

REBECCA LYLE SKAINS

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Current Position

Lecturer in Writing (Prose) – Bangor University, UK 4/2011-present

Researching, lecturing, and supervising research students in Creative Writing and Digital Media. Designing and coordinating undergraduate and postgraduate courses in narrative craft and theory, writing for digital media, and e-publishing. Fulfilling administrative duties as Deputy Head of School, Director of Teaching & Learning, formerly Director of Graduate Studies, Director of the BA Creative & Professional Writing, Director of the MArts Professional Writing.

Education & Qualifications

Creative Writing & Digital Media – PhD Bangor University, Wales 2013
Practice-led creative writing research into multimodal digital narratives.
Examiners: Prof. Stuart Moulthrop, Dr. Alice Bell

Professional Writing – Master’s (terminal) University of Southern California 2005

Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education Bangor University, Wales 2010

Creative Writing (Fiction, Screenwriting) – B. A. University of New Mexico 2001

Biology, Animal Science – B.S. Texas A&M University 1998

Research Interests

I conduct practice-based research in Creative Writing and Digital Media, specifically in multimodal and multimedia storytelling, digital publishing, multi-authored or community-sourced storytelling, the development of storyworld as a primary narrative tool, and the role of mythology in contemporary storytelling. I am also interested in theory-based research exploring the connections between postmodern print fiction and electronic or “born-digital” literature in terms of perspective and narrative structure, how authorship and readership are shifting due to the evolution of these narratives, and in academic and commercial digital publishing strategies.

Teaching

I am a cross-disciplinary instructor, as I work in the areas of Creative Writing, Professional Writing, and Digital Media. As a practitioner as well as a researcher in all of these areas, I am comfortable teaching these subjects in both practical contexts and theory-based contexts. Further, my experience as a writer – professional and creative – allows me to offer a real-world perspective to the material that benefits students interested in careers in the Creative Industries.

At postgraduate level, I firmly believe that research into the creative arts should be composed not only of the creative project, but a critical discussion as well. This critical discussion should include, but certainly not be limited to reflective analysis. The creative and the critical feed into each other, much in the same way that scientists’ literature reviews and experiments are intertwined, forming the base of their research knowledge. It is expected that creative practitioners will focus heavily on the creative elements; while this focus on the craft of art is appropriate in practitioner-based degrees such as the MFA, it is insufficient for research degrees. I strongly emphasise the importance of creative work as research in all my modules, promoting active research design and participation, in an effort to better prepare students for their practice-based or -led dissertations.

Teaching (cont'd)

Administrative Roles

School of Creative Studies & Media, Bangor University, Bangor, Wales

<i>Deputy Head of School</i>	<i>8/2015-present</i>
<i>Director of Teaching & Learning</i>	<i>8/2015-present</i>
<i>Director of Graduate Studies</i>	<i>11/2013-8/2015</i>
<i>Course Director – Undergraduate & Postgraduate Programmes in Professional Writing</i>	<i>5/2012-present</i>
<i>Chair/Founding Member – Creative Practice Research Group</i>	<i>10/2013-present</i>
<i>Chair/Member – Teaching & Learning Committee</i>	<i>4/2013-present</i>
<i>Member – Research Committee</i>	<i>4/2012-present</i>
<i>Member – Curriculum Development Group</i>	<i>4/2013-present</i>

Supervision

<i>PhD candidates, Bangor University, Bangor, Wales</i>	<i>11/2013-present</i>
Paul Rudd, PhD Critical & Creative Writing – 1 st Supervisor	
Rachel Fikes, PhD Critical & Creative Writing – 1 st Supervisor	
Levi Dean, PhD Critical & Creative Writing – Co-Supervisor	
Pavlos Sifakis, PhD Critical & Creative Writing – 2 nd Supervisor	
John Finnegan, PhD Critical & Creative Writing – 2 nd Supervisor	
<i>Undergraduate & Master's Dissertations, Bangor University, Bangor, Wales</i>	<i>9/2009-present</i>

