



### Academic Staff

#### Fellows

**Professor Paulina Kewes** teaches English literature from the Renaissance to the Romantics, including Shakespeare. Paulina's research interests are in early modern literature (especially drama), history, and politics, and she is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Her publications include *Authorship and Appropriation: Writing for the Stage in England, 1660-1710* (1998) and several edited or co-edited volumes: *Plagiarism in Early Modern England* (2003), *The Uses of History in Early Modern England* (2006), *The Oxford Handbook of Holinshed's Chronicles* (2013), *Doubtful and Dangerous: The Question of Succession in Late Elizabethan England* (2014), *Stuart Succession Literature: Moments and Transformations* (2019), as well as numerous articles on Shakespeare, Dryden, early modern drama, translation, plagiarism, historical writings, royal iconography, and political thought. She is currently writing the first interdisciplinary study of debates about the royal succession in the period from Henry VIII's death in 1547 to the accession of James VI/I and union of the English and Scottish crowns in 1603, from a comparative British and European perspective. The book is contracted to Oxford University Press.

**Professor Marion Turner** teaches literature from 650 to 1550. She recently wrote a biography, *Chaucer: A European Life* (Princeton University Press, 2019), chosen as a book of the year by *The Times*, the *Sunday Times*, and the *TLS*, and shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize 2020. Her other publications include *Chaucerian Conflict* (OUP, 2007), and *A Handbook of Middle English Studies* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013). She has also published numerous articles in journals such as *New Medieval Literatures*, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* and the *Chaucer Review*, and in edited collections. She edited a special issue of the *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* (2016) on the topic of Medical Discourse in Premodern Europe. Marion has been awarded major funding from The Leverhulme Trust, The Wellcome Trust, and the British Academy. She has appeared on television and radio programmes such as Radio 4's *Start the Week* and *Woman's Hour*, Radio 3's *Free Thinking*, and National Public Radio in the USA. Marion has spoken at many literary festivals, including Hay on Wye, Cheltenham, and Dartington Hall. Her current book project, supported by the Leverhulme Trust, focuses on the *Wife of Bath* across time. Marion is also active in outreach work, and speaks to many school groups every year. She is a Trustee of the New Chaucer Society.

**Professor Dirk Van Hulle**, teaches Bibliography, Genetic Criticism, Book History and (Digital) Scholarly Editing. His research interests are in modern manuscripts, notably by James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. With Mark Nixon, he is co-director of the *Beckett Digital Manuscript Project* ([www.beckettarchive.org](http://www.beckettarchive.org)), series editor of the Cambridge UP series 'Elements in Beckett Studies' and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Beckett Studies*. He is editor of the online journal *Genetic Joyce Studies* and member of the editorial board of the *International Journal for Digital Humanities* (Springer). His publications include *Textual Awareness* (Michigan UP, 2004), *Modern Manuscripts* (2014), *Samuel Beckett's Library* (CUP, 2013, with Mark Nixon), *The New Cambridge Companion to Samuel Beckett* (CUP, 2015), *James Joyce's Work in Progress* (Routledge, 2016), several volumes in the 'Making of' series (Bloomsbury) and genetic editions in the *Beckett Digital Manuscript Project*, including the *Beckett Digital Library*. His current projects include a monograph on Genetic Criticism for OUP, a digital edition of Samuel Beckett's *Murphy*, the co-editing of a *Comparative History of the Literary Draft* (John Benjamins) and of the *Oxford Handbook of Samuel Beckett* (OUP).

