12 students, Exeter College, Oxford (1989-90).
- Renaissance Literature, seminar, 30 students, Charles University (1990-91)
- Contemporary British Literature, seminar, 30 students, Charles University (1990-92).
- British and Czech Contemporary Theatre, seminar, 20 students, Charles University (1991-92).
- Victorian and Modern Literature papers, tutored 8 students, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London (1992-93).
- Modernism paper, 6 students, Manchester College, Oxford (1992-93).

### **3.4 UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING INNOVATION**

In Feb-June 2002, I designed and developed a project called ‘Kiddult Fiction’, which aimed to explore the phenomenon of children’s fiction being adopted by adult readers. This project involved 34 Sheffield English students working together with 50 local pupils, their teachers, and the University’s Learning Development and Media Unit. Weekly workshops with the children were designed and run by students. A dedicated open web-site and WebCT site were developed for the module, the former having an open discussion board to which children from local and London schools contributed. The final workshop consisted of a video conference between University students, local children, and children from a school in Etobicoke, Ontario. <<http://www.shef.ac.uk/english/modules/lit210/kiddult/index.html>>

Kiddult Fiction was one of two projects in the School of English awarded a competitive Learning and Teaching Development (LDMU) grant. The total grant value was £3,334 plus the resources of the LDMU (to create the open web-site and educational video, and to formally evaluate the project). In 2002, the project was showcased on the University’s LDMU web-site as an example of excellence and innovation in teaching and technology. This experimental project has now been incorporated into the regular English Literature curriculum as second year, elective module, ‘Crossover Literature’; there has never been a semester when it was not

over-subscribed. Over the past five years, students have worked with pupils drawn from a range of schools across Sheffield; their projects have been described as the 'star event' of the University's Widening Participation activities.

### **3.5 VISITING TEACHING POSTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Lecturing Fellowship, Centre for Anglophone Studies, Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence, 24 May – 25 June 2007. Responsibilities included: delivering a series of four public lectures on the topic of Crossover Literature, coaching MA students in preparation for the oral examination of the Agrégation, examining MA theses.

Visiting Lecturer, Department of English, Llodz University, Llodz, Poland, 5 – 20 March 1995. Responsibilities included delivering a research paper, on current directions in Milton studies, and two research seminars, on the British stage history of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, as well as teaching third year undergraduate classes on Shakespeare.

Visiting Lecturer in English Literature, Department of English and American Literature, The Charles University, Prague (this was a 2-year full-time post, teaching Renaissance and Modern English Literature, as well as comparative British and Czech drama; see under 'previous employment', 1990-92).

### **3.6 TEACHING PUBLICATIONS**

- *Kiddult Fiction*. Educational video for University of Sheffield (2002).
- *Living Literature, the Classics and You: Milton's Paradise Lost*. Educational video for Governors State University Education Series (Illinois, 1994).

## **4 LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **4.1 CURRENT ADMINISTRATION**

- **Programme Director of BA in English Literature**

Responsible for: overseeing the direction and development of the English Literature BA Programme, setting the agenda and chairing the bi-annual English Literature Programme Meetings; chairing the annual Course Review in September; problem-solving issues affecting the BA Programme, for example, implications of changing to a third year double-weighted assessment system; compiling results and reporting to the Department on student evaluations of the BA programme, and providing feedback to students; introducing Open Days.

As Programme Director, I have taken the lead in securing fair contracts and ensuring there is excellent teaching training for post-graduate and part-time tutors in the Department of English Literature. I designed the Teaching Practice module to provide in-house, practice-based teacher-training for postgraduate tutors. Recently, I

secured contractual rights for part-time tutors to be given 'honorary status,' entitling them to discounted use of University facilities, as well as full access to research and teaching materials.

- **Staff Editor, *Route 57***

The School of English hosts a creative writing e-journal, *Route 57*, which invites submissions from English students in five areas: poetry, fiction, experimental writing, non-fiction and radio drama. I am the staff editor for the fiction section, and I work with five student editors to produce a bi-annual issue of the journal on-line. <<http://route57.group.shef.ac.uk>>

- **Convenor of Contemporary Literature, Level 3 core undergraduate module.**

As Convenor of this core module, I select the contemporary texts (from 1945 to the present) that are studied by the majority of undergraduates at the School of English. I design and co-ordinate the lecture series and assessment methods, as well as overseeing the management of seminar groups, which are taught by a team of c. ten individual tutors.

- **Member of School of English Executive Committee**

As member of this committee, I help the Head of School to decide on major issues governing the running of the School, such as drawing up academic plans for the department, finding equitable models for work-load distribution, and preparing material for external assessment (such as RAE 2008).

