

Volume 1 | Issue 1

June 2020

# PERCY

**Welcome** to the first issue of *Percy*, a regular round up of news dedicated to our School's research community.

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Recent books by (clockwise) Jake Jewsiak, Alex Niven, Linda Anderson, Emma Whipday, Zoe Cooper, Rebecca Woods, Jennifer Richards, Lars Iyer. (centre) Hannah Durkin.

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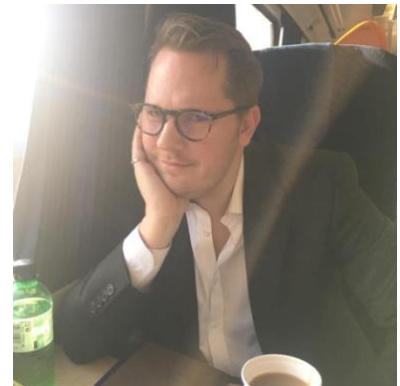


# Introducing...

*This year we are joined by three brilliant new colleagues across Literature, Linguistics and Creative Writing. Below they introduce themselves:*

## Dr. Bysshe Inigo Coffey

**“** In the autumn of 2020, I will begin a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at Newcastle. I cannot wait!



My project, **'Amateurs and Professionals: The Reception History of Percy Bysshe Shelley 1851-1922'**, seeks to present a new reception history of Shelley, and to contribute to the study of Romanticism as an international movement. As we approach the bicentenary of Shelley's drowning, his work seems as timely as in the years between the death of his first editor (Mary Shelley) and his first centenary. During this period (1851-1922), Shelley was canonised in the anglophone world, Europe and even the Far East. Streets were named after him.

Bysshe is a blackbelt who also recently beat off stiff competition at the British Academy, securing 1 of 30 awards nationally, from a total of 583 applicants.

Congratulations Bysshe!

My research project examines this phenomenon of “High Shelleyanism” from an original viewpoint: the examination of the differing ideologies and textual methodologies of Shelley’s numerous editors, amateur and professional. But it aims beyond textual scholarship and colourful competing personalities. It charts the diffusion of Shelley’s works through cheap reprints, illustration, music, *curricula*, and networks of influence. My mentor will be the brilliant **Michael Rossington**.

Here's a brief bit about me. I went to Cambridge and Exeter. I completed my doctorate at the latter where I also taught part time. At the moment, I am putting the finishing touches to my first monograph *Shelley’s Fractured Materiality and the Broken World* (LUP 2021), whilst assisting Nora Crook with volumes 7 and 8 of *The Complete Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (Johns Hopkins University Press). Also with Nora Crook (and Anna Mercer), I am preparing an edition of the Shelley notebook at the Library of Congress (MSS. 13, 290). Now for something non-academic, I have a blackbelt in Aikido and teach self-defence in London for fun.

I cannot wait to meet you all. **”**

**Hello Preti, Hello Rory,  
Hello Bysshe:** we're delighted you are joining us, and we can't wait to meet you too!

### Dr. Rory Turnbull

“ Aloha everyone, I'm very excited to join the linguistics subject group here and I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in person. A quick one-sentence curriculum vitae: MA (hons) from Edinburgh; PhD from Ohio State University; postdoc at the École Normale Supérieure of Paris; assistant professorship at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa; and now Newcastle!

Although Hawai‘i might sound like a long way away (and it is – ask me for some “coordinating an inter-continental move with a toddler in the middle of a global pandemic” stories), I actually grew up in Dumfries, barely a stone's throw away from Newcastle\*.

In terms of research, I work at the intersection of phonetics, phonology, and psycholinguistics. My recent research involves computational modelling of frequency effects (why are common words pronounced less clearly than uncommon words?) and lexical organisation (why do languages tend to have words with similar shapes?). I've also worked on intonation and prosody (the melody of speech) and phonological priming (word recognition). In my spare time, I enjoy cycling, vegan cooking, and playing with my daughter. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better as we settle into the new normal.

”

\* I assume you're all world-champion stone-throwers.



**Rory Turnbull**

*Lecturer in Phonetics and Phonology  
Newcastle University*

### Dr. Preti Taneja

“ I am pleased to be joining the School as part time Lecturer in Prose Fiction teaching on the MA and undergraduate models. I did my undergraduate degree in Theology and Religious Studies at



Cambridge University and after a decade working in minority rights advocacy around the world, I completed my MA and PhD in Creative Writing at Royal Holloway University of London. My first novel, WE THAT ARE YOUNG translates King Lear to contemporary India and was published by the Norwich based independent Galley Beggar Press in 2017 and subsequently around the world including in the USA by AA Knopf. I also teach in writing in prisons, and am working on my second novel and a long essay on the phenomena of collective grief, to be published by Transit Books in 2021. I moved to Newcastle in early March and am looking forward to meeting

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colleagues in person one day soon.

