

COURSE CONVENOR BACKGROUND



Justin's interests are broadly in nineteenth-century literature and culture, postcolonial studies, book history and the digital humanities. His research addresses the colonial discourse of the Victorian period, with a particular focus on travel writing and the literature of exploration. He is the author of a reputation study, *Livingstone's "Lives": A Metabiography of a Victorian Icon* (Manchester University Press, 2014), and a number of articles, which have appeared in journals such as *Literature and Theology*, *Studies in Travel Writing*, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *English in Africa*, and *Journal of Victorian Culture*. He is currently researching a monograph on Victorian travellers and colonial fiction, provisionally entitled *The Fiction of Exploration*, and editing a digital edition of David Livingstone's *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* to be published on Livingstone Online (<http://livingstoneonline.org>).

Dr Justin Livingstone
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"I had already begun a journey into the wideness of the world. This in turn became a journey into the wideness of language, a journey where each point of arrival – whether in one's poetry or one's life – turned out be a stepping stone rather than a destination ..."

Seamus Heaney

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SCHOOL OF
ARTS, ENGLISH AND
LANGUAGES



MA ENGLISH (LITERARY STUDIES)

AN EXTRAORDINARY HERITAGE

SHAPING
A BETTER
WORLD
SINCE 1845



MA ENGLISH (LITERARY STUDIES)

The School's literary studies staff are able to offer a wide range of study paths: from the earliest writings in English (studied in their own historical and cultural contexts but also in relation to new digital cultures), to contemporary American literature and

culture in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (incorporating literature and other aspects of culture, such as television and graphic arts).

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The School's expertise include Renaissance literature (particularly women's writing, the history of the child, and Shakespeare and World Cinema), eighteenth-century literature (women's writing, slavery and abolition, and Indian literatures in English) and nineteenth and twentieth-century literature (with specialisms including the fiction of Dickens, the fin de siècle and modernism).

Students may select from a wide range of topics within generic modules, permitting either specialism or diversity in the choice of study, from the earliest writings in English to the contemporary. After two semesters

of taught modules, all MA students on the programme then complete a 15,000 word dissertation, which they choose and design and then work on in conjunction with an academic supervisor.

Modules include:

- Literary Research Methods
- Advanced Literary Studies
- Developing Research Specialisms

Assessment

Practical exercises, essays and seminar presentations.

“Studying English to this level has helped me to view situations from different perspectives and to argue coherently, skills that I have been able to transfer to the workplace. I would highly recommend this course to everyone. Apart from being highly enjoyable, it also offered flexibility and support so that I could continue to study while entering into my first experience of full time employment.”

Rachel Stewart

MA English Literary Studies

SPECIAL FEATURES

- The MA in English Literary Studies offers a number of special features. Some of the American Literature and Culture topics will engage with contemporary examples of American art and culture through field work. The topics relating to medieval literature and culture use connections to the School of History and to the archives in Armagh, Belfast and Trinity College Dublin.
- Students and staff across the degree also take part in a number of discussion groups, workshops, conferences and symposia both within and outside the University. There is the opportunity to organise and/or participate in the School's annual PG conference (“Common Ground”) and weekly research seminars.
- Graduates from this programme have a good employment record. Professions including publishing, journalism, public relations, teaching, IT, library science, corporate advertising, the Civil Service, business, industry and the media all recruit from our graduates. Some students choose to continue their studies to PhD level on a specialised topic in one of the pathways in English Literary Studies.
- Queen's postgraduates reap exceptional benefits. Unique initiatives, such as Degree Plus and Researcher Plus bolster our commitment to employability, while the thriving research culture of the School offers many opportunities to interact with academic experts and to participate in diverse student-led initiatives.

