

KAREN GRAHAM

CAREER OBJECTIVE

To obtain a lectureship position in English Literature with a university with strengths in interdisciplinary studies around critical theory, film and literature, and cultural studies.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Theories of myth, fantasy, adaptation and intertextuality
- The fairy tale in literature and on film
- The literary vampire and supernatural hybridity
- Temporality, contemporary gothic, memory and trauma
- Speculative and fantastic literature, film, and TV
- Other worlds in fantasy and science fiction
- Gender, sexuality and constructions of the self

ACADEMIC HISTORY

PhD Religious Studies, University of Aberdeen

2010-2015

Submitted for examination, Viva scheduled for 6 June 2016

Telling Tales: Remaking myth in Gregory Maguire's adult fiction

- Supervised by Professor Robert Segal and Dr Leigh Clayton
- Religious Studies at Aberdeen was ranked 1st in Scotland for Research Impact (2014 REF)
- Investigating narratives that can be identified as culturally significant based on their continued re-telling across a variety of modes genres and societies, using the fiction of Gregory Maguire as a case study.
- Comprehensive review of the literature on myth and fantasy theory and how the terms overlap in the analysis and classification of fiction.
- Developing an analytical framework that accounts for the form and function of myth in contemporary fantasy narratives.
- Conclusions drawn from the analysis indicate Maguire's particular engagement with this process and illuminate the power of narrative to effect individuals on an emotional level as well as the values of society. The particular changes that Maguire makes in the transformation of the myths in question are indicative of broader cultural and social trends and go beyond merely documenting these shifts in the values of society to actually playing a part in enforcing these changes.
- Future research would investigate how this form of analysis can be applied to other narratives within the broad category of speculative fiction.

MLitt Women Culture and Society, University of Dundee

2007-2008

- Dissertation: *Eve Again: Reading Lyra as Eve in Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials*
- An interdisciplinary research course, which is now offered as Gender, Culture and Society.
- Modules: Women, Representation and Self-representation; Archive Skills and Palaeography; Religion, Gender and Secularisation in Twentieth Century Britain; Philosophy and the Female Subject; and Gender and Ethnicity in South African literature.
- The use of mythic archetypes, such as Eve, in contemporary fantasy fiction developed into doctoral research on the form and function of myth.

MA (Hons) English, University of Dundee (2:1)

2003-2007

- Modules: Introduction to Literary Study; Early Modern Literature; Romanticism and the Gothic Aftermath; Medieval Literature; Old English; The Literature of Terror; Two Renaissance Novels; 20th Century Scottish Fiction; Introduction to Film Studies; Film Noir; Political Philosophy; Philosophy and Literature; Epistemology and the Self; Kant's Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals; and Spinoza's Ethics.

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RESEARCH OUTPUT SUMMARY

Conference Papers	23
Edited Volumes	3
Book Chapters	6
Seminars	2
Reviews	1

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Research

- Experienced in qualitative analysis of complex theoretical arguments, narrative fiction and film.
- Able to interpret text and film based narratives in light of various theoretical frameworks such as myth, gender, sexuality, genre, mode and period.
- Proficient in qualitative analysis of statistical information relating to gender, sexuality, representation, secularisation and religion.
- Extensive experience disseminating research conclusions to peers from a variety of disciplines at international conferences and research seminars e.g. 20 conference paper presentations 2006-2016, Trustee and Social Media Manager for Shortbread Stories, Peer Reviewer for HARTS & Minds, Co-editor of *Monstrous Manifestations*, and *Temporal Discombobulations*.
- Experienced in the conception and organisation of an international research conference, Temporal Discombobulations: Time and the Experience of the Gothic, August 2016

Teaching and Communication

- Completed accredited programme in Teaching and Learning in 2013 at University of Aberdeen.
- Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.
- Experienced in both lecturing and leading small group tutorials at Dundee College (NQF Level 4) and University of Aberdeen (NQF Level 5 – 6) in critical analysis and theory.
- Designed, taught and evaluated training programmes for around 15 staff at all levels in External Relations at the University of Dundee in
- Designed and led workshops in editing and writing practice for 'ShortbreadStories'.
- Very experienced in selecting and presenting reading materials and core concepts.
- Experience of one-on-one supervision in English Literature and writing practice as a Personal Tutor at NQF Level 3 and 7.
- Peer mentoring of Doctoral candidates (NQF Level 8).
- Expertise in teaching literary theory and analysis, myth theory and analysis, adaptation studies, and comparative literature. Further expertise sufficient for teaching film studies, fantasy theory and analysis, gender, Gothic literature, religion and secularisation and children's literature.