#### Lecturers

**Dr Amanda Holton**, Stipendiary Lecturer in English Language, teaches a paper on the English language at Jesus. She also teaches literature from 650 to 1550. Her principal research interests and publications are in Chaucer, the medieval and sixteenth-century love lyric, and poetics, with an emphasis on how form

precedes and generates meaning. She is interested in interrogating the agendas which drive the taxonomy of poetic form, and in challenging the division still made between medieval and early modern literature. She has recently completed a book on the role of rhyme in late medieval and early Renaissance love lyric. This book shows that decorum in the choice of vocabulary, combined with the limited rhyme resources of English, render certain clusters of words and ideas almost inevitable, particularly in complex poetic forms demanding large rhyme-groups. As a result, the essentially arbitrary element of rhyme comes to generate features of the experience of love in poetry, and the impression of subjectivity in love lyric is a side-effect of the necessities of rhyme. She is also interested in poetry anthologies; with Tom MacFaul, she edited *Tottel's Miscellany* for Penguin Classics, and is currently writing a book on poetry anthologies and the idea of England.

**Dr Ayoush Lazikani** is a Departmental Lecturer during Professor Marion Turner's leave. She is a SEDA-accredited tutor, teaching and lecturing in Old English and Middle English. As a researcher, Ayoush works in the history of emotions, specializing in devotional writing of the eleventh to thirteenth centuries. Her research considers English, Anglo-Norman, and Latin texts, and she has particular interests in literature written for religious recluses. Ayoush's first book, *Cultivating the Heart: Feeling and Emotion in Twelfth- and Thirteenth-Century Religious Texts* (University of Wales Press, 2015), studied the languages of feeling—especially the interrelated affections of compassion, love, and sorrow—in texts and church wall paintings. Her second book, *Emotion in Christian and Islamic Contemplative Texts, c. 1100-1250*, is due to be published in 2021. She has also published numerous articles in the *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*, the *Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies*, *Leeds Studies in English*, and various edited collections.

**Professor Peter Davidson** is Senior Research Fellow at Campion Hall and teaches renaissance, baroque and romantic literature for Jesus College. He has edited the seventeenth century poet Richard Fanshawe for OUP, as well as the two Oxford anthologies, *Poetry and Revolution*, and *Early Modern Women Poets*. His study of early-modern international culture *The Universal Baroque* was published in 2007. He is general editor for the *Oxford Edition of the works of St Robert Southwell*. He has wide interests in early modern cultural history and also teaches for History of Art. He has taught the Epic bridge paper for Classics and English, and has supervised for History and English. He has another identity as a writer of literary non-fiction and verse: *The Idea of North* (2005); *The Palace of Oblivion* (2008); *Distance and Memory* (2013); *the Last of the Light* (2015).

**Dr William Ghosh**, Career Development Fellow in English, teaches Victorian and Modern literature and literary theory at Jesus. He predominantly teaches first-year courses, focusing on the transition to university study, and on academic literacies. He is interested in how and why we study English at university, and in how we develop high-level skills in literacy and oracy through the English curriculum. His research explores the literature and intellectual history of Britain and the Caribbean in the twentieth century. His interests include comparative literature, critical theory, linguistics, and prose forms. His first book, *V.S. Naipaul, Caribbean Writing, and Caribbean Thought* will be published by Oxford University Press in October 2020. He is currently researching the British writer Penelope Fitzgerald (1916-2000).

## About the Course

### English at Jesus College

Jesus College currently has 27 undergraduates reading English, including 9 in the joint schools with Classics, History, and Modern Languages. There are also 13 graduates studying for Masters and doctoral degrees (please see below for further information on Postgraduate Studies and Careers).

The College has an excellent record of academic achievement in English and the Joint Schools - in 2012, for example, all six of our English finalists gained Firsts; in 2014 five of our first years won distinctions in Prelims; in 2017, six of our seven English finalists gained Firsts. We have a tradition of fostering a love of literature and independent thought. Theatre trips, poetry readings, and English society events (detailed below) all contribute to a densely textured intellectual life at Jesus. Jesus College is located a two-minute walk from the Bodleian Library, an eight-minute walk from the English Faculty Library and itself offers excellent library and computer facilities.