- **Member of School of English Teaching Committee**

One issue that I am currently pursuing here is the decline of standards in written English (grammar, punctuation). I am in dialogue with the English Language Teaching Centre and the Centre for Inquiry-Based Learning, to find ways of counter-acting this trend. My aim is to develop a grammar project with a small team of undergraduates, the results of which would be available on-line to all students with writing difficulties across the University.

- **Member of the Board of the Faculty of Arts, University of Sheffield**

As a member of Faculty Board, together with two other colleagues, I represent the School of English at the Faculty level, and raise issues (such as part-time tutors' rights) that pertain to Schools of Arts across the University.

## **4.2 PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION**

- Level One Director of Studies (2003-2006)
- Advisor to Part-time Tutors (2003-2006)
- First Year Assessment Officer (2004-06)
- Chair of first year Final Exam Board (2004-06)
- Member of Graduate Affairs Committee, Dept of English Literature (2006)

- Staff Development Reviewer: responsible for reviewing personal academic development of colleagues in Department of Literature (2004-2006)
- Member of IET Working Group (2004-05): helped prepare documentation and organize events for visit of Independent Evaluation of Teaching assessors
- Convenor of Criticism and Literary Theory II (2000-01)
- Director of Early Modern MA (Sept-Jan 2001)
- Director of Holocaust Studies MA (Jan-June 2001)
- Dual Admissions Tutor (1998-2004)
- Convenor of Renaissance Literature (1996-97)
- Department Library Representative (1995-98)
- Member of Faculty Library Committee (1996-98)

## 5 PROFESSIONAL AND EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- Executive Committee Member, *British Comparative Literature Association*
- Editorial Board, *Children's Literature in Education*
- Executive Committee Member, *Modern Fiction Studies*
- Member of Reading Committee, *E-rea*, <www.e-rea.org>
- Consultant for The Open University, Faculty of Education and Language Studies (2008)
- Evaluator for Killam Research Fellowship Selection Committee (2007), Canada Council for the Arts: each two-year fellowship is worth \$70,000
- Referee for John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, NY (2007)
- Member of Distinguished Professor Selection Committee, for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University (2007)
- Independent Reviewer for AHRC Research Leave Scheme (2007)
- Reader for Palgrave Macmillan
- Member of PEN International: campaigns for writers' freedom of expression under conditions of political oppression
- Member of *Modern Language Association of America*
- External Examiner for Humanities MA Programme, Liverpool Hope University (2006+)
- External Examiner for English Literature BA Programme, University of Derby, 2001-04
- External Quality Assessor for Bishop Grosseteste College Lincoln, affiliated with Lincoln University (2002)
- Reviewer for the following refereed journals: *Comparative Critical Studies*; *The Journal of Jewish Culture & History*; *Dialogism: an International Journal of Bakhtin Studies*; *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*; *English Language Notes*; *Erea*; *Milton Quarterly*; *The Tennyson Research Bulletin*

### 5.1 CONFERENCE PAPERS

#### Invited papers

- Invited speaker (forthcoming), *Bakhtin's Theory of the Literary Chronotope: Reflections, Applications, Perspectives*, conference organised by University of Ghent in Brussels, Belgium (28-29 June, 2008); I will be presenting a paper entitled 'Re-reading Bakhtin with Milton's *Paradise Lost*'
- Invited speaker (forthcoming), guest lecture for a series hosted by The Seven Stories Centre, Newcastle, 21 April 2008: 'Crossover Literature' <<http://www.sevenstories.org.uk>>
- Invited Keynote speaker, *Hell and Its Afterlife*, conference organised by University of Utah, USA, 24-25 October 2006: 'Katabatic narratives, Global politics and Religion'
- Invited Keynote speaker, *Urban Underworld: London's cultural and spatial undergrounds from 1820 to the present*, Cambridge University, 26 September 2006: 'The London Underground and the Descent to the Underworld'
- Invited visiting speaker, University of the West of England, Department of English Research Seminar Series: 'Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* and its adult cross-readers'
- Invited Keynote speaker, *Teaching Children's Literature*, English Subject Centre, Durham University, 20 May, 2005: 'Teaching "Dual-aged" Fiction'
- Invited Keynote speaker, *Undergrounds*, British Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, University of Manchester, January 2003: 'Hell and Back: the Katabatic Imagination'
- Invited speaker, *Teaching Holocaust Writing and Film*, English Subject Centre, London, 18-19 February 2005: delivered paper on 'Teaching Primo Levi in the context of literary descent narratives'
- Invited speaker, *Books and Boundaries: Writers and their Audiences*, tenth annual NCRCL/British IBBY Conference, University of Surrey, Roehampton, 15 November 2003: 'Tolkien, Dante and Crossover Epic'
- Invited speaker and panel discussion leader, Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Associations, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March, 2001: 'Crossover Literature: definitions, boundaries, and educational possibilities'
- Invited speaker, Llodz Institute Research Seminar, Llodz University, Poland March, 1995: 'New Directions in Milton Criticism and Theory'

