THE SCHOOL OF ENGLISH PRESENTS

THE ENGLISH SHOWCASE

10:00AM – 17:00PM

1ST MAY 2024

SENATE CHAMBER, TRENT BUILDING

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Welcome!

The English Showcase celebrates the research produced by final year Undergraduate and Masters students in the School of English at the University of Nottingham. Students from all disciplines are invited to present any aspect of their work which may include dissertations, essays or creative writing.

Building on the success of previous years, this year we are proud to host a full day conference both in-person and online to showcase the brilliant work of our students, oh whom we are very proud.

The variety of work here showcases and exciting range of disciplines and working practises and will be an inspiring, informative, and enjoyable event to celebrate our students and their hard work during this academic year.

This booklet contains the running order for the day, including presentation titles and abstracts. Towards the end, you can find more information on the School of English and our MA courses.

Our students have put a lot of work into their presentations, and we are delighted to be able to present you with some of the very best work that our Undergraduate and Masters students have produced.

We hope you enjoy the day!

The Organising Committee: Dr Christina Lee, Dr Pawel Szurdarski, Dr Rebecca Gregory, Lauren Ball, Charlotte Crane & Alex Duncan

Programme

10:00- 10:20	Arrival and Registration (with tea & coffee)
10:20- 10:30	Welcome and Introduction by Professor Máire ní Fhlathúin, Head of School.
10:30- 11:30	**PANEL ONE** (CHAIR: Emma Horne)
	Kevin Hodgson: Beyond p-values & questionnaires: the importance of mixed methods classroom research and observing behavioural outcomes in SLA motivation research (presenting online)
	Sarah Thornley: Queer metaphor (presenting online)
	Ben Doyle: Exploring conflict in the work of D.H Lawrence
	Marie Georghiou: Valleys of medieval England: when a denu becomes a dale (presenting online)
10-minute break	
11:40- 12:40	**PANEL TWO** (CHAIR: Gillian Walters)
	Daria Paterek: 'We did not have a systematic issue with harassment- ever': An Examination of Bobby Kotick's Interview In Response To Sexual Harassment Lawsuit
	Lucile Deslignères: Ecopoetry: a few poems

	Fatima al Moufridji: The West Meets the Wonders of the East: Early Medieval England's Perception and Attitude Toward the Foreign Other
	Olivia King: My Little Pony: "Hold her down and hate f**k her" – Violence and Objectification in the Sexualised Discourse of 4Chan's /mlp/. (**Content warning:** discussions of sexual abuse)
12:40- 13:40	Lunch & PGT Information
13:40- 14:25	**PANEL THREE** (CHAIR: Hayley Rowe)
	Valerie Rowles: 'We Don't Need Another Hero': observing constructions of leadership using a corpus linguistics approach (presenting online)
	Julia Fernandez: Anne Brontë's Epistolary Voice: Unveiling the forgotten sister through her novels and letters (presenting online)
	Matthew Hall: Transparency Carriage – Writing Prompts to Facilitate Creativity
10-minute break	
14:35- 15:20	**PANEL FOUR** (CHAIR: Emily Smith)
	James Kaye: Out of the Spaceship and into Faeryland: The Role of Allusion in C. S. Lewis's 'That Hideous Strength'
	Katherine Price: "He didn't say anything else." – A further exploration into the presentation of speech and thought in Sally Rooney's Normal People (2018).
	Rhiannon Rumble: "Is mycology reaching a tipping point?": The ecoGothic potential of fungi (presenting online)

15:10- 17:00	Concluding remarks from Dr Christina Lee followed by a tea and coffee reception (a chance for informal chats with academics and networking).

Speaker: Kevin Hodgson
Paper title: Beyond p-values & questionnaires: the importance of mixed methods classroom research and observing behavioural outcomes in SLA motivation research
Abstract: To date, the majority of research that has investigated motivation in subsequent language acquisition (SLA) has utilized methods associated with quantitative social psychology with large sample populations. Oftentimes, the data collection does not incorporate participants' actual behavior, but rather consists mainly of self-report surveys that measure affective variables or the participants' motivational intent towards a targeted goal. When the participants' behaviour is measured, it is usually examined in a single tasked-based activity that is completed in one uninterrupted continuous episode. Consequently, although much of this research provides insight into how language learners think or feel, it has, unfortunately, not provided much data regarding the temporal dimension of motivation in action and what these leaners actually do when they are motivated. In this presentation, the results of a quasi-experimental study conducted at UAE University will be discussed to illustrate how the inclusion of behavioural outcome measures and qualitative components in motivation research design can provide more detailed accounts of learners' experiences and, as a result, greater insight into the manner in which motivation can be sustained throughout a course. The study also explores new areas in motivation research, as it investigates the motivational influence of role models on the participants' behaviour and incorporates supraliminal priming techniques from the field of psychology.