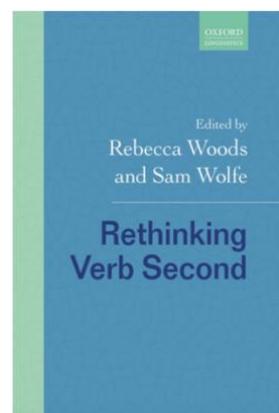
# RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

**Rebecca, Lars and Alex capture Percy in a nutshell:**

"an effective screen riser"; "an anthem for young misfits" and "A rare thing"

## Rebecca Woods, *Rethinking Verb Second*

Rebecca's co-edited volume, *Rethinking Verb Second* (with Sam Wolfe, Modern Languages at Oxford) came out with Oxford University Press in March. Rebecca says, "Coming in at 992 pages, it is currently making quite an effective screen riser. I have two chapters in it and **Anders Holmberg** has one too."



In other news, Rebecca's paper "Towards a model of the syntax-discourse interface: a syntactic analysis of 'please'" came out in *English Language and Linguistics*, also in March.

Rebecca was invited to speak as part of the Linguistics Research Seminar series at University of Huddersfield in January. She talked about "Shedding light on the earliest acquisition processes: AuxS(VO) order in an English-acquiring child", an ongoing project with **Joel Wallenberg**.

### For more on Lars:

<http://www.full-stop.net/2020/03/18/interviews/michael-schapira/lars-iyer-2/>

And:

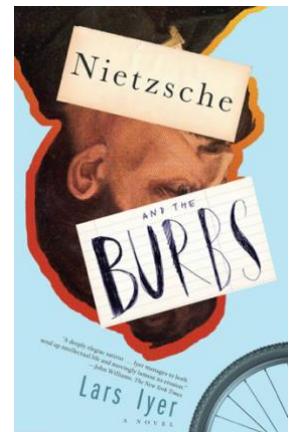
<https://www.londonreviewbookshop.co.uk/events/past/2020/1/nietzsche-and-the-burbs-lars-iyer-and-jon-day>

## Lars Iyer, *Nietzsche and the Burbs*

**"Nietzsche and the Burbs** is an anthem for young misfits and a hilarious, triumphant book about friendship."—Michael Schaub, *NPR*

"This is a near-perfect evocation of childhood's elegiac end." *New York Times*

The latest in **Lars Iyer's** unique series of comic novels of philosophy, *Nietzsche and the Burbs* follow a group of suburban sixth formers – among them a silent and brooding private school transferee nicknamed Nietzsche – as they battle the overwhelming ennui of life with sex, drugs, drone metal and existential philosophy.



### For more on Alex:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/20/opinion/uk-election-labour.html>

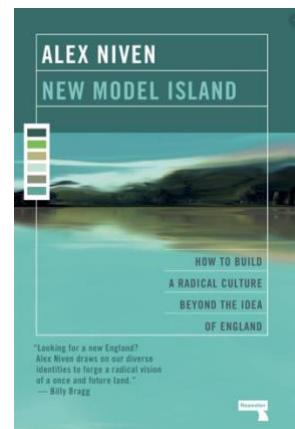
And:

<https://www.loudandquiet.com/interview/beyond-england-alex-niven-argues-that-weve-been-doing-this-all-wrong/>

## Alex Niven, *New Model Island*

*The Guardian* on *New Model Island*: "What happens next? Right now perched on the edge of a new decade, with a new government and a new phase of Brexit, it feels like the only question. And it's one that underpins *New Model Island*, Alex Niven's clear-eyed yet freewheeling, brisk yet deep book that is also a rare thing: a critique that provides practical suggestions about how to change things – specifically England – for the better."

Alex has just completed a poetry pamphlet for Canalside Press. It's a collection of poems about various locations in Newcastle and Adam Sharr the head of APL is writing an accompanying essay: <https://canalsidepress.com/>



## Kirsten MacLeod, Special Issue on 'Decadent Archives'

On 21 June, a Special Issue guest edited by Kirsten is being published. It's called "Decadent Archives" and is being published in *Volupté: A Journal of Decadence Studies*, with contributions from UK, US, and Canadian scholars

"Decadent Archives" explores the "archival turn" in Decadence Studies, understanding the term in the loose sense with which it has been taken up in humanities and the social sciences: the archive as research resource, but also as an object of study and theorisation in itself. Contributions investigate decadents' engagements with the historical and archival record; with decadent art considered as archive; with decadence as archival practice, methodology, or aesthetic; and lost, forgotten, and hidden decadent archives. There are essays on Oscar Wilde, Vernon Lee, and Michael Field and the recovery of the queer past; postmodernism and the decadent archive; Aubrey Beardsley forgeries; Russian decadent little magazines; and communities of queer influence in Vernon Lee, Mary Robinson and Amy Levy. As a collection, these essays challenge the conventional notion of the decadent as an isolated figure suffering from the *mal de siècle* and *mal d'archive*. Instead they show, in different ways, that a decadent engagement with the past and with textual and cultural archives can be oriented towards community-building, self-affirmation, and generative creative activities and practices.

## Helen King on Beverley Naidoo

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Hot on Helen King's heels, one of our 3rd year students on SEL3094 Accents of English has (with guidance and support from course lead **Hannah Leach**) submitted an expanded version of his final essay to *Lifespans and Styles*, the University of Edinburgh's undergraduate sociolinguistics journal.

