

# REBECCA LYLE SKAINS

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## Current Position

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**Senior 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, Senior Tutor, Admissions Officer, Director of the MArts/MRes Professional Writing, and Director of the BA Creative & Professional Writing; formerly Director of Teaching & Learning, Director of Graduate Studies.

## Education & Qualifications

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|--|------|
| <b>Creative Writing &amp; Digital Media – PhD</b> Bangor University, Wales               | 2013 |
| <i>Practice-led creative writing research into multimodal digital narratives.</i>        |      |
| Examiners: Prof. Stuart Moulthrop, Dr. Alice Bell  |      |
| <b>Senior Fellowship</b> Higher Education Academy  | 2016 |
| <b>Professional Writing – Master’s (terminal)</b> University of Southern California      | 2005 |
| <b>Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education</b> Bangor University, Wales | 2010 |
| <b>Creative Writing (Fiction, Screenwriting) – B. A.</b> University of New Mexico        | 2001 |
| <b>Biology, Animal Science – B.S.</b> Texas A&M University                               | 1998 |

## Research Interests

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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

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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, which may include but should not be limited to reflective analysis. The creative and the critical feed into each other, forming the base of the 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)

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### Administrative Roles

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

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Deputy Head of School</i>   | <i>8/2015-present</i> |
| <i>Senior Tutor, Admissions Officer</i>  | <i>1/2017-present</i> |
| <i>Director of Teaching &amp; Learning</i>   | <i>8/2015-1/2017</i>  |
| <i>Director of Graduate Studies</i>  | <i>11/2013-8/2015</i> |
| <i>Course Director – Undergraduate &amp; Postgraduate Creative/Professional Writing Programmes</i> | <i>5/2012-present</i> |

### Supervision

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <i>PhD candidates, Bangor University, Bangor, Wales</i>                             | <i>11/2013-present</i> |
| Jordan Glendenning, PhD Critical & Creative Writing                                 |                        |
| Isabel Vincent, PhD Critical & Creative Writing                                     |                        |
| Eoin Murray, PhD Critical & Creative Writing  |                        |
| Kristin Lissel, PhD Critical & Creative Writing                                     |                        |
| Paul Rudd, PhD Critical & Creative Writing  |                        |
| Rachel Fikes, PhD Critical & Creative Writing                                       |                        |
| Levi Dean, PhD Critical & Creative Writing  |                        |
| <i>Undergraduate &amp; Master's Dissertations, Bangor University, Bangor, Wales</i> | <i>9/2009-present</i>  |

### Examination

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|--|---------------------|
| <i>PhD Candidates</i>  |                     |
| William Barr, PhD Critical & Creative Writing, Bangor University | <i>1/2017</i>       |
| Siôn Griffiths, PhD Filmmaking, Bangor University                | <i>1/2017</i>       |
| Sara Sylvester, PhD Digital Creative Writing, Cardiff University | <i>3/2017</i>       |
| <i>Undergraduate Programmes</i>                                  |                     |
| BA Creative & Professional Writing, University of Nottingham     | <i>2014-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.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <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 <sup>rd</sup> year                   |
| Genre Fiction: Theory & Craft                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |
| Playable Fiction                              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Writing & Publishing | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |
| Storytelling: Theory & Craft                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |
| Writing for Children                          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> year                   |
| Creating Narratives                           | 1 <sup>st</sup> year                   |
| Poetry & Performance                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> year                   |
| Creative Writing: Prose                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> year                   |

## Teaching (cont'd)

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|---|----------|---------------|
| <i>Open University, UK</i>                            |          | 9/2008-2/2012 |
| Start Writing Fiction                                 | 1st year |               |
| <i>University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA</i> |          | 6/2006-5/2007 |
| Creative Writing: Prose                               | 1st year |               |

### 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.

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| <i>Bangor University, Bangor, Wales</i>       |  | 1/2009-present |
| E-Publishing                                  | Postgraduate & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year    |                |
| Advanced Hypermedia Production                | 3 <sup>rd</sup> year                   |                |
| Playable Fiction                              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |                |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Writing & Publishing | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> year |                |
| Developing New Media                          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> year                   |                |
| Introduction to New Media                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> 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.

|   |                      |                |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| <i>Bangor University, Bangor, Wales</i>               |                      | 9/2008-12/2009 |
| Workplace Writing                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> year |                |
| <i>University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA</i> |                      | 8/2006-5/2007  |
| Technical Communication                               | 2nd year             |                |