Speaker: Sarah Thornley
Paper title: Queer metaphor
Abstract: I will draw on cognitive metaphor theory to give an account of I will term 'queer metaphors': metaphors that draw not only on similarities between target and source domain, but also on differences and incongruities. In doing so, I will draw upon Halberstam's concept of 'queer failure' in arguing that it is the target domain's 'failure' to be mapped onto the source domain that conveys much of the meaning of these queer metaphors. To illustrate this idea, I will look at Bechdel's autobiographical graphic novel Fun Home and her references to The Odyssey in her exploration of her gender identity and sexuality: this text provides examples of how this 'failure' can be experienced as painful and limiting, or as joyful and liberatory.

Speaker: Ben Doyle
Paper title: Exploring conflict in the work of D.H Lawrence
Abstract: This essay examines the significance of conflict in the work of D.H. Lawrence. Lawrence's short story 'New Eve and Old Adam' and his novel 'Women in Love' demonstrate that conflict is central to Lawrence's writing. The two texts, both born from real conflicts Lawrence faced in his own life, examine opposing forces of conflict: violence and love, the new and the old, desire and reason, man and woman. Lawrence demonstrates how these opposing forces then manifest themselves as conflicts on an individual level, as shown through characters such as Rupert Birkin, Gerald Crich, Peter and Paula Moest. The potential for reconciling these conflicts then comes from Lawrence's self-described 'great religion', his belief that 'We can go wrong in our minds. But what our blood feels and believes and says, is always true.' In these two texts, Lawrence shows that for individual conflict to be resolved, we must reconcile the greater forces of opposition by living less through the mind and more through the body, allowing us to lapse into a state of balance.

Speaker: Marie Georghiou

Paper title: Valleys of medieval England: when a denu becomes a dale

Abstract: While in today's urban environments we often give little thought to local landscape features, they were once decisive factors in the selection of a settlement site. Our ancestors' lives were closely bound with landmarks such as hills, rivers and valleys, and they had a great variety of terms to describe them. Many of these words are now lost, but we can reconstruct their meaning by exploring the type of place they gave their name to. The Old English word 'denu' was a general term that usually meant 'main valley', and was commonly used in place-names. With the arrival of Viking settlers, it was replaced in some names by the Old Norse term 'dalr', leading to name changes such as Saxenden turning into Saxondale. What prompted this change, which affected some settlements and not others? Could it have been a new addition to the vocabulary of landscape, to distinguish between valleys previously considered to be of the same type? I delve into the geography of these sites, building on the seminal work of Gelling and Cole in this area, to search for clues that might explain these replacements.

Speaker: Daria Paterek

Paper title: 'We did not have a systematic issue with harassment- ever': An Examination of Bobby Kotick's Interview In Response To Sexual Harassment Lawsuit

Abstract: The video game industry is known not only as being male dominated but also as being misogynistic, perpetuating a culture that pushes women out of the industry and consequently maintains a patriarchal status quo. A recent scandal (2021) in the video game industry centred on allegations that Activision Blizzard (the video game company behind Candy Crush, Call of Duty, and Guitar Hero) had a "frat boy" culture where women experienced sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination. While the lawsuit was settled, Activision Blizzard's CEO conducted an interview in 2023 about the allegations, claiming that "we did not have a systematic issue with harassment- ever". This work is a linguistic analysis, delving into ideas of Feminist Critical Discourse and post-structuralist theory to deconstruct how the

CEO's linguistic choices were used to escape responsibility for his part in fostering an unsafe work environment for female employees. As a whole, the study also explores how male leaders can dismiss sexism and play an active role in pushing women out of work, an issue that is relevant now more than ever.

Speaker: Lucile Deslignères

Paper title: Ecopoetry: a few poems

Abstract: A selection of poems recently written on the subject of environmental changes based on observations, memories and at times nightmares!

Speaker: Fatima al Moufridji

Paper title: The West Meets the Wonders of the East: Early Medieval England's Perception and Attitude Toward the Foreign Other

Abstract: The Wonders of the East (henceforth Wonders) is an Old English text within the Nowell Codex, a manuscript better known as the Beowulf Manuscript. The text creates a narrative of a wonderous, and dangerous East filled with immense wealth and marvellous monsters, including places such as Babylon, Persia, and Egypt. The monstrous beings listed in this text include strange animals like dog-sized ants and exploding chickens amongst many others whilst also narrating in a way that reads like a medieval Pokedex. In the Wonders, the East is also shown as a realm of boundless wealth in addition to being a territory brimming with monsters. For example, "The ants dig gold up from the earth [...]," and the berries grown there are up to 150 feet and grow like "cende saragimmas" [curious gemstones]. This paper argues that Wonders provides insight into early medieval England's perceptions and viewpoints on the East. The creatures depicted, portrayed as vicious and even cannibalistic, offer insight into the early medieval England's perspective of the foreign "other." Therefore, Wonders offers an interesting glimpse into how the people in Early Medieval England perceived the world outside their borders.

