

DR MARIAH WHELAN

Jacqueline Bardsley Poet-in-Residence, Homerton College, University of Cambridge
2020-2021 Fellow in Creative Practice at University College London

I am an award-winning poet, teacher and interdisciplinary researcher focussing on the intersection of creative and academic practice. My poems, art installations and teaching posit creativity as tool to embrace unknowability, exploring the embodied experience of knowledge and ethical decision making. This CV uses hyperlinks and is best viewed as a digital file.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 2016-2020 **PhD in Creative and Critical Writing**, Supervisors: Vona Groake and Professor Liam Harte, Examiners: Jane Draycott (Oxford) and Professor John McAuliffe (Manchester)
- Creative thesis: *Viaduct* a collection of poems exploring issues of intergenerational trauma and family archives. Critical thesis: Trauma and Representation in Three Novels by Eimear McBride, Anne Enright and Seamus Deane.
- 2011-2013 **MSt in Creative Writing with Distinction**, Kellogg College, The University of Oxford, 2011 – 2013, Supervisor Jane Draycott
- Creative thesis: *the love i do to you* a novel-in-sonnets (published by Eyewear in 2019). Critical thesis: Generic Hybridity in Anne Carson's *The Beauty of the Husband* and *Autobiography of Red*.
- 2004-2007 **BA in English (2:1)**, The Queen's University of Belfast, Supervisor Medbh McGuckian

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- July 2021- ongoing **Tutor in Creative Writing (Poetry), City Lit, London**
- Course design, producing module resources, preparing reading lists and course content, devising and marking assessments
 - Planning and teaching classes
 - Creating and maintaining online learning facilities
 - Providing summative and formative feedback
 - Assessment and pastoral care
- March 2021- ongoing **Fellow in Creative Practice, Institute for Advance Studies, University College London**
- Collaborating with academics to produce interdisciplinary approaches to novel research questions

- Designing and teaching seminars on creative writing methods to undergraduate, postgraduate and research students
- Writing new poems and creating poem objects
- Leading departmental seminars, panel discussions and roundtable events

January 2021- ongoing **Partner, The Poetry by Heart Consortium**

- Conducting research for the Department of Education into best practices in teaching poetry at primary – tertiary level
- Disseminating research through articles, blogs and videos
- Advocating for the role of poetry and the arts in state education
- Designing and piloting a poetry reading group scheme for rollout across the UK

August 2020- August 2022 **Jacqueline Bardsley Poet-in-Residence, Homerton College, The University of Cambridge**

- Writing new poems
- Planning and teaching poetry writing workshops for undergraduates, postgraduates, staff and the Fellowship
- Publishing, performing and exhibiting new writing by students
- Using poetry as a tool to foster community dialogue and interdisciplinary teaching and research.

April 2019- ongoing **Co-founder and Editor, *bath magg***

bath magg brings together excellent new poetry from emerging and established contemporary poets. Our featured poets have included Roger Robinson, Amina Jama and Ilya Kaminsky. Poems published in the magazine have been Highly Commended in the Forward Prize for Best Individual Poem 2020. My responsibilities include:

- Soliciting new poems
- Editing poetry
- Building and managing the digital magazine
- Typesetting, proofreading and formatting
- Designing and implementing social media and marketing strategy
- Funding applications and project management.

Jan. 2018- July 2020 **Lecturer in Creative Writing and English Literature, The University of Manchester**

- Course design, producing module resources, preparing reading lists and course content, devising and marking assessments
- Planning and teaching classes
- Creating and maintaining online learning facilities
- Providing summative and formative feedback
- Pastoral and learning support

- Delivering 100% online classes during the corona virus pandemic.

April 2017-
Sep. 2019 **Director, Oxford Writers' House, St Anne's College, University of Oxford**

Oxford Writers' House sought to bring together Oxford's diverse communities through creative writing projects. I was responsible for:

- Analysis and planning
- Managing budgets and fundraising
- Evaluating activity and reporting to the CiC commission
- Building networks with cultural partners including universities, individuals and charities
- Managing communications strategy

2013-
2016 **Freelance Writer, Editor and Teacher**

I developed a portfolio business focused on teaching, editing and freelance writing. My responsibilities included:

- Tutoring young people in English Literature, Language and English as a Foreign Language
- Working with academics to self-publish books, develop manuscripts and build a web presence
- Actioning all necessary business administration.