## Professional Experience

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| <b>Associate Lecturer</b> – <i>Open University, UK</i>   |  | 9/2008-2/2012  |
| Led online introductory course in Creative Writing.  |  |                |
| <b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b> – <i>Bangor University, Bangor, Wales, UK</i>   |  | 9/2009-4/2011  |
| Coordinated and led modules, as well as supervising MA and 3 <sup>rd</sup> year dissertations, in the School of Creative Studies & Media in Professional & Creative Writing and Digital Media.   |  |                |
| <b>Technical Editor/Writer</b> – <i>H&amp;P, Inc., Albuquerque, NM, USA</i>  |  | 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.   |  |                |
| <b>Proposal Coordinator</b> – <i>Karl Storz Endoscopy, Los Angeles, CA, USA</i>  |  | 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. |  |                |
| <b>Advertising Coordinator</b> – <i>Boardwalk Realty, Los Angeles, CA, USA</i>   |  | 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.   |  |                |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b> – <i>Stan Winston Studio, Los Angeles, CA, USA</i>   |  | 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

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### Academic Publications – Books

Skains, L. *CTRL-Alt-Write: Rebooting Fiction for the Digital Age*. In review at New Binary Press.

### Academic Publications – Articles & Chapters

Skains, L. 2017. “The Materiality of the Intangible: Inherently Layered Metaphor in Multimodal Texts.” *Convergence*. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1354856517703965>.

Skains, L. 2017. “The Adaptive Process of Multimodal Composition: How Developing Tacit Knowledge of Digital Tools Affects Creative Writing.” *Computers and Composition*, 43, pp.106-117.

Skains, L. 2016. “Putting the Practice into Creative Writing Research: A Practice-based Methodology.” *Journal of Media Practice*. Available at: <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/creative-practice-research>.

Skains, L., 2016. Creative Commons and Appropriation: Implicit Collaboration in Digital Works. *Publications*, [online] 4(1). Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/publications4010007>.

Ensslin, A., Skains, L., Riley, S., Haran, J., Mackiewicz, A., and Halliwell, E. 2016. “Exploring Digital Fiction as a Tool for Teenage Body Image Bibliotherapy.” *Digital Creativity*, 27(3).

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

|   |  |             |
|---|--|-------------|
| “The Futographer” (hypertext/hyperbook)       | <a href="http://lyleskains.com">http://lyleskains.com</a> , all e-book sellers | 2016        |
| <i>Færwhile</i> (multimodal, digital)         | <a href="http://lyleskains.com">http://lyleskains.com</a>                      | 11/2013     |
| <i>Inside Out Empty</i> (multimodal, digital) | In progress – <a href="http://lyleskains.com">http://lyleskains.com</a>        | 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

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|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| <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)

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### Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

- “The Convergent Evolution of Hypertext: Democratizing effects of open-source platforms and marginalized communities”  
*Electronic Literature Organization – Porto, Portugal* July 2017
- “Creative Hyperlinks: Writerly and readerly effects of links in hypertext fiction”  
*Mix Digital – Bath Spa University* June 2017
- “The Practice of Research: A Methodology for Practice-Based Research in the Creative Arts”  
*Invited Talk – University of Sheffield* January 2017
- “Gaming the Composition: An Ethnographic Study on Composing Ergodic Fiction”  
*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 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 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” (with Amy 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

## Academic Activities and Honours

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### Grants & Awards

- Bangor Impact Acceleration Small Grant – *ESRC (Lead Applicant)* 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.
- 1<sup>st</sup> 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* 2013-2016
- Chair – *Curriculum Development Group, SCSM, Bangor University* 2012-2016
- Member – *Research Committee, SCSM, Bangor University* 2012-2015
- Founding Member, Chair – *Creative Practice Research Group, Bangor University* 2013-2015
- Member – *Creative Studies & Media Research Circle, Bangor University* 2008-2012
- Member – *Digital Economies Cluster, Bangor University* 2010-2012
- Editor – *Electronic Literature Directory* 2010-2013
- 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
- Senior Fellow – The Higher Education Academy
- Media, Communications, and Cultural Studies Association (MeCCSA)
- International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature (IGEL)
- Transliteracy Research Group