Modules in Creative Writing – Prose, Scripts, and Poetry

Teaching a combination of workshop and critical analysis, embedding the creative writing practice in narrative theory, helping writers to structure fiction and poetry, and to evaluate their own work with an eye toward improvement. *Note: UK undergraduate degree programmes are 3-year programmes.*

<i>Bangor University, Bangor, Wales</i>		<i>1/2008-present</i>
The Creative Writing Workshop	Postgraduate	
Writing for Digital Media	Postgraduate	
Creativity & Research	Postgraduate	
Media, Culture, & Creativity	Postgraduate	
Research Methods/Design	Postgraduate	
Writing for Performance	3 rd year	
Genre Fiction: Theory & Craft	2 nd & 3 rd year	
Playable Fiction	2 nd & 3 rd year	
21 st Century Writing & Publishing	2 nd & 3 rd year	
Storytelling: Theory & Craft	2 nd & 3 rd year	
Writing for Children	2 nd year	
Creating Narratives	1 st year	
Poetry & Performance	1 st year	
Poetic Forms & Dramatic Techniques	1 st year	
Creative Writing: Prose	1 st year	
<i>Open University, UK</i>		<i>9/2008-2/2012</i>
Start Writing Fiction	1st year	
<i>University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA</i>		<i>6/2006-5/2007</i>
Creative Writing: Prose	1st year	

Teaching (cont'd)

Modules in Digital Media

Lecturing and leading practical seminars on digital media: e-publishing, cyber identities, online communities, social networking, digital and hyper-fiction, and games.

Bangor University, Bangor, Wales

1/2009-present

E-Publishing	Postgraduate & 3 rd year
Advanced Hypermedia Production	3 rd year
Playable Fiction	2 nd & 3 rd year
21 st Century Writing & Publishing	2 nd & 3 rd year
Developing New Media	2 nd year
Introduction to New Media	1 st year

Modules in Technical Communication and Writing

Taught students to communicate effectively in both print and electronic media. Topics included grant proposals, project management, reports, CVs, and presentations.

Bangor University, Bangor, Wales

9/2008-12/2009

Workplace Writing 1st year

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA

8/2006-5/2007

Technical Communication 2nd year

Professional Experience

Associate Lecturer – *Open University, UK*

9/2008-2/2012

Led online introductory course in Creative Writing.

Graduate Teaching Assistant – *Bangor University, Bangor, Wales, UK*

9/2009-4/2011

Coordinated and led modules, as well as supervising MA and 3rd year dissertations, in the School of Creative Studies & Media in Professional & Creative Writing and Digital Media.

Web Tutor – *Bangor, Wales, UK*

Freelance – Summer 2009

Created video tutorials for digital applications.

Researcher – *Aden Productions, Cardiff, Wales, UK*

6/2008-2/2009

Researched material for a documentary on the brain.

Technical Editor/Writer – *H&P, Inc., Albuquerque, NM, USA*

8/2005-11/2007

Edited safety basis documents for nuclear facilities, managed all official documents, coordinated multiple projects, and participated in Department of Energy reviews.

Proposal Coordinator – *Karl Storz Endoscopy, Los Angeles, CA, USA*

4/2004-12/2005

Created bid proposals for a nationwide sales force for medical devices. Responsibilities included writing proposals, marketing material and business plans, composing sales presentations, project coordination, and research of company products.

Advertising Coordinator – *Boardwalk Realty, Los Angeles, CA, USA*

6/2003-4/2004

Composed advertising copy, press releases, web content, agent biographies, company newsletters and company business forms. Edited and proofread all written content.

Administrative Assistant – *Stan Winston Studio, Los Angeles, CA, USA*

11/2001-6/2003

Composed company web content, artists' biographies and public relations releases. Provided screenplay coverage, edited and proofread all published copy.

Writing & Research

Academic Publications – Books

Skains, L. *CTRL-Alt-Write: Rebooting Fiction for the Digital Age*. In submission.

Academic Publications – Articles & Chapters

Skains, L. “Putting the Practice into Creative Writing Research: A Practice-based Methodology.” In review at *Journal of Media Practice*.

Skains, L. “Fluid Texts: Implicit Collaboration in Electronic Narratives.” In review at *Publications*.