Financial Management

- Responsible for budget monitoring and processing as Administrator in Physics at the University of Surrey, as part of the Events Team at the University of Dundee (2008-14), including familiarity with Agresso and CODA finance software.
- Experienced in dealing with incoming and outgoing invoicing, purchase orders, petty cash management and student demonstrator/temp payroll authorisation.
- Proficient in contributing to funding bids, financial forecasting, end-of-year accounts and budget adjustment.
- Experienced in the administration and organisation of research funding bids with academics in Physics at Surrey, including devising and assigning work package leadership, setting deadlines and arranging collaboration meetings on Royal Society, Leverhulme Trust and H2020 funding bids.

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Project Management

- Lead organiser for the interdisciplinary conference 'Temporal Discombobulations: Time and the Experience of the Gothic', University of Surrey August 2016.
- Able to work independently or as part of a team to deliver projects to strict deadlines.
- Proficient in most software programs necessary for the support and administration of teaching and research such as Agresso, CODA, Rhythmyx, SITS, VLE, and MS Office.
- Able to manage heavy workloads from competing projects and effectively prioritise tasks based on factors such as deadlines and available time.
- Have collaborated on projects with international colleagues and worked through difficulties by email e.g. my co-editor on *Monstrous Manifestations* at Jagiellonian University, fellow conference organisers at California State University and Lancaster University, collaborating on panel proposals with colleagues from Brasenose College, Oxford and the University of Nottingham, as well as independent scholars.

Outreach and Events Management

- Extensive experience in planning and logistical assistance for high profile University events such as Graduation, or the visit and public appearance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dundee.
- Possess focus, dedication and attention to detail consummate with complex event organisation as a result of Events' experience at the University of Dundee.
- Confident communicating with the public and high profile stakeholders either in large groups or individually e.g. handling all public, press, invited guest and speaker communication for Sir Christopher Frayling's public lecture as part of the Saturday Evening Lecture Series.

EMPLOYMENT

Administrator, ICAMS University of Glasgow	2016 - present
Administrator & PA to Head of Dept., Physics University of Surrey	2015 – May 2016
Assistant Administrator , Department of Physics University of Surrey	2014 – Jul 2015
Events Assistant , External Relations University of Dundee	2008 - 2014
Module Tutor , Mankind and the Universe University of Aberdeen	2010 - 2013
Guest Lecturer , 'Narrative in Fiction and Film' HNC Professional Writing Skills, Dundee & Angus College	May 2010

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Trustee , ShortbreadStories SCIO (See Appendix C)	2015 - present
Peer Reviewer , HARTS & Minds Journal	2012 - present
Social Media Manager , ShortbreadStories SCIO	2012 - 2015
Co-editor of <i>Monstrous Manifestations</i> , Inter-Disciplinary.net	2012 - 2013
Workshop Tutor , ShortbreadStories.com	2011 - 2012
Managing Editor of <i>New Writing Dundee</i>	2010 - 2011

FUNDING AWARDS AND INDICATORS OF EXCELLENCE

ShortbreadStories: assisted in the application for Regular Funding from Creative Scotland for £80K over three years (2014) - application shortlisted but not successful

ShortbreadStories: successfully worked with other members of the team to raise private funding for staffing costs as part of the team 2011-13 (£60K)

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Events Team: negotiated in kind funding for visiting speaker accommodation with other members of the team 2008-2014 - approx. £4,200

Events Team: prepared and presented a business case for the Events Team to receive iPads for use at events 2014 – approx. £1,440

University of Aberdeen Principal's Excellence Fund: Recipient 2013 - £100

School of Divinity, History and Philosophy: Postgraduate Committee Funding Recipient 2010-2014 - £400

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
Member of the International Gothic Association (Student)
Member of the Mythopoeic Society

REFEREES



APPENDIX A

PUBLICATIONS

Temporal Discombobulations, Ed. Karen Graham and Rachel Marsh (Forthcoming from Guildford: University of Surrey, 2016)

Graham, Karen, "A choker of rubies, two inches wide, like an extraordinarily precious slit throat": Angela Carter's Fairy-tale Horror', *Palgrave Companion to Horror Literature* Ed. Kevin Corstorphine (Palgrave Macmillan, In Review)

Graham, Karen, 'Fear the Human: Pathologization and Forced Experimentation in Contemporary Vampire Fiction', *Letting the Wrong One In: Hospitality, Rape and Consent in Vampire Culture*, Ed. David Baker, Stephenie Green and Agnieszka Stasiewicz-Bieńkowska (Palgrave Macmillan, In Review)