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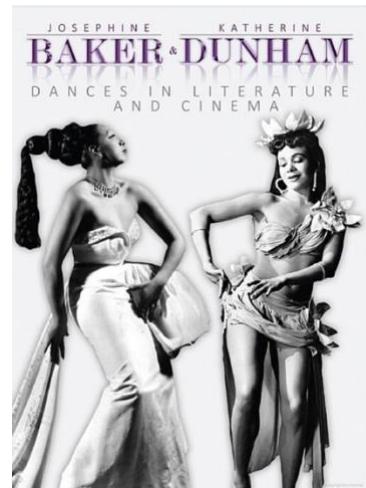
**WELL DONE** to Helen whose FIRST journal article has just been to published in *Barnboken*, a well-regarded journal in the field. (Thanks too, to her supervisor, **Lucy Pearson**, for passing on the good news!)

'Seeking Asylum, Speaking Silence: Speech, Silence and Psychosocial Trauma in Beverley Naidoo's The Other Side of Truth' appears in *Barnboken*, a highly-regarded journal in the field  
<https://barnboken.net/index.php/clr/article/view/493>

The article is developed from the paper Helen delivered at the major international conference IRSCL at the end of her first year of study. It's great to see her starting to make her mark in the field.

## Hannah Durkin, *Josephine Baker and Katherine Dunham*

Published by University of Illinois Press, this book is the first in-depth analysis of African American dancers Josephine Baker and Katherine Dunham's contributions to cinema. As the first black women to enjoy major international screen careers, Baker and Dunham's films are invaluable for understanding black women's early cinematic mistreatment but also their pioneering achievements on celluloid. Studies of midcentury African American cinema typically adopt a US focus. Nevertheless, the European screen offered creative opportunities and roles to Baker and Dunham that were not available back home.



As this study acknowledges, Baker was the first black woman to star in a major motion picture, an achievement that was only possible outside of the United States given interwar Hollywood's exclusionary racial codes. Cinematic spaces were for Baker and Dunham sites of mediation and marginalisation. Yet by scrutinising their writings and self-authored dance performances, this study shows that they were also important early sites of black female screen authorship.

### Dan Duncan

Dan had this article appear online in *Language in Society* 'Secondary education as a group marker in St. Louis, Missouri.' DOI: 10.1017/S0047404520000378

Dan has also had these articles accepted for forthcoming publication in *American Speech*: 'The Gettysburg Corpus: Testing the proposition that all tense /æ/s are created equal. (With I. Bleaman)' and 'A note on the productivity of the alternative embedded passive'

### Lauren Ackerman

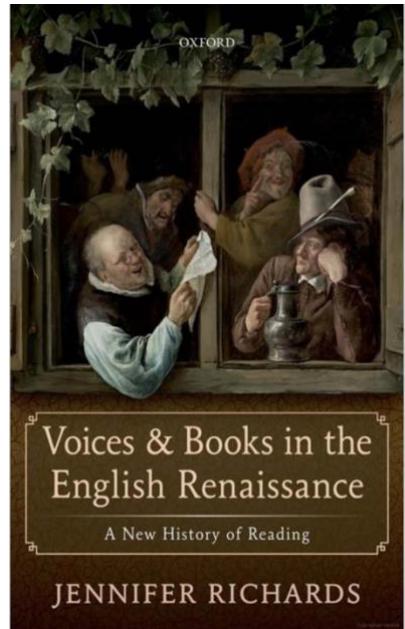
Lauren's article with Míša Hejná and **Joel Wallenberg** was recently accepted for publication at *Biolinguistics* ("Attention To People Like You: A Proposal Regarding Neuroendocrine Effects on Linguistic Variation" <https://osf.io/p5nka/>)

And in other news, Lauren became a **General Editor** at *Language and Cognition*, the official journal of the UK Cognitive Linguistics Association. (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/language-and-cognition/information/editorial-board>)

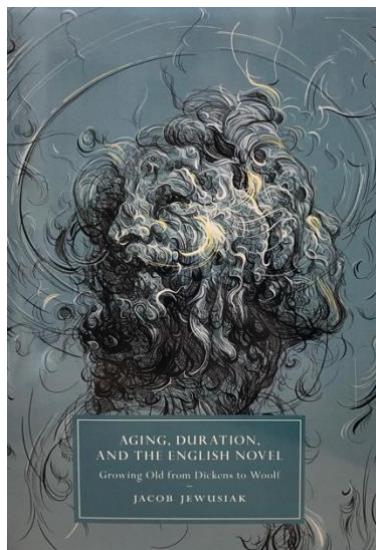
Jenny's book has been highly commended by the prestigious **DeLong Book History Prize** for its '...fascinating and highly original study of textual soundscapes...' Well, done Jenny!

### Jennifer Richards, *Voices and Books in English Renaissance*

*Voices and Books* (OUP) offers a new history of reading focussed on the oral reader and the voice-aware silent reader in the age of early print. It explores what happens when we bring voice to text, how vocal tone realizes or changes textual meaning, and how the literary writers of the past tried to represent their own and others' voices on the page, as well as manage and exploit readers' voices. Books are alive with the voices of potential readers. Recognising this has implications for the stories we tell about reading, performance, and the history of print. *Voices and Books* recovers how printed books were experienced by many readers, not only as material objects, as they are read by historians of the book today, but as live events.