Skains, L. “The Adaptive Process of Multimodal Composition: How Developing Tacit Knowledge of Digital Tools Affects Creative Writing.” In review at *Computers and Composition*.

Skains, L. “The Materiality of the Intangible: Inherently Layered Metaphor in Multimodal Texts.” In review at *Convergence*.

Ensslin, A., Skains, L., Riley, S., Haran, J., Mackiewicz, A., and Halliwell, E. “Exploring Digital Fiction as a Tool for Teenage Body Image Bibliotherapy.” In review at *Digital Creativity*.

Skains, L. “The Fragmented Digital Gaze: Effects of Multimodal Composition on Narrative Perspective.” *Qualitative Inquiry*: pp.1-8. 22 Sept 2015.

Chambers, A. and Skains, L. “*Scott Pilgrim* vs. the Multimodal Mash-up: Film as Participatory Narrative.” *Participations* Vol 12(1): pp.102-116. May 2015.

Skains, L. “In the Shadows of Gods: Representations and Treatments of Otherness in the Novels of Neil Gaiman.” In Dunne, A. & O’Brien, G. (Eds), 2014, *Good Madness, A Collection of Essays on the Work of Neil Gaiman*. Witney: Interdisciplinary Press.

Skains, L. “The Shifting Author-Reader Dynamic: Online Novel Communities as a Bridge from Print to Digital Literature.” *Convergence*, Vol 16(1): pp.95-111. February 2010.

Skains, L. “Last Stop Bar & Grill.” *New Writing: The International Journal for the Pedagogy and Practice of Creative Writing*, Vol 7(3): pp.219-225. November 2010.

Contributed to the Digital Fiction International Network’s “A[S]creed for Digital Fiction.” *Electronic Book Review*, March 7, 2010.

Fiction Credits

<i>Færwhile</i> (multimodal, digital)	http://lyleskains.com	11/2013
<i>Inside Out Empty</i> (multimodal, digital)	In progress – http://lyleskains.com	TBD
<i>La Llorona Gringa</i> (novel)	In progress	TBD
<i>The Pathfinder</i> (novel)	In revision	TBD
<i>Chasing Dust Devils</i> (novel)	In revision	TBD
“Drowning Jonathan” (short)	Pegleg Publishing Anthology	2009
“A Queen for a King” (short)	<i>Electric Spec</i>	10/2008
“Wish in One Hand” (short)	<i>Glassfire Magazine</i>	Summer 2008
“Ribbons” (short)	<i>Scribendi</i>	2000

Stage Play Credits

<i>Big I Comedy Construction Project</i>	KUNM radio broadcast	11/2000
<i>Circle Systems</i> (full-length)	UNM Words Afire Festival Selection	2001
<i>The Last Thing on My Mind</i> (one-act)	UNM Words Afire Festival Selection	2001

Writing & Research (cont'd)

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

- “Gaming the Composition: An Ethnographic Study on Composing Ergodic Fiction” (proposed)
International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature – Chicago, IL
6-9 July 2016
- “Play/Perform: Gender Identity in Online Spaces”
Invited Talk – University of Sheffield
February 2016
- “The Practice of Research: A Methodology for Practice-Based Exploration of Digital Writing”
Invited Talk – Bath Spa University
January 2016
Electronic Literature Organization – Bergen, Norway
August 2015
- “The Catastrophe of Science Fiction Since 1950: The Role Reversal of Science and the Supernatural in 20th & 21st Century Narratives”
Stories about Science – University of Manchester
June 2015
- “The Creative Practice Research Manifesto”
Beyond Crisis Conference – Durham University
July 2014
Cyfrwng Conference – Bangor University
July 2014
- “Coding Creativity: Creative Writing in Code Environments”
Computer Gaming Across Cultures – New Delhi, India
January 2014
- “The Materiality of the Intangible: Literary Metaphor in Multimodal Texts”
Electronic Literature Organization – Paris, France
September 2013
- “The Fragmented Digital Gaze: Effects of Multimodal Composition on Narrative Perspective”
Mix Digital – Bath Spa University
June 2013
- “The Material Trace in Electronic Technotext”
Material Meanings – University of Kent
September 2012
- “Fluid Texts and Implicit Collaboration in Electronic Technotexts”
Electronic Literature Organization – Morgantown, WV
June 2012
- “Scott Pilgrim vs. the Multimodal Mashup: Film as Participatory Narrative” (co-author Amy C. Chambers)
Contemporary Screen Narratives – U. of Nottingham
February 2012
- “The Medium in the Story: How the Intent to Work in Digital Media Affects the Writer’s Practice”
Great Writing – Imperial College London
June 2011
- “The Story in the Medium: Reader Responses to Multimodal Fiction Narratives”
Beyond Adaptation – De Montfort University
January 2011
- “Stories as Real Estate: A New Paradigm for Writing and Publishing”
Great Writing – Bangor University
June 2010
- “Invited Transgression Against the Text: Masochism or an Evolved Perception of Authorship?”
Transgressions & Its Limits – Stirling University
May 2010
- “Visualizing the Story from Text to Screen” (co-author Amy C. Chambers)
Cinema & Landscape – Sheffield University
April 2010
Transliteracy – De Montfort University
February 2010
- “Inside-Out Empty: A Short Story in Transition”
Great Writing – Bangor University
June 2009
- “Beyond the Novelty: Creating Fiction for Mainstream Audiences” – 1st Prize Winner
Beyond Boundaries – Bangor University
January 2009