2010-
2013 **Administrator, The Bodleian Library, The University of Oxford**

- Sales reporting and forecasting
- Accounts payable and receivable
- Developing new products
- Managing website and all web sales
- Taking product photographs and writing copy for website
- Working with curators to plan exhibitions

2007-
2009 **English Teacher, Amity Education, Japan**

- Devising and marking assessments (essays and exam scripts)
- Planning and teaching classes
- Planning and leading extracurricular activities
- Devising, leading and coordinating study skills workshops
- Pastoral and learning support

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Oct. 2021-
Nov. 2021 **Introduction to the Sonnet, Literature Cambridge**

Designing and delivering a 6-week course introducing adult learners on the history and conventions of the sonnet form. Delivering a one-hour lecture and 50-minute seminar each week.

May 2021-
June 2021 **Interdisciplinary Short Course: Writing Poetry**
Faculty of Arts, University College London

This short course introduces students to key poetry-writing methods, encouraging them to explore what creative practice can bring to their academic studies. Delivered through 3-hour workshops and tutorials.

March 2021-
Ongoing **Tutor, City Lit**

Designing and delivering Creative Writing workshops to adult learners.

January 2021 **Changemakers Programme, Homerton College, The University of Cambridge**

Designing and producing asynchronous video lectures on poetry and knowledge followed by a live workshop on the ghazal form.

Aug. 2020 **Workshop leader, Homerton College, The University of Cambridge**

Designing and delivering poetry writing workshops for undergraduate, postgraduate and research students. Organising programme of visiting poets.

Sep. 2018-
July 2020 **Course Unit Director and Lecturer in Creative Writing and English Literature, University of Manchester**

- Theory and Text (Undergraduate, Level One)
- Writing Poems I and II (Undergraduate, Level Two)
- British and Irish Women's Poetry (Undergraduate, Level Three)

CREATIVE AND CRITICAL PUBLICATIONS

Single-author poetry collections:

the love I do to you, Eyewear Publishing, November 2019 (shortlisted for The Bridport Prize, The Melita Hume Prize, The Poetry Book Awards and winner of the AM Heath Prize)

The Rafters are Still Burning, Dancing Girl Press, Chicago, (forthcoming 2021)

Poems published in magazines, journals including:

Aesthetica, *Poetry Birmingham*, *The Oxford Review of Books*, *Iamb Poetry*, *The Oxonian Review*, *On Commemoration: Global Perspectives on Remembering Conflict*, *The Interpreter's House*, *The Tangerine*, *Stand Magazine*, *Slippage Lit*, *Streetcake*, *Perhappened Mag.*, *Anthropocene*, *Arthyst Art to Poetry Prize 2020 Anthology*, *9 West Road*, *The Cadaverine*, *The Irish Literary Review*, *Ash*, *The Open Ear* and on the Poetry Book Society and Poetry Society websites.

Poems anthologised in:

Out of Time: Poetry from the Climate Emergency (Valley Press), *Best New British and Irish Poets 2018* (Eyewear) and *A Change of Climate* (MMU)

Academic publications

‘Truth Tellers: Traumatic Truth-making as Art and Politics’, *The Journal of Visual Culture* (in preparation)

‘Archives, Poetry and Whiteness: Exploring the Pitt Rivers Museum’s Colonial Archives Through Creative Practice’, *On Commemoration: Global Reflections Upon Remembering War* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2020), pp. 183-191.

‘Using a Family Archive to Prompt Creative Work’, *Writing in Education*, Issue 74 (Spring 2018), pp. 44-48.

‘Where an Object Holds its Meaning: Memorial Objects and Poetic Form’, TORCH Blog, January 2018 <<https://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/article/where-an-object-holds-its-meaning-part-one>>

Recent journalism, interviews and media

‘Poetry, The Pandemic and Healing’, *Poetry by Heart*, April 2021, <<https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/blog/the-pandemic-poetry-and-healing/>>

‘Prayer: a poetry reading for The University of Cambridge’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Week’, Facebook, Jan 2021, <https://fb.watch/3t3Y-v_1YA/>

‘Facing the Illegal: poetry and truth telling, an interview with Ellen Hinsey’, *bath magg*, issue 5, Dec 2020, <<http://www.bathmagg.com/interview5/>>

‘Alumni Lecture: Poetry and Connection’, Homerton College, The University of Cambridge, Sep 2020, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-mb5TEUWIo>>

‘Niall Munro in Conversation with Mariah Whelan’, *The Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre Podcast* <<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/poetry-centre/podcasts/episode-13--mariah-whelan-talks-to-niall-munro/>>

‘From Worse to Verse: interview with Mariah Whelan’, *Judymay is Listening*, Women’s Radio Station, January 2020 <<https://womensradiostation.com/judymay-is-listening-mariah-whelan-from-worse-to-verse/>>

‘Military Virtues and Truth Tellers’, *The War Studies Podcast*, King’s College London, May 2019 <<https://mariahwhelan.com/2019/06/05/kings-college-london-war-studies-podcast/>>