### Jacob Jewusiak, *Aging, Duration, and the English Novel*



The rapid onset of dementia after an illness, the development of gray hair after a traumatic loss, the sudden appearance of a wrinkle in the brow of a spurned lover. The realist novel uses these conventions to accelerate the process of aging into a descriptive moment, writing the passage of years on the body all at once. *Aging, Duration, and the English Novel* (CUP) argues that the formal disappearance of aging from the novel parallels the ideological pressure to identify as being young by repressing the process of growing old. The construction of aging as a shameful event that should be hidden - to improve one's chances on the job market or secure a successful marriage - corresponds to the rise of the long novel, which draws upon

the temporality of the body to map progress and decline onto the plots of nineteenth-century British modernity.

### Hannah Leach

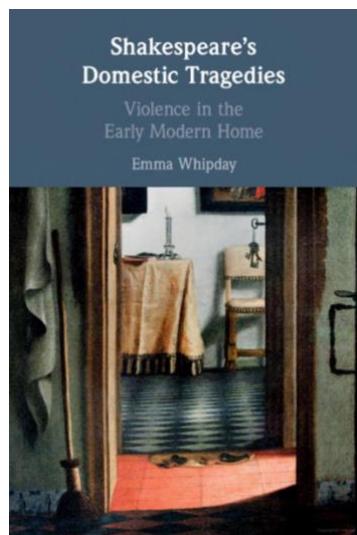
Hannah has just had this article accepted for forthcoming publication (pending revisions) in the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*: /h/-variation in Stoke-on-Trent's pottery industry

### Watch this space:

Emma's book has just been shortlisted for the **Shakespeare's Globe Book Award**. Fingers crossed, Emma!

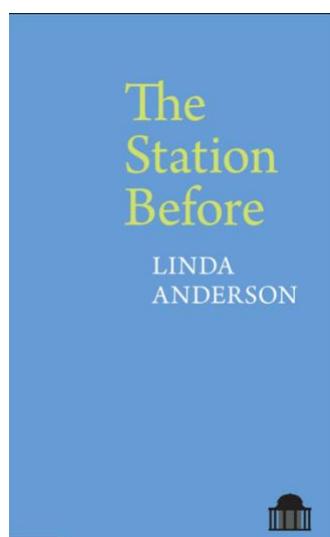
### Emma Whipday, *Shakespeare's Domestic Tragedies*

Domestic tragedy was an innovative genre, suggesting that the lives and sufferings of ordinary people were worthy of the dramatic scope of tragedy. In *Shakespeare's Domestic Tragedies* (CUP), Whipday shows how this genre, together with neglected pamphlets, ballads, and other forms of 'cheap print' about domestic violence, informed some of Shakespeare's greatest works. Providing a significant reappraisal of *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*, the book argues that domesticity is central to these plays: they stage how societal and familial pressures shape individual agency; how the integrity of the house is associated with the body of the housewife; and how household transgressions render the home permeable.



Whipday demonstrates that Shakespeare not only appropriated constructions of the domestic from domestic tragedies, but that he transformed the genre, using heightened language, foreign settings, and elite spheres to stage familiar domestic worlds.

### Linda Anderson, *The Station Before*



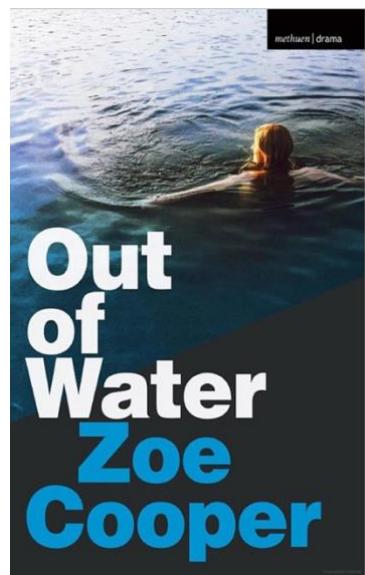
This poetry collection travels across time and space, employing a range of voices, including historical ones. At the heart of the collection, though, is always the moment of encounter, the moment when things appear strange, before they settle into a pattern or become known. This is as true of the explorer Charles Kingsley, awed by the Caribbean landscape, as it is of the poet herself, confronted with moments of vision or almost vision, either in her own travels, or in the ordinariness of a domestic life. Nothing is quite secure: memory destabilizes with its resurrections; seeing has many angles and cannot be taken for granted; borders fluctuate and crossings abound. And although not afraid to draw on ideas from many sources, these

poems often explore how thinking masks a fragility, the knowledge of our mortal selves. What are the fragments that make a poem, the book asks? How are they held within a form?

### Zoe Cooper, *Out of Water*

‘A tale of gender, love, myth and motherhood drenched in the bracing brine and ozone of the Tyneside coast, it has a dreaminess that drifts through the ebb and flow of life in a small community.’ (*The Times*)

*Out of Water* is a play about Claire and her wife Kit who have moved from the confines of London to the wide open coasts of South Shields in the north east of England. To be nearer family, to be nearer the sea, to put down roots. To have a baby. Claire’s new job at the local school is a step up, and she wants to make a real difference, but she soon discovers that she has as much to learn from her students as they have from her.