Academic Activities and Honours

Grants & Awards

- Bangor Impact Acceleration Small Grant – *ESRC* 2016
Awarded £500 for research impact activities from the Reading Digital Fictions AHRC project.
- Co-Investigator, Reading Digital Fictions Grant – *Arts & Humanities Research Council* 2016-2018
Co-investigator on £240,000 grant to study the reader response to digital fiction.
- Bangor University Teaching Fellowship 2015
- Bangor Impact Acceleration & Collaboration Award – *ESRC (Lead Applicant)* 2015
Awarded £2000 for research impact activities for “The Future of Reading: Digital Books and Digital Narratives, from Publisher to Reader”.
- Funded Grant – *Arts & Humanities Research Council (Lead Applicant)* April 2009
Awarded £2000 Postgraduate Conference: Truth and Lies, June 11-12, 2009.
- Quarterfinalist – *Amazon.com Breakthrough Novel Contest* March 2009
Novel *The Pathfinder* chosen as one of 500 quarterfinalist novels from total entries of 10,000.
- 1st Prize – *Beyond Boundaries Conference, Bangor University* January 2009
Topic: Beyond the Novelty – Creating Digital Fiction for Mainstream Audiences

Committee & Group Activities

- Chair – *Teaching & Learning Committee, SCSM, Bangor University* 2013-present
- Chair – *Curriculum Development Group, SCSM, Bangor University* 2012-present
- Member – *Research Committee, SCSM, Bangor University* 2012-present
- Founding Member, Chair – *Creative Practice Research Group, Bangor University* 2013-present
Launching a centre for the advancement of creative practice-based research.
- Member – *Creative Studies & Media Research Circle, Bangor University* 2008-present
Contributing to discussion forum and practical sessions in various topics.
- Member – *Digital Economies Cluster, Bangor University* 2010-present
Presenting research, contributing to discussion forum and practical sessions in various topics.
- Editor – *Electronic Literature Directory* 2010-2013
Working with electronic literature scholars and practitioners to create a directory of e-literature.
- Participant – *Collaborative Digital Research in the Humanities* 2008-2010
Engaged in 2-year postgraduate training scheme funded by the AHRC, developing knowledge and research in digital humanities.
- Founding Member – *Fish Tank, Bangor University* 2008-2010
Created a student-run discussion forum to support postgraduates in the School of Creative Studies and Media.
- Committee Member – *MeCCSA Conference, Bangor University* July 2009
Organised international conference hosted by the Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Association Postgraduate Network.
- Committee Chair – *Truth and Lies Conference, Bangor University* June 2009
Organised international conference hosted by the College of Arts and Humanities.

Professional Memberships

- European Narratology Network
- Electronic Literature Organization
- Fellow – The Higher Education Academy
- Media, Communications, and Cultural Studies Association (MeCCSA)
- Transliteracy Research Group