#### **Other conference papers (selected)**

- *The Twenty-first Century Novel*, Lancaster University, 2-3 Sept 2005: 'Crossover Fiction'
- *International Conference on Storytelling and Cultural Identity* (Terceira, Azores, June 27-29, 2005): 'English-language Crossover Literature'
- *Stories for Children; Histories of Childhood*, Tours, 18-19 Nov 2005: 'British Crossover Fiction and its Readers'
- *Representing the Unimaginable: Narratives of Disaster*, International Interdisciplinary Conference, English Seminar, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, 23-25 May 2003: 'The motif of *katabasis* in disaster narratives'
- *The Poetics of the Subject* International Conference, LERMA Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence, France, 28-29 March, 2003: 'Classical *katabasis* in Salman Rushdie's *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*'

- National Centre for Research into Children's Literature, Roehampton Institute, London (August, 2001): conference without formal papers; participated in round-table discussions about children's literature research
- *Sixth International Milton Symposium*, University of York, 18-23 July 1999: chaired session on *Paradise Lost*
- *Bakhtin and the Crisis of Subjectivity: Between Philosophy and Literature*, 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference, ISSEI, Haifa University, Aug 1998: 'Between Polyphony and Dialogue: the subject in Primo Levi and Mikhail Bakhtin'
- *Crossing Boundaries*, Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Sheffield, April, 1998: chaired session on 'Magic Realism'
- *Sheffield Hallam Literature Festival*, Sheffield Hallam University, April 1997: chaired session on 'New Fiction and Post-colonialism'
- *Why Theatre?/Pourquoi Le Theatre International Conference*, University of Toronto, Nov 1995: 'Theatre on the Balustrade's Velvet Revolution'

### **Conference organization; editing conference papers**

- Member of organising committee for BCLA Conference on 'Folly', 2-5 July 2007, London: introduced the keynote speaker, Alberto Manguel.
- *Invention: Literature and Science*, British Comparative Literature Association 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference, University of Leeds, 12-15 July 2004: selected and edited papers for June 2005 journal issue.
- *Seventh International Bakhtin Conference*, Moscow State Pedagogical University, July, 1995: chaired session on 'Bakhtinian Readings', delivered paper, on Bakhtin and the epic chronotope, selected and edited papers for publication in consultation with conference organiser, Professor Makhlin. This resulted in the publication of *Face to Face* (see under Publications)

## **5.2 OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- **Chair of the University Women's Book Club** (Sept 2006 to the present). This group, comprising of women from Departments across the University (mostly Science and Engineering), meet voluntarily on a monthly to read and discuss books selected and read by the group in advance. As Chair, I steer the book choices, liaise with the Sheffield Public Library, and facilitate the monthly discussions.

### **At the Charles University, Prague (1990-92)**

- Secretary of Jan Hus Foundation (1990-91), an educational foundation that received the Order of Merit by President Havel
- Reviewer of contemporary Czech theatre for *Prognosis*, English-language newspaper (Prague, 1991-92)
- Reviewer in UK for *Plays and Players* and *The Oxford Times* (1992-93) and *Divadelni Noviny* (*Theatre News*, Prague, 1992-93)
- Compiled research for article on Czech theatre; conducted taped interviews with directors and dramaturges of leading Czech theatres, 1992
- Collaborated with Artistic Director of Prague City Theatre on her Czech-language production of Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest', 1991

- Translated City Theatre director's interviews with Peter Brook, on his tour of Prague with production of 'Woza Albert', 1992
- Directed English-language production of Harold Pinter's 'Dumb Waiter' and 'The Lover', with Czech student actors; performed in Prague, Brno and Bratislava, 1992
- Editorial Consultant for Klegr and Hronkova, *Znate Anglicka Pridavna Jmena?* Czech-English Dictionary (Leda: Prague, 1994). ISBN 80-901664-0-7

## 6 NON-PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

**Languages:** I have always loved studying languages and currently I am taking evening classes in French at the University's Institute for Life-long Learning.

**Music:** An amateur cellist, I played in the Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra for several years. I still take private lessons, play informally with friends, and attend strings workshops. I also enjoy listening to many different kinds of music.

**Art:** I took art classes through university, studied sculpture with a professor sculptor in Sheffield for three years, and still enjoy visiting galleries and exhibitions whenever time permits.

**Cinema:** I am a regular film-goer and a member of Sheffield's Showroom Cinema, one of Britain's foremost independent cinemas.