The play was produced at the Orange Tree Theatre with the RSC. It was subsequently shortlisted for the Charles Wintour Evening Standard Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and the Best New Play Broadway World Award. It is published by Bloomsbury.

### Carolyn Forché, *What You Have Heard Is True: a memoir of witness and resistance*

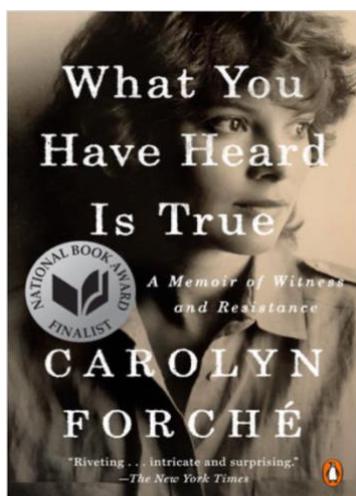
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Carolyn’s memoir was recently shortlisted for the **James Tait Black Prize** (biography section).

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2019 National Book Award Finalist

“Reading it will change you, perhaps forever.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*  
 “Astonishing, powerful, so important at this time.” —*Margaret Atwood*



*What You Have Heard is True* is a devastating, lyrical, and visionary memoir about a young woman’s brave choice to engage with horror in order to help others. Written by one of the most gifted poets of her generation, this is the story of a woman’s radical act of empathy, and her fateful encounter with an intriguing man who changes the course of her life.

## ... IN MEDIA RES...

**'YOUR POINT OF VIEW'**  
**SATURDAY**  
**5pm - 7pm**  
**Topic**  
**AMERICA IN RACE CRISIS**

  
**STUDIO NO.**  
**0114 2618181**

  
**Tina Gharavi**  
BAFTA-nominated, award-winning TV and film showrunner and director

  
**Dr Jonas Chartock**  
dedicated his career to advancing social justice in USA

  
**Suresh Grover**  
The Monitoring Group, leading anti-racist charity that promotes civil rights

  
**LinkFM**  
Linking Communities

### **Percy Calling:**

During lockdown **Tina Gharavi** and **Jake Jewusiak** took to the air in broadcasts dedicated to 'America in the Race Crisis' and Jake's new book, (see page 7 for further details)

### **Jewusiak:**

Timeless on the question of ageing.

Hear for yourself:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/EastLondonRadio/age-speaks-meets-jacob-jewisic-may-20/>

### **AgeSpeaks Radio Show** @ELRAgeSpeaks · May 7

What an absolutely brilliant recording today for our latest show. @MervChangeAGEnt in an hours convo with Dr @jacob\_jewusiak talking #Dickens & #ageing from Jacob's latest book. This will be available worldwide on Monday 11th. Interested in #VictorianLit & #Dickens? A MUST !



# NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS:

## EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ELECTORAL CULTURE

January 2020 marked the launch of a new **AHRC-funded** interdisciplinary project exploring popular participation in eighteenth-century elections. Led by **Matthew Grenby**, alongside **Elaine Chalus** and **Tom Schofield**, the project is based at Newcastle University, in collaboration with the University of Liverpool.

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"The project aims to produce an open-access database of polling data for a selection of constituencies between 1695 and 1832."

Follow ECPPEC at:  
[@ECPPEC\\_Project](https://twitter.com/ECPPEC_Project)  
 and  
<https://ecppec.ncl.ac.uk/>.

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Middlesex Election, August 7, 1804. Etched by James Gillray, published by Hannah Humphrey. From the [Art Institute, Chicago](#).

The project aims to produce an open-access database of polling data for a selection of constituencies between 1695 and 1832, and link this information directly to artifacts and events generated by parliamentary elections – from specially-produced crockery to spectacular parades. In addition to revealing the myriad ways in which the public could participate in elections (whether they had a vote or not), it considers how targeted interventions during an electoral campaign shaped the behaviour of these participants.

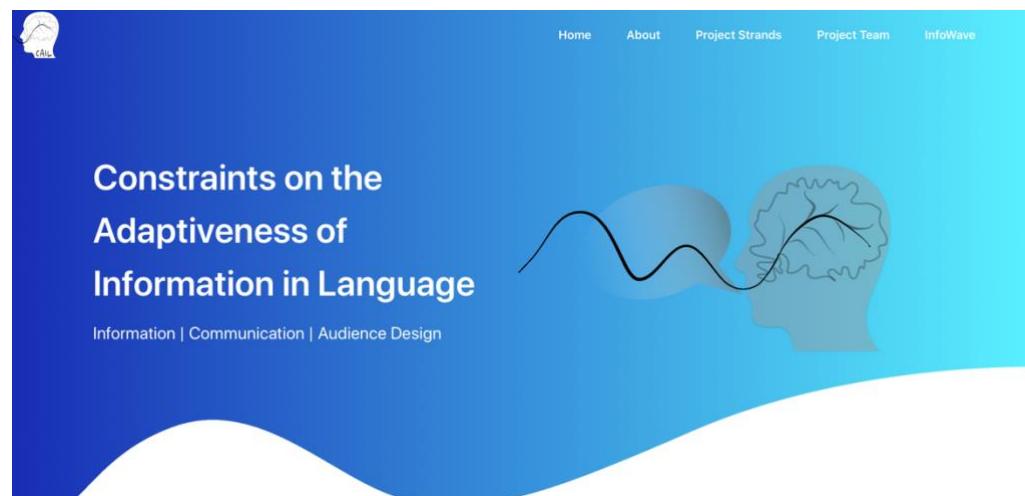
The project's Postdoctoral Research Associates are **Kendra Packham** and **James Harris**. Kendra is a specialist on the relations between literary representations – including plays, ballads, and novels – and electoral culture. For the project, she's particularly focusing on recovering and analysing electoral culture. James leads on the collection and analysis of polling data, whilst conducting broader research into election practices. His wider research interests include regional history, antiquarianism, and the development of Anglicanism.