## ***The Undergraduate Course***

All degree courses should help students to learn how to think, and the English course at Oxford is particularly well equipped to do so. Each student will study different texts, pursue personal interests, and shape his or her degree in exciting and challenging ways. The study of English starts from a love of literature and language, and branches out to encounter or encompass other subjects and fields of enquiry. English is a subject which lends itself to diverse approaches and theories of interpretation, from Aristotle's *Poetics* to Derridean deconstruction. Here at Jesus we encourage students to work in interdisciplinary ways, and to explore a range of approaches to literature, while never forgetting the centrality of the text. Studying English involves the development of analytical skills and the accumulation of a great deal of knowledge: you need to be able to read widely but also in close detail; to understand the sweep of historical change while also being able to meditate on the nuances of a single word.

The English course is extremely demanding, and you must be ready to work hard. Our students think in original and imaginative ways, and are willing to pursue ideas, themes, and approaches to texts independently. Much of our teaching is conducted in tutorials (one or two students with the Tutor) and small groups, and you must be prepared to discuss your ideas and reading with tutors and other students, and to respond spontaneously to criticism or new ideas introduced by them. You must be excited by the challenges of literary study, and dedicated to developing the skills of reading, writing, interpretation, and research.

Your tutors will be experts in their particular field of research and committed to providing you with an excellent educational experience. You will read widely across authors, periods, and genres. For example, in the first year you will study Early Medieval and Victorian, modern and contemporary writers. You will also learn basic critical approaches to literature and language which will prepare you for good close reading of the texts. In your second and third years, you will study towards four period papers covering the years 1350 to 1832, and will also take a special option, and a paper on Shakespeare, as well as writing a dissertation on a subject of your choice. We want our students to cover all periods of English literature and then to be able to choose their own particular areas of interest.

The tutors are always available to help students develop their individual research plans and discuss any problems they might encounter during their course. We all share a concern and enthusiasm for our students' work, their aspirations, and their general welfare. We hope that the study of literature will continue to be an important part of their life. Our graduates go on to a great variety of careers, including academia, writing, acting, broadcasting, publishing, journalism, teaching, advertising, administration, librarianship, management and law.

## ***Cultural and Intellectual Life***

Students at Jesus find themselves welcomed into a serious, lively, and good-humoured academic community with every opportunity to discuss their thoughts in tutorials, seminars, and College English events.

The **Herbert English Society** provides a forum for exchange of ideas and discussion of literature, criticism, and the arts. The Society invites poets, playwrights, novelists, academics, journalists, and cultural historians. For instance, in 2018, we hosted the Booker-Prize winning poet and novelist, Ben Okri, who ran a writing workshop for Jesus students. Other recent speakers have included Marina Warner, Philip Pullman, Bernard O'Donoghue, Craig Raine, Hermione Lee, Sally Shuttleworth, William St Clair, Blair Worden, and Geoffrey Hill.

There is an active tradition in **student drama** at Jesus. Many of our undergraduates produce, direct, and act in plays and musicals as well as participating in the Turl Street Arts Festival each Hilary Term.

We make sure that our students have opportunities to make the most of the books and artefacts available in Oxford. For instance, we have arranged for our students to visit the Ashmolean Museum to look at

Anglo-Saxon artefacts as part of their work on material culture and Old English literature, and held classes on early modern book history and print culture in the Jesus College Fellows' Library where they viewed, *inter alia*, the folios of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson and a range of historical chronicles and travel accounts.

### **Joint Schools**

- English and Modern Languages
- Classics and English
- History and English

### **Admissions**

In a total College entry of about 100 undergraduates, 6-8 are offered places in a typical year to read English and joint schools with English. We are looking for students who combine academic excellence and ambition with intellectual curiosity and the determination to read as widely as possible. Our successful applicants usually read extensively beyond the school syllabus while maintaining strong analytical skills in close reading. Enthusiasm and a love of the subject are vital.