Graham, Karen, Review of 'Cinderella (2015)', *Journal of Monsters and the Monstrous*, Volume 5, No. 1, Special Issue on Fairy Tale Monsters/Monstrous Fairy Tales (Inter-Disciplinary Press, Forthcoming)

Graham, Karen, 'Ding Dong the Bitch Will Swing: The Judgement of Dorothy in Gregory Maguire's The Wicked Years Series', *Returning to Oz: The Afterlife of Dorothy*, Ed. Hannah Priest, (Manchester, Forthcoming)

Graham, Karen, "No One Mourns the Wicked": On the Nature of Evil and Monstrosity in Gregory Maguire's The Wicked Years Series', *Monstrous Manifestations: Realities and Imaginings of the Monster*, Ed. Karen Graham and Agnieszka Stasiewicz-Bieńkowska (Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2013) pp. 3-11

New Writing Dundee 6, Ed. Kirsty Gunn and Karen Graham (Dundee: Discovery Press, 2011)

Graham, Karen, 'Paradise Lost? Adolescent Alienation in Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials', *Alienation and Resistance: Representation in Text and Image*, Ed. Laura Findlay,

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Pauline MacPherson, Gordon Spark, Andy Wood (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010) pp. 268-286

Graham, Karen, 'Mother Eve: Philip Pullman and Conceptions of Good and Evil', *Sub/versions: Cultural Status, Genre and Critique*, Ed. Pauline MacPherson, Christopher Murray, Gordon Spark and Kevin Corstorphine (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008) pp. 54-63

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PAPERS

Selected abstracts available at <http://www.karen-graham.co.uk/selected-abstracts/>

Narrative and the Fractured Self in Gregory Maguire's *Lost*, (Dis)Connected Forms: Narratives on the Fractured Self – University of Hull – September 2016

Invited speaker on various panels, Nine Worlds Geekfest – London – August 2016

"I know all the stories ... but I still want to hear the world tell them the way only it can tell them": Reimagining Russian folklore in *Deathless* and *Egg and Spoon*", *Global Fantastika* – University of Lancaster – July 2016

'Will the real monster please stand up?: Fear in the age of the sparkly vampire', *Reimagining the Gothic: Monsters and Monstrosities* – University of Sheffield – May 2016

'Wicked Girls: Oz as Asylum/Asylum as Oz', *Asylums, Pathologies and the Themes of Madness: Patrick McGrath and his Gothic Contemporaries* - University of Stirling – January 2016

'Little Monsters: Hybrid offspring in steampunk and contemporary gothic texts', 'The Company of Wolves': Sociality, Animality, and Subjectivity in Literary and Cultural Narratives—Werewolves, Shapeshifters, and Feral Humans - University of Hertfordshire - September 2015

'Wicked or Wonderful?: Religion in Gregory Maguire's *Oz*', *Religion and Faith Track* - Nine Worlds Geekfest, London – August 2015

'There's no Place like Oz: Oz Reimagined On Screen and Off', *Locating Fantastika: An Interdisciplinary Conference* - University of Lancaster - July 2015

Transitioning Bodies and Changeling Children in Gregory Maguire's Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister and Out of Oz, *Being Non/Human: Bodily Borders Conference* - Queen Mary, University of London - June 2015

'Through the Looking Glass: Adaptation as Mirror in Contemporary Fairy Tales', *Wonderlands PGR Symposium* - University of Chichester - May 2015

'New Wine in Old Bottles: Creating New Myth from Old in Gregory Maguire's *The Wicked Years*' - *The Wizard of Oz and the Cultural Imagination* - University of Brighton - November 2014

'Memory, Narrative and Constructions of the Self: Locating the Gothic in Gregory Maguire's *Lost*' - *Locating the Gothic Conference And Festival* - Limerick - October 2014

"The eye is always caught by light, but shadows have more to say": *Reflections of the Non/Human in Gregory Maguire's Mirror Mirror*' - *Being Non/Human Research Seminar* - Kings College London - May 2014

"Now what are we going to do about Dorothy?": *The Judgement of Dorothy in Gregory Maguire's The Wicked Years Series*' - *Returning to Oz: The Afterlife of Dorothy Hic Dragones* - Manchester - February 2013

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“No One Mourns the Wicked”: On the Nature of Evil and Monstrosity in Gregory Maguire’s The Wicked Years Series’ - 10th Global Monsters and the Monstrous Conference: Myths and Metaphors of Enduring Evil - Mansfield College, Oxford - September 2012