## Constraints on the Adaptiveness of Information in Language

Dr **Christine Cuskley** (Lecturer in Language and Cognition) and Dr **Joel Wallenberg** (Lecturer in Language Change) will be starting their **ESRC-funded** project *Constraints on the Adaptiveness of Information in Language* from September 1.



They'll be joined by Dr **Rachael Bailes**, an expert in evolutionary pragmatics, who will be working full time on the project. The project will be using information theory to look at how language users spread information across utterances, over historical time, spoken and written contexts, and between neurotypical and neurodivergent speakers. For more information, see the project site at <https://cail-project.github.io/>



## Heritage Explorers

**Dr Barbara Gribling**, working on a **RIF-funded** project in the School, has been successful in her application to work with the Research Software Engineer (RSE) team in the **Digital Institute** here at Newcastle University [<https://research.ncl.ac.uk/rse/>].



Her three-month project began in May, bringing Barbara into collaboration with **Dr Kate Court**, a software engineer in the RSE team. Their project is called 'Heritage Explorers', and will build a Web App that digitally brings to life the 1820s board game 'Scenes in London', one of the many artefacts unearthed as part of Barbara's work with **Matthew Grenby** on their childhood and the history of heritage project.

The app will allow Key Stage 2 children to time-travel and engage with historical sites and entertainments from the Tower of London zoo to Vauxhall gardens. By reproducing these games on a digital platform, they recreate it both in its original 'race to the finish' mode and in a new 'explorer mode'. This enables children to explore the sites pictured on the illustrated game spaces with additional activities. The game gives child 'travellers' an opportunity to think about the heritage environment and how it will have changed over time. It creates a model for games which engage children with heritage sites and can merge past and present.

This work should go on to form part of a larger project to digitally recreate popular British history and heritage-themed educational board games from the 18th and 19th centuries. Children can then explore the past through play through the perspective of their Georgian and Victorian counterparts.

# PROJECT UPDATES

## Manuscripts After Print Project: Art of Handwriting Digital Exhibition and App

December 2019 saw the launch of the [Art of Handwriting](#) digital exhibition, part of the **AHRC-funded Manuscripts after Print** project (PI: **Aditi Nafde**; RA: **Matthew Coneys**). The exhibition follows on from a Hackathon, in which calligraphers, academics, and digital specialists discussed two large questions: what is the relevance of handwriting in a digital age? how might the book look in the future? The exhibition explores handwriting's changing role over time by juxtaposing books and documents from the NU Library's Special

Collections with the work of contemporary professional calligraphers from the North East and London. Featuring video recordings of scribes at work and handwritten texts ranging from a fifteenth-century missal to high-tech security designs for the latest Scottish banknotes, it charts the development and persistence of writing by hand over centuries of technological change.



A professional calligrapher at work. This video was filmed in a single shot to demonstrate the slow, careful work of calligrapher Sue Hufton. You can both hear and see the process of preparing a quill and of writing. By observing the slow craft of handwriting, including the failures that lead to its successes, we can gain an insight into its ability to adapt and change, a central element of its longevity.



Simultaneously, the project launched [Hands-on Reading](#), a digital handwriting app developed in collaboration with ATNU and research software engineers at the Digital Institute. Readers can try their hand at decorating and annotating a digital copy of the *Canterbury Tales*. The app is currently in beta testing and the preliminary data collected will enable the project to further explore how hybrid book technologies affect reading and annotation practices. The app will function in any web browser but use a tablet and stylus for the best experience.

## Out of Bounds Poetry Project:

The AHRC-funded Out of Bounds Poetry Project recently announced the results of its national poetry competition. Its judges were the School's very own **Jackie Kay** and **Malika Booker**. The project team will soon be launching a digital anthology of selected poems (see image below).

In addition to contributing a short video on the site, Jackie Kay recently picked one of the winning poems as 'Makar's Choice' in the *Sunday Post*: 'a little inspiration to help us through lockdown'.