**Academic requirements:** Offers made to candidates will be conditional upon A-level results (AAA) or equivalent qualifications. It is essential to study A2 Level English Literature (or English Language and Literature), or equivalent in other qualification systems.

**Written test:** all candidates (including applicants for Joint Schools with Classics or Modern Languages) must take the **English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)** in school on **4 November 2020**. The ELAT is administered by Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing, and the registration deadline is **15 October 2020**. For further details, see: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/elat>

**Written work:** Candidates are required to submit one recent example of writing. This should be a marked essay produced in the normal course of your school or college work. It should not be rewritten and it should not be a short timed essay, piece of creative writing, or critical commentary. The essay should be on an English literature topic. The deadline to submit written work is **10 November 2020**. Further information can be viewed here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/written-work>

**Interviews:** There will be two interviews of approximately 20 minutes. In one interview, candidates will be asked to discuss a poem which will be supplied about half an hour earlier. In the other interview, candidates may be asked about their reading interests, the written work they have submitted, and the authors and texts they have studied at A-level.

**Deferred Entry:** Applications for deferred entry to Jesus College are accepted. You must apply for deferred entry at the time of application to Oxford: you cannot change your mind after an offer has been made. Please refer to departmental web sites for subject-specific advice. You should be aware that applicants who are offered places for deferred entry will generally be among the strongest of the cohort for their subject. We would not usually offer more than one deferred place per subject in order not to disadvantage the following year's candidates. In some cases, an applicant for deferred entry may be offered a place for non-deferred entry instead. If you require any further advice, please contact the Admissions Officer via [admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

### **Postgraduate Studies**

Jesus has a thriving community of graduate students in English, and we are actively expanding our postgraduate intake. For the last few years, we have been co-funding a number of full scholarships for MSt and DPhil students and we are committed to continuing to do all we can to support our students financially as well as intellectually. We welcome applicants for the following postgraduate courses in English:

- DPhil in English Language and Literature
- M.St. English Language and Literature (650 -1550)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1550-1700)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1700-1830)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1830-1914)
- M.St. English Language and Literature (1900- Present)
- M.St. English and American Studies
- M.Phil. English Studies (Medieval Period)
- M.St. World Literatures in English

Prospective graduate students are welcome to contact the English fellows for an informal discussion about the College.

### *Why choose Jesus College for graduate study?*

**The College is unique in its financial provision for postgraduates:** it provides generous allowances for research trips and book purchase, and its housing and food are heavily subsidised and among the best-value in Oxford. There are also other funding opportunities available – for example, an English postgraduate was recently awarded a generous Old Members’ bursary. English postgraduates are allocated one of the English tutors as a College advisor, who will serve as a pastoral and intellectual point of contact within Jesus College.

**Our graduate students take an active part in the intellectual life of the College** and participate in the English Society meetings and poetry readings. These involve dinner for students, tutors and guests, a talk or reading, questions, and then informal drinks. Thus they offer an opportunity to socialise with tutors and students, while also engaging with speakers of the highest calibre (including novelists, cultural historians, poets, and literary critics). There are also numerous other social and intellectual events based in College such as joint speaker evenings with members of the Senior Common Room or annual Graduate dinners to which students invite their supervisors. In 2018, one group of Jesus DPhil students is convening a Graduate Seminar on Early Modern England held at Jesus; another DPhil student hosts a Middle English reading group at Jesus; and yet another organised a speaker event with Pulitzer-prize winning contemporary playwright, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, at Jesus.

### ***Preliminary Reading and Further Information***

Further information about English at Oxford can be found on the Faculty website: [www.english.ox.ac.uk](http://www.english.ox.ac.uk)

Information about Admissions is available at: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/english-language-and-literature>

### *Contact details*

If you have any questions about our entrance requirements, or about applying to study at Jesus College, please contact the Admissions Officer:

Tel: 01865 279721  
 Email: [admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk)  
 Web: [www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here](http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here)

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