

REBECCA LYLE SKAINS

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Current Positions

Graduate Teaching Assistant – *Bangor University, Bangor, Wales, UK* 9/2009-present

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

Editor – *Electronic Literature Directory* 1/2010-present

Working with electronic literature scholars and practitioners to create a directory of e-literature. Writing entries for e-lit works, reviewing entries, evaluating the directory as a pedagogical tool, and engaging in ongoing discourse on the emerging field of e-lit.

Associate Lecturer – *Open University, UK* 9/2008-present

Leading online introductory course in Creative Writing taught via online coursework and the Moodle Virtual Learning Environment.

Education & Qualifications

Creative Writing & Digital Media – PhD Bangor University, Wales expected 2012

"Exploring Multimodal Creativity" – *Practice-based research, writing concurrent stories in print and digital media.*

Professional Writing – Master's (MFA) University of Southern California 2005

Studied the novel in taught courses and supervised practice, resulting in a thesis novel. Courses in fiction, playwriting, screenwriting, creative non-fiction, and technical writing.

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

My PhD in Creative Writing and Digital Media is a practice-based research project into: 1) developing a method for creating stories to co-exist in print and digital media, and 2) the process of creating stories for multiple media, specifically exploring how writing for different media affects the writer's process and perspective with regard to story. I am exploring the electronic storyworld as a multimodal text, giving sufficient weight to the multiple modes (rather than focusing on written text, for example) as contributors to story. I am also exploring the bridge between print and digital texts, developing relevant critical theory as well as offering insight for authors and readers in the current context of the emerging genre.

Beyond my current research, I am 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, as well as how authorship and readership are shifting due to the evolution of these narratives. I am also interested in continuing my practice-based research into further studies of multi-authored or community-sourced storytelling, the development of storyworld as a primary narrative tool, and the role of mythology in contemporary storytelling.

Teaching

Supervision – Undergraduate and Postgraduate Dissertations

Supervising undergraduate and MA students on their Creative Writing and Digital Media dissertations.

Bangor University, Bangor, Wales 9/2009-present

Creative Writing – Prose, Scripts and Poetry

Teaching a combination of workshop and critical analysis, helping writers to structure fiction and poetry, and to evaluate their own work with an eye toward improvement.

Bangor University, Bangor, Wales 1/2008-present

The Creative Writing Workshop	Postgraduate
Writing for Performance	3 rd year
Writing for Children	2 nd year
Poetry & Performance	1 st year
Poetic Forms & Dramatic Techniques	1 st year
Creative Writing: Prose	1 st year

Open University, UK 9/2008-present

Start Writing Fiction	1 st year
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University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA 6/2006-5/2007

Creative Writing: Prose	1 st year
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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
Developing New Media	2 nd year
Introduction to New Media	1 st year

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	1 st year
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University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA 8/2006-5/2007

Technical Communication	2 nd year
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Study Skills

Taught university students learning skills, including time management, scheduling, reading academic texts, research skills, how to write essays, and presentation skills.

Bangor University, Bangor, Wales 9/2008-3/2008

Learning to Learn	1 st year
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Professional Experience

- Web Tutor** – *Bangor, Wales, UK* Freelance – Summer 2009
 Creating video tutorials for applications such as Adobe Flash utilizing Camtasia screen capturing tools and Moodle online virtual learning environment.
- Researcher** – *Aden Productions, Cardiff, Wales, UK* 6/2008-2/2009
 Researched material for a documentary on the brain, interviewing neuroscientists about their studies. Contributed to storyline, structure, and production of documentary.
- 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, responses to RFPs, 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, 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.
- Assistant Manager** – *Good Shepherd Animal Clinic, Albuquerque, NM, USA* 8/1999-8/2001
 Created all company communication, including informational brochures, client communications, medical diagnostics forms, company web content, and advertising.

Writing & Research

Academic Publications

- 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.
- Skains, L. "Improving Critical Analysis and Composition: The Electronic Literature Directory in the University Classroom." In revision.
- Skains, L. and Chambers, A. "Visualizing the Story from Screen to Screen: Application of Film's Mise en Scène Techniques to Digital Fiction." In revision.
- Contributed to the Digital Fiction International Network's "A[S]creed for Digital Fiction." *Electronic Book Review*, March 7, 2010.

Fiction Credits

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| "Færwhile" (multimodal) | In Progress – http://lyleskains.com | TBD |
| "Inside Out Empty" (multimodal) | In Progress – http://lyleskains.com | TBD |

Writing & Research (cont'd)

Fiction Credits (cont'd)

“Drowning Jonathan” (short)	Pegleg Publishing Anthology	Fall 2009
“A Queen for a King” (short)	Electric Spec	October 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	November 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

Conference Presentations

“The Medium in the Writer's Process: How the Intent to Work in Digital Media Affects Practice”	Accepted – <i>Great Writing – Imperial College London</i>	June 2011
“The Story in the Medium: Reader Responses to Multimodal Fiction Narratives”	<i>Beyond Adaptation – De Montfort University</i>	January 2011
“Stories as Real Estate: A New Paradigm for Writing and Publishing”	<i>Great Writing – Bangor University</i>	June 2010
“Invited Transgression Against the Text: Masochism or an Evolved Perception of Authorship?”	<i>Transgressions & Its Limits – Stirling University</i>	May 2010
“Visualizing the Story from Text to Screen” (with co-author Amy C. Chambers)	<i>Cinema & Landscape – Sheffield University</i>	April 2010
	<i>Transliteracy – De Montfort University</i>	February 2010
“The Shifting Author-Reader Dynamic”	<i>MeCCSA Postgraduate Conference – Bangor University</i>	July 2009
“Inside-Out Empty (Working Title): A Short Story in Transition”	<i>Great Writing – Bangor University</i>	June 2009
“Beyond the Novelty: Creating Digital Fiction for Mainstream Audiences” – 1 st Prize Winner	<i>Beyond Boundaries – Bangor University</i>	January 2009

Academic Activities and Honors

Grants & Awards

Funded Grant – <i>Arts & Humanities Research Council (Lead Applicant)</i>	April 2009
Awarded £2000 for support of Student-Led Initiatives for Bangor University's College of Arts & Humanities Postgraduate Conference: Truth and Lies, June 11-12, 2009.	
Quarterfinalist – <i>Amazon.com Breakthrough Novel Contest</i>	March 2009
Completed novel <i>The Pathfinder</i> chosen as one of 500 quarterfinalist novels from total entries of 10,000.	

Academic Activities and Honors (cont'd)

1st Prize – *Beyond Boundaries Conference, Bangor University* January 2009
Topic: Beyond the Novelty – Creating Digital Fiction for Mainstream Audiences

Committee & Group Activities

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.

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.

Editor-in-Chief, Founding Member – *Creative Spaces, Bangor University* 2008-2010
Creating an online, peer-reviewed journal for the creative industries. Site also to publish creative pieces, and offer networking capabilities for researchers in the field.

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
Organizing international conference hosted by the Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Association Postgraduate Network.

Committee Chair – *Truth and Lies Conference, Bangor University* June 2009
Organizing international conference hosted by the College of Arts and Humanities.

Professional Memberships

Electronic Literature Organization

Fellow – The Higher Education Academy

Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Association Postgraduate Network

Transliteracy Research Group