8 May 24, 2020 NEWS [sundaypost.com](https://sundaypost.com)

**CORONAVIRUS CRISIS** **Scientist**

**THE MAKAR'S CHOICE**

**JACKIE KAY**

By Laura Smith [lasmith@sundaypost.com](mailto:lasmith@sundaypost.com)

**M**  
**t**  
**h**  
**i**  
**j**  
**o**

It is, as they say, all about timing but when scientist Jenna Macciochi wrote her new poem explaining how we can stay well by boosting our immune system, she could never have imagined the world was about to be engulfed by Covid-19.

Published days before Britain locked down, the expert immunologist's advice now seems more important than ever as regulations begin to be relaxed.

While it won't provide an impenetrable shield against the virus, staying well by fortifying our immune system can help give our bodies a fighting chance.

With our normal routines on hold, this is a good time to reflect on how our work and lifestyle are serving us and if changes we can make to better health," she said.

"This is especially important now as people with underlying health conditions or certain lifestyles have often ended up with a worse case of Covid-19."

Jenna, who is from Arisholt and lectures in immunology at the University of Sussex, has spent two decades studying immunology for her latest book, *Immunity: The Science of Staying Well*. "I could never have imagined we'd be in the middle of a pandemic when my book was released but it's definitely been a wake-up call," she said.

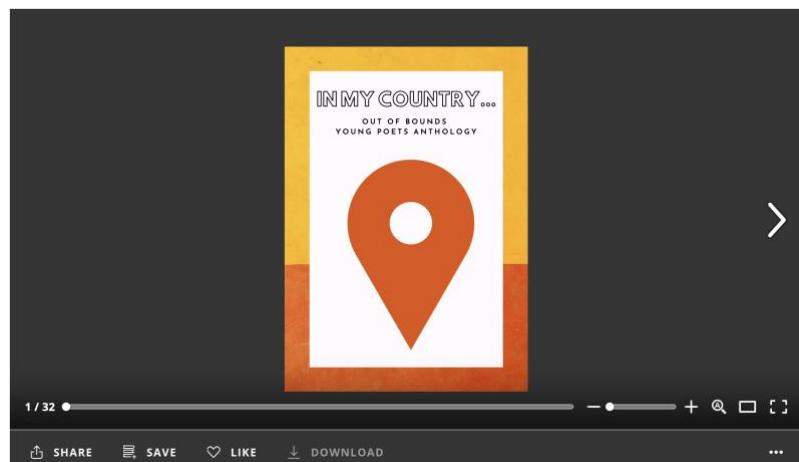
**In My Country**  
**Ruby Guilfoyle**

I remember the smiles and the endless laughter  
The blurred feet of my baby cousin  
Camouflaged in the jungle at our feet  
The daisies that towered as we pretended  
Playing around the flowerbeds  
Like little pixies floating through the summer air.

I remember the age I spent in awe as my grandad  
Built the foundations of my imagination  
I can tell you the exact shade of bright red  
The rustic scent of the painted wood  
The slick feeling of the paint on my fingertips.  
It took me anywhere and everywhere

I remember the 'five more minutes'  
As we flew through the air  
Jumping higher and higher  
Striving for the sky  
Only to land again  
In a circle of blue reality.  
As childhood fades away  
Left in Grandad's garden.

For more information about the competition:  
<https://outofbounds.digital/#/competition>



## Conflict, Famine and Displacement: Then and Now

**Karen Corrigan's** Virtual Exhibition is about to open with funding from Heritage at Newcastle and International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

It will harness the language of arpillerias (3D-tapestries) to explore the interconnection between historical conflict, famine and displacement on the island of Ireland, and the same factors which continue to forcibly displace populations on a global scale today. The project's title evokes a line from a famous Irish lament - Ochón 's Ochón-Ó ('Alas, and Alas-O') – which was sung at the 'American Wakes' of the Great Famine era in Ireland. This was a period of considerable population loss through conflict, food insecurity, poverty, mortality and migration. Few migrants ever returned - despite facing new deprivations in their receiving countries, as William Hill conveyed to his family in Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland from his new "wreck of a property" in South Carolina, on 2nd September 1865:

"The people here are impoverished, not one in ten but is reduced to insolvency... You say you would be glad to see me once more before we leave this world. I need not tell you that feeling is mutual, but it is not likely that we shall ever enjoy it". (Extract Courtesy of the Corpus of Irish-English Correspondence, compiled by Carolina Amador-Moreno & Kevin McCafferty).

This initiative builds on a previous collaboration between Karen Corrigan and Roberta Bacic through the recent **From Home to Here** exhibition at the Linen Hall Library, Belfast, which celebrated 2019 as being the Year of Indigenous Languages.

For more information about the exhibition:

<https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles/search-quilts2/fullevent1/?id=219>



# VIVA!

**Congratulations to our (former) PhD students, all of whom successfully defended their doctoral theses this year. We're very proud of you all, well done!**

On 3 June 2020, **Hana Ehbara** successfully Zoom-defended her PhD, 'Impact of Computer-Assisted Pronunciation Training on Libyan Child Learners of English'. Her supervisors were **Jalal Al-Tamimi** and **Martha Young-Scholten**, and she was examined by Gary Taylor-Raebel and Bronwen Evans (UCL).

19 May 2020.

### **Michael Cribbs**

Examiners were Professor **Guy Austin** (SML) and Dr James Walters (University of Birmingham).