Speaker: Olivia King
Paper title: My Little Pony: "Hold her down and hate f**k her" – Violence and Objectification in the Sexualised Discourse of 4Chan's /mlp/.   (**Content warning:** discussions of sexual abuse)
Abstract: My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic (MLP) is an animated children's television series. It features a cast of authoritative female characters existing within a female dominant society. MLP gained traction for its older, adult, majority male viewers (named 'bronies') after the show was adopted by users of anonymous online messaging board '4Chan'. 4Chan has become infamous for its users' perpetuation of far-right ideologies and misogynistic tendencies. The aim of this study is to identify misogyny within the sexual discourse of the 4Chan board /mlp/. To achieve this, I employ a combination of corpus linguistics and discourse analysis in approaching the data - a corpus of 700,000 words taken from 4Chan's /mlp/. I carried out a quantitative analysis, observing dominant patterns and themes through key words and collocations, followed by an analysis of randomly selected excerpts. The outcome of this research evidences a theme of misogyny across the sexualised discourse of /mlp/, with recurrent themes of violence against women, coercion and rape. Despite MLP's authoritative, feminist portrayals of female characters, the discourse of 4Chan consistently presents them as submissive, weak and passive. Furthermore, this research finds a lack of identifying factors for these female characters being ponies, instead suggesting MLP's characters function as a stand-in for human women. The consistent ideology expressed in the excerpts analysed is one that sees female resistance and male force as fetishised. Thus, the misogyny of this corpus is not only violent, but constantly demonstrates male sexual gratification from rape and coercion.

Speaker: Valerie Rowles
Paper title: 'We Don't Need Another Hero': observing constructions of leadership using a corpus linguistics approach
Abstract: A corpus linguistics analysis suggests that when heads of organizations create an online identity, they veer towards lexical choices that position them in ways that contrast with recommended conceptualizations of leadership. This presentation highlights key points from my research into how industry CEOs project ideas of leadership on a professional networking platform. I draw on Bucholtz and Hall's (2005) principles of identity construction and confirm that references to leadership capability are seen as a necessary phenomenon in C-level LinkedIn profiles. Through analyzing linguistic features of these texts, I find that the language selections made by profile-writers are worthy of attention, given the repercussions that the act of leading has for social power relationships within the workplace.

Speaker: Julia Fernandez
Paper title: Anne Brontë's Epistolary Voice: Unveiling the forgotten sister through her novels and letters
Abstract: The younger of the Brontë sisters is still an enigma. Overlooked by literary critics at the time, denied a rightful place alongside her favoured sisters and depicted by only a handful of personal accounts, Anne stands in the shadows of Victorian Literature. In this presentation, I will share my voyage of discovery to unearth what I consider her "epistolary voice", i.e. how her authorial identity is revealed through correspondence: in her personal letters, in her epistolary novel The Tenant of Wildfell Hall and in her confessional voice in Agnes Grey. The presentation will explore some of her personal letters and diary papers, together with her use of the epistolary in The Tenant of Wildfell hall. More interestingly, I will also unveil the use of an "epistolary voice" in her novel Agnes Grey. All in all, I will show how finding Anne's voice was an interesting journey. I feel that what Charlotte claims about her sister when she says; "constitutional reserve and taciturnity placed [Anne] in the shade, and covered her mind, and especially her feelings, with a sort of nun-like veil, which was rarely lifted" is not fair. Anne did lift her veil, only that she did it through

her characters and epistles for anyone sensitive enough to be able to listen to her voice.

Speaker: Matthew Hall

Paper title: Transparency Carriage – Writing Prompts to Facilitate Creativity

Abstract: I have an interest in aleatory occurrences and situations, and for this project have been inspired by the experimentation of the cut-up techniques employed by William Burroughs, the Oblique Strategies card decks devised by musician Brian Eno and artist Peter Schmidt, and Dada concepts of chance and the nonsensical. During the 'Learning to Publish,' module of my Creative Writing MA, I devised and wrote my own book of prompts that can be consulted to circumvent writer's block, or for unearthing latent ideas that have yet to surface within the subconscious mind of the writer, or for the times when inspiration seems distant and unreachable. Though it is hoped that the prompts may be of use in generating ideas during any stage of writing. I have turned the praxis of what I have learned on the module, into a properly marketed book available to the general public. The brief was a publication of no more than 2000 words, though with a prompt per page this ended up being a paperback book 223 pages long. I will discuss the process that I went through from the initial concept to publishing, and show a few examples of how they could become catalysts for new ideas. Equally I would be interested to hear how the prompts are interpreted by others, and will have hopefully have some copies available on the day.

