



University of
Nottingham
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SCHOOL OF ENGLISH PGR Symposium 2020-21

Friday 22nd January 2021
10.30am-4.30pm
Microsoft Teams

10:30-11:00 - Welcome

11:00-12:00 - Panel 1: Cultural shifts

Chair: Josh Caldicott

Kathryn Bullen

Title: The Scandinavian influence on place-names and artefacts in the Isle of Axholme

The Isle of Axholme lies in the area historically known as the Danelaw, a name given to the eastern part of England in which the laws of the Danes/Vikings held power from the 9th to 11th centuries. In this paper I will assess the Scandinavian influence on place-names and artefacts found in the Isle of Axholme, investigating two settlement areas at Haxey and Crowle. The paper will consider some of the benefits of using a multidisciplinary approach to understand the linguistic and cultural conditions relevant at the time of place-name formation.

Rebecca Hayward

Title: The Benedictine Reform and the Exeter Book Riddles

In the late tenth century, the Benedictine Reform attempted to standardise the monastic institutions of England and bring about an improvement in learning and literacy. This period coincided with the compilation of a miscellany of Old English poetry known as The Exeter Book which included ninety-five riddles. My research asks whether these riddles held additional layers of meaning for a monastic audience. Using one riddle as a case study, I will demonstrate how its solution can have spiritual and didactic significance when seen within the context of the Benedictine Reform.

Tamsin Parnell

Title: Representing Britain and Europe in the pro-Brexit British press, 2016–2019

In this paper, I will summarise the key findings from my first thesis chapter, which looks at how Britain and Europe are described in the pro-Brexit press between 2016 and 2019. I will illustrate that the press narrates a journey from British unity to discord as the Brexit process extends, fuelled by concerns about Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement and parliamentary indecision over Brexit. I will conclude by considering some of the socio-political effects of this shift towards more divisive language.

12:00-12:15 - Break

12:15-1:15 - Panel 2: Developing identities

Chair: Nicola Grace

Harriet Clark

Title: Becoming King: The Succession of Co-Rulers in Norway, c.1035-1130

When considering the political organisation of kingship, it is first important to understand how an individual or individuals become king. This matter will be the example of my thesis work as I explore how the language used in the Old Norse sources shapes the understanding – both then and now – of how royal succession took place and its political authority shared between co-kings.

Mariam Aloufey

Title: Teacher Resilience

Teaching is described as an emotionally demanding profession with low recognition, heavy workload and often financially unrewarding. Research has shown that there is an international crisis in teachers' recruitment and retention with many teachers leaving during their first years in the profession. However, many teachers remain in the profession showing resilience, motivation and commitment despite the difficulties. In this presentation I will share the focus of my research and provide an outline of the study design.

Veronica Layunta Morel

Title: The Medicine of Storytelling as a Therapeutic Tool for Transgenerational and Collective Trauma in the Process of Re-Authoring Identity

War and oppressive regimes leave a traumatic legacy that can be experienced even by generations who did not directly live the original events. My research explores Transgenerational and Collective Trauma through both the writing of a novel and an autoethnography, in an exercise that blurs the boundaries between creative and scientific exploration in order to have a more direct and multi-storied access to human experience.

My novel deals with the transgenerational traumatic legacy of the Spanish Civil War and the Francoist Regime. I am proposing fiction writing as an opportunity to explore alternative preferred stories and re-author identities.

1:15-2:15 - Lunch

Additional lunchtime activities (for postgraduate research students only)

During the lunch hour, there will be two Teams channels running. One provides the opportunity for you to chat with, and feed back to, your PGR LCF reps. The other channel is a drop-in with School of English staff. Lucie Sutherland will be joined by colleagues, to respond to any questions you have about any aspects of PG life.

2:15-3:15 - Panel 3: Experiential processes at work

Chair: Amy Wilcockson

Denny Vlaeva

Title: 'Vision' of future success: Understanding mental images for language-learning motivation

Helping language learners develop a vivid mental image of themselves speaking their desired language proficiently is one way of supporting motivation during the lengthy process of mastering a new language. Learners tend to enjoy visualising their future success, and can benefit from making their future language 'vision' more detailed, when assisted to do so in the language classroom, usually over the course of several weeks. But do they visualise when they aren't actively encouraged to? And what happens to learners' vision in the long run? I grapple with these questions, and some pandemic-related methodological challenges in investigating them.

Ghozayel Elottebi

Title: The role of multimodal input in the acquisition of idioms

One way to help L1 and L2 learners acquire idioms might be by using multimodal input, i.e. in auditory sentences that present the form and meaning alongside images that reinforce the meaning. When provided with multimodal input (e.g. images and new words presented visually and/or auditorily), even complete beginners can access a word's meaning, as they can extract it from pictorial information which can facilitate meaning acquisition (Bisson et al., 2015). One explanation is that learning in multimodal conditions benefits from a picture superiority effect, such that having access to a picture during encoding benefits recall (Paivio & Caspo, 1973; Nelson et al., 1976). My research explores the role of multimodal input in the acquisition of idioms.

Andrea Bowd

Title: Delight and Malignity within the Eerie

I discuss the concept of eerie as a joyful concept and also as a malign entity. I believe that the eerie holds elements of both. I draw upon some fascinating literary examples which demonstrate this. I also discuss my own experiences of eerie presented as a critical/creative piece of writing. I also discuss my independent research.

My project is largely based around the area of south Nottinghamshire, where my own experiences have occurred. I also present a selection of my poems written as a direct result of research, pertinent literature and of my own experiences.

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30-4:30 – Guest Speaker: Laura Nixon, 'The PhD and me'.

Laura is a School of English alumna, and this closing talk will focus on her career after completing the PhD.

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