Title of his thesis was "Daydream Believers? A study of daydream sequences in Hollywood cinema 1947-2019" and he was supervised by Dr **Andrew Shail** and Dr **Hannah Durkin**.

24 April 2020

### **Vean Al-Saka**

Examiners were Prof **Anders Holmberg** and Prof Geoffrey Khan (University of Cambridge).

Title of her thesis was "Verbal Syntax and Differential Object Marking in Barile Neo-Aramaic" and she was supervised by Prof **Maggie Tallerman** and Dr **Joel Wallenberg**.

29 January 2020

### **Khansaa Martakush**

Examiners were Dr Spencer Hazel (ECLS) and Professor Martha Bigelow (University of Minnesota).

Title of her thesis was "The Role of Corrective Feedback and Individual Differences in Second Language Learning", and she was supervised by Prof **Martha Young-Scholten** and Professor **Paul Seedhouse**.

17 January 2020

### **Xinliang Jiang**

Examiners were Dr Gary Taylor-Raebel and Dr **Alex Leung** (Northumbria).

Title of his thesis was "Chinese EFL Learners' Acquisition of Phonology: A Comparative Analysis of the Influence of Two Dialects (Northeastern and

Cantonese)", and he was supervised by Prof **Martha Young-Scholten** and Dr **SJ Hannahs**.

13 January 2020

### **Nisit (Knight) Kamphikul**

Examiners were Laurence White and Esther de Leeuw.

Title of his thesis was "Intonation of Thai Learners of English for Marking Narrow Focus" and his Supervisors were Jalal Al-Tamimi, **Martha Young-Scholten** and **SJ Hannahs**.

## **Talks in Lockdown**

- **Heike Pichler's** visiting fellowship at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, in May was sadly corona'd. As part of the fellowship, Heike had planned to work with colleagues at the University of Waikato on a new project "Discourse markers in Maori English."
- Her invited talks at the Universities of Waikato and Canterbury were also corona'd. Here's hoping New Zealand will eventually re-open its borders (and admit people travelling from the UK).
- In January, **Heike Pichler** delivered a one-week research skills module on "Discourse markers and pragmatic particles in use: variationist approaches" at the prestigious Netherlands Graduate School for Linguistics (<https://lotschool.nl/events/lot-winter-school-2020/>). The module received excellent student feedback.
- In June, **Heike** should also have delivered these conference papers at the DiPVaC 5 conference in Melbourne, Australia:
  - Orthographic variation reflects constituency variation, *am I right or amirite?* (with M. Brook).
  - Utterance-final tags in non-adolescent and adolescent narratives: lexical replacement or interactional-pragmatic change?
  - Hopefully, Melbourne will hear these papers next spring?
- In March, **Lauren Ackerman** delivered this conference paper remotely at the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing
  - Social exposure to gender-variance influences the real-time processing of pronouns (DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/N8K56)
  - In April, **Rory Turnbull** was going to present "Morphologically-distinct homophones and coda neutralization in English" at the 2020 Colloquium of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians, University of York
- In May, **Dan Duncan** should have delivered this conference paper at the Morphological Variation and Change conference in Cambridge, UK
  - Variation and the English participle-preterite relation

- Between April and June, **Hannah Leach** should have delivered the following conference papers
  - Sociolinguistic variation, affect, topic and emotion in oral history interviews; The interface of emotion and cognition in language learning and use event, University of Essex
  - Phonetically-motivated morpho-phonological change in an unstressed vowel: the horsES vowel in Stoke-on-Trent English; BAAP, University of York
  - Understanding (i): production and perception of the horsES vowel in Stoke- on-Trent; Northern Englishes Workshop, University of Salford
- Meanwhile in January the **Postcolonial Print Cultures Network** conference in Abu Dhabi did take place: <https://postcolonialpc.com/2020/02/07/conference-report-print-orality-and-readerships-in-new-postcolonial-contexts/> It was hosted by NYUAD and by the Postcolonial Print Cultures Network, which of course has been funded by the Faculty and which is co-convened by Newcastle and NYU.
- In April, **Heike Pichler** also remotely delivered an invited paper titled “The challenges of testing contact effects in discourse-pragmatic change” to the Department for German Language and Linguistics at Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany.
- ... While in May, **Lauren Ackerman** remotely delivered an invited talk titled “Connecting our worlds to our words: influence of gender nonconformity on pronoun comprehension.” to University of Kent CLL Online talks series (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQS55vUfydI>)

## Onwards and Upwards

- **Promotions success in this year's round (well done all of you!):**

**Aditi Nafde** - Senior Lecturer in Medieval Literature

**Jennifer Orr** - Senior Lecturer in Eighteenth-Century Literature

**Mark Byers** - Lecturer G

**Emma Whipday** - Lecturer G

- **Linda France** has won a **Cholmondeley Award** in recognition of her 'achievement and distinction' as a poet. Among the four other winners announced for 2020 is our former PhD student, **Hannah Lowe**.

- Our PhD student, **Juliana Mensah**, was recently appointed to a permanent position in Literature and Creative Writing Post at the University of York