AWARDS AND FUNDING

- Winner of a £11,000 award from Arts Council England to fund my poetry magazine *bath magg* in 2021
- Winner of the AM Heath Prize 2013
- Winner of a £5000 interdisciplinary research grant from University College London in 2021
- Winner of a £3000 interdisciplinary research grant from the Economic and Social Research Council for the ‘Truth Tellers’ project in 2019
- Winner of a 3-year, £57,000 doctoral funding award from The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures at The University of Manchester to write my third poetry collection
- Selected as one of the Best New British and Irish Poets 2018 by Maggie Smith
- Highly Commended Winner, the *Spelt Magazine* Poetry Prize 2021
- Highly Commended Winner, *Arthyst* and The Poetry Society Art to Poetry Prize 2020
- Highly Commended Winner, the Poetry Book Society Student Poetry Prize 2018
- *Aesthetica* Poet of the Week, September 2020
- *the love i do to you* named *La Ninfa Eco* Book of the Week (March 2020) and The Oxford Poetry Library Book of the Month (February 2020)
- Shortlisted for The Bridport Prize, The Melita Hume Prize, The RSPB and Rialto Nature and Place Poetry Prize, The Mslexia Women’s Poetry Prize, The *Aesthetica* Creative Writing Award and The Poetry Book Awards
- Nominated for The Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection 2020 for *the love i do to you*

RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London, 2021-2022
- Fellow in Creative Practice, Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London, 2020-2021
- Jacqueline Bardsley Poet-in-Residence and Bye-Fellow, Homerton College, The University of Cambridge, August 2020-August 2022
- VEM+ Poet-in-Residence, The Department of War Studies, King’s College London, June-August 2019
- Poet-in-Residence, The Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, September-December 2018

CONFERENCES, PANELS & EXHIBITIONS

- Co-convenor of ‘Is it shame or is it water: Poetry and Research in Conversation’, a 2-day symposium hosted by The Oxford Centre for Life Writing, The University of Oxford and Manchester Metropolitan University
- Convenor and Chair of ‘Specific Qualities that Cannot be Reproduced on Paper’, a digital poetry roundtable, Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London, June 23rd 2021

- Convenor and Chair of ‘What Can Poetry Methodologies Bring to Academic Practice?’ a roundtable discussion, Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London, 3rd June 2021
- Convenor and Chair, ‘Poetry and Climate Change’, a multi-discipline roundtable and reading, Homerton College, The University of Cambridge, 7th May 2021
- Panellist and co-exhibitor in ‘Visual and Embodied Methodologies’, co-exhibition of drawings by Vladimir Miladinovic, video by Gaelle Cornec and poem objects by Mariah Whelan, The Exchange Gallery, London, October 2019
- Panellist and co-exhibitor in ‘Truth Tellers: traumatic truth-making as art and politics’, co-exhibition of paintings and poems by Tom de Freston and Mariah Whelan, The Exchange Gallery, London, May 2019
- Presenter of ‘Poetry, Memory and Family History’, The National Association of Writers in Education Annual Conference, National Association of Writers in Education, November 2018
- Presenter of ‘Using a Family Archive to Prompt Creative Work’. John Rylands Research Institute Annual Conference 2018, University of Manchester, June 2018

RESEARCH PROJECTS

“An Art Practice Predicated on the Unknowable”: Using Poetry to Disrupt and Expand our Ideas about Knowledge

2020-ongoing

- In the Humanities and Social Sciences, ‘not knowing’ is often seen as the catalyst for research activity. It precipitates the thought, experiment and analysis that transforms an absence of knowing into knowledge that fills this ‘gap’. Over the course of the Fellowship, I ask what new forms of knowing we might discover if we bring academic practice into dialogue with the unknowability of poetry. Funded by UCL.
<<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/institute-of-advanced-studies/creative-fellowship-programme-202021-art-practice-predicated-unknowable>>

First in Family and Female? Class, gender and barriers faced by first-generation women studying the social sciences at an elite university

2021-ongoing

- The research project brings together creative and sociological methods to explore the experiences of working-class and first-in-family women studying social sciences at UCL. This project aims to uncover the specific experiences of working-class women studying these kinds of subjects at UCL, and whether there are any barriers particular to their identities which can be uncovered through this research. Funded by UCL.

Truth Tellers: Traumatic Truth-making as Art and Politics

2019-ongoing

- The *Truth Tellers* project bring together art practice and International Relations methods in an effort to understand the ‘unspeakable’ aspects of descriptions, narratives and other representations, in both text and images of terrorism. Funded by the ESRC and King’s

College London's Department of War Studies. <<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/truth-tellers-1>>