“No One Mourns the Wicked”: Representing Witches in the Contemporary fiction of Gregory Maguire’ - Capturing Witches: Histories, Stories, Images - Lancaster University - August 2012

‘New Wine in Old Bottles: Intertextuality and Creating New Myth in the Fantasy Fiction of Gregory Maguire’ - Folklore & Fantasy Conference - University of Chichester - April 2012

‘Mad Bad and Dangerous to Know: Thirst, Lust & Abstinence in the Suburban England of Matt Haig’s *The Radles*’ - Vegetarians, VILFs and Fang Bangers - De Monfort University - November 2010

‘Wicked and Conflict: Adapting Existing Narratives’- Creative Conflicts - University of Dundee - November 2010

“You are the most dangerous creature I’ve ever met!”: Reading Female Sexuality as Monstrous in Stephenie Meyer’s *Twilight*’ - Open Graves, Open Minds: Vampires and the Undead in Modern Culture - University of Hertfordshire - April 2010

‘Paradise Lost? Adolescent Alienation in Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*’ - Alienation and Resistance: Representation in Text and Image - University of Dundee - June 2010

‘She Wore Pink Shoes: The Cross Gendered Voice in Suzanna Clarke’s *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*’ - Exploding the Cannon - University of Stirling - May 2008

‘Sixteen, Alone and Uncommonly Pretty: Representations of Victorian Gender in Philip Pullman’s Sally Lockhart Novels’ - Debating the Difference: Gender, Representation and Self-Representation - University of Dundee - May 2008

‘Mother Eve: Philip Pullman and Conceptions of Good and Evil’ - Sub/Versions: Cultural Status, Genre and Critique - University of Dundee - June 2006

APPENDIX B

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

I am primarily interested in the adaptation and appropriation of existing narratives in contemporary fiction. I am passionately committed to understanding and mapping the relationship between art, myth and culture - particularly in the modern funnelling of the mythic impulse into literature, film and drama. Having wider considerations of the importance of enduring and evolving narratives, a key component of my thesis is a comparative analysis of theories of myth and theories of fantasy with the view of constructing an understanding of the history of these terms and a focused and specific definition from which to proceed.

Related to my primary research interests in the evolution of narrative, I am increasingly interested in the ability of art to develop our individual understanding of the world. The human propensity to make meaning out of existence by forming experience and knowledge into narrative form is an area on which an increasing amount of research is focusing. This is of great interest to debates surrounding the value of the Humanities in both the academic pursuit of knowledge and in the wider impact of the discipline outside of the higher education institution. I am therefore particularly interested in the dissemination of my research through open access and public engagement.

I am an active member of the research community both on campus and online and I run a research blog, Telling Tales: Stories from a PhD Student. <https://kargraham.wordpress.com/>

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In addition to my blog, I am also an avid social media user and regularly use tools such as Facebook and Twitter to participate in discussions and further disseminate my research.

DOCTORAL THESIS

Telling Tales: Remaking myth in Gregory Maguire's adult fiction

My thesis argues that the contemporary fantasy fiction of Gregory Maguire is indicative of a particular form of myth making that occurs in narrative form in contemporary culture. In choosing to re-imagine existing narratives that already have recognisable cultural significance, Maguire's particular engagement with this process illuminates the power of narrative to affect individuals on an emotional level as well as the values of society. In examining the interactions between theories of myth, intertextuality, and fantasy this thesis proposes to interrogate both the status of these narratives as cultural myths, and the phenomena of re-making myth in contemporary fiction. The aim is to examine this pattern of perpetuation and transformation of myth, specifically in the area of contemporary fantasy literature. The particular changes that Maguire makes in the transformation of the myths in question are indicative of broader cultural and social trends and, in some cases, go beyond merely documenting these shifts in the values of society to actually playing a part in enforcing these changes. That this pattern has found its continuation in modern fantasy literature is shown through the analysis and through comparisons between Maguire's myth-making that of other contemporary fantasy writers. This addresses questions of the importance of fantasy literature in the perpetuation of myth in modernity, something that some areas of myth criticism have struggled to account for and occasionally to recognise. It does so by close examination of the parent myths that Maguire chooses to re-imagine, and the ways in which his approach to intertextuality offers those particular mythic narratives new life in contemporary culture.

APPENDIX C

SHORTBREADSTORIES

Shortbread Stories is an online community of creative writers, focusing on short fiction and poetry. Besides providing a worldwide showcase for their work, Shortbread Stories aims to build self-confidence in writing ability through the mentoring, advice and encouragement forthcoming from both its writing and reading community. They also offer writing workshops in the UK and abroad and publication opportunities for new and established writers.