Speaker: James Kaye

Paper title: Out of the Spaceship and into Faeryland: The Role of Allusion in C. S. Lewis's 'That Hideous Strength'

Abstract: This presentation argues that Lewis uses allusion in 'That Hideous Strength' to offer an alternative vision of evolutionary theories like 'Social Darwinism'. The presentation draws on the parallels between Edmund Spenser's 'The Faerie Queene' and Lewis's 'That Hideous Strength', and proposes that allusion is the mechanism that drives Lewis's vision. I begin by drawing parallels between Spenser's 'Letter to Raleigh' and the preface to 'That Hideous Strength', illustrating that the pair's declared intentions for writing their respective works are connected. The main body of the presentation argues that 'That Hideous Strength' works through Books III and IV of Spenser's national epic, with the relationship of Jane Tudor Studdock and Mark Gainsby Studdock paralleling the relationship of Scudamour and Amoret. I progress by comparing the House of Pride and Bracton College, and in doing so consider how the two writers use allegory to construct false institutions. The final section of the presentation traces Merlin's prophecy in both texts and I assert that Jane's destiny is an inversion of Britomart's from 'The Faerie Queene'. I conclude that by bringing Lewis and Spenser together, we take 'That Hideous Strength' from a pulp novel to one that effectively uses the literary tradition to offer a nuanced take on contemporary social theories.

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| **Speaker:** Katherine Price |
| **Paper title:** "He didn't say anything else." – A further exploration into the presentation of speech and thought in Sally Rooney's Normal People (2018). |
| **Abstract:** This essay presents a detailed discussion of how speech and thought is presented within Sally Rooney's novel Normal People (2018). The research within this paper is largely modelled on existing discussions from Geoffrey Leech, Mick Short, Joe Bray, Violeta Sotirova, and Monika Fludernik. Leech and Short provide categorisations of types of speech and thought and highlight typical indicators that differentiate between speech and thought in written prose. Bray, Sotirova, and Fludernik inform much of the discussion surrounding dual-voice theory and application of analysing how speech and thought is presented in narrative fiction. These proposed theories are thoroughly explained and then applied to three short sections of text selected from Normal People. Firstly, exploring an exchange between main characters Marianne and Connell from the beginning of the text, then a later conversation between Connell and his mother about Marianne, ending with an analysis of the last interactions of Marianne and Connell the final scene of the text. Potential reader interpretations of tone within these sections, and consequential perceptions of the characters, are explored. Surrounding co-text is then introduced to provide context to these sections and provide supporting or opposing evidence of the likelihood of each interpretation of the speech in the scene. This exploration indicates that reader perceptions of specific interactions can be manipulated by contextual clues from the wider narrative. Further prior and proceeding knowledge increases the number of possible interpretations of what is speech or thought in the interaction. |

Speaker: Rhiannon Rumble

Paper title: "Is mycology reaching a tipping point?": The ecoGothic potential of fungi

Abstract: As uncanny beings on the borderlands of life and death, fungi belong to a distinctly ecoGothic kingdom. Fungi evoke Gothic mechanisms in their monstrous forms, diet of decay, and potential to control and consume us. In many ways, fungi represent modern anxieties around the effects of Anthropocene, challenges to hegemonic systems of categorisation, and the potentials of nonhuman agency. In recent mycological nonfiction, folk tales, eclectic characters, personal encounters and liminal spaces are interwoven, exploring our shared life (and genetic lineage) with fungi, while knowing surprisingly little about them. This presentation considers how fungi are represented in popular mycological texts and will investigate how mycological nonfictions blend genres and forms with more than a hint of the ecoGothic. It is worth reflecting on why this type of work is emerging now and considering the wider significance of fungal agency in fiction.

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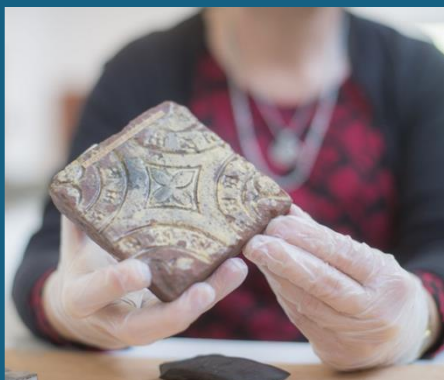
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