

Dr. Mariah Whelan

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HIGHER EDUCATION

December 2020

University of Manchester

Doctor of Philosophy

Viaduct (verse novel) and *Trauma and Representation in Seamus Deane's Reading in the Dark*,
Anne Enright's The Gathering and *Eimear McBride's A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*

Passed with minor corrections

School of Arts, Languages and Cultures Research Grant

Supervisors: Vona Groarke (University of Manchester) and Professor Liam Harte (University of Manchester)

Examiners: Professor John Mcauliffe (University of Manchester) and Jane Draycott (University of Oxford)

September 2013

University of Oxford

MSt in Creative Writing

AM Heath Prize Recipient

Passed with distinction

Dissertation: *The Love I do to You* (verse novel) and *The Treatment of Reality Haruki Murakami's The Wind-up Bird Chronicle* and *Gabriel García Márquez' One Hundred Years of Solitude*

June 2007

Queen's University of Belfast

BA English Literature

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Aug. 2020-Aug. 2023. Poet-in-Residence, Homerton College, University of Cambridge.

As inaugural PIR I am responsible for putting poetry and creative writing at the heart of College life. I plan and lead creative writing workshops for undergraduate, postgraduate taught and research students. My responsibilities include: designing and delivering workshop material; preparing reading lists and course content; planning and leading workshops; providing feedback; pastoral and learning support; supervising poetry projects; working closely with academic and administrative colleagues; creating my own new poetry; organizing poetry installations and exhibitions; organizing and managing the College's program of visiting poets and poetry-related events.

September 2019-PRESENT. Founding Editor, *bath magg*.

I source and publish the very best new poetry from the UK and around the globe. My responsibilities include: soliciting poems from established writers; selecting poems from unsolicited submissions; editing poems; working closely with poets; liaising with my co-editors, prize committees and peer publications; strategy, outreach, marketing, funding applications and project management.

August 2020-PRESENT. Consortium Partner, Poetry by Heart

The Poetry by Heart Consortium is a group of poetry organisations who support this national poetry speaking competition. Funded by the Department for Education, we also share best practice on how poetry is taught and enjoyed in UK schools. Responsibilities include: preparing monthly briefings on Homerton College's poetry-related activity; commenting on peer organisations' activity; shaping best practices to feed back to the DfE; judging the Poetry by Heart competition; attending and presenting at the live finals at the Globe Theatre London.

September 2021-PRESENT. Supervisor and Tutor, Literature Cambridge

Literature Cambridge is an independent educational organisation made up of lecturers from The University of Cambridge, The University of Oxford and UCL. I design, convene and teach lecture courses and seminars on all aspects of poetry. My responsibilities include: designing and delivering course material; preparing reading lists and course content; planning and leading lectures and seminars; creating and maintaining online learning facilities; pastoral and learning support; working closely with academic and administrative colleagues.

October 2021-PRESENT. Tutor, City Literary Institute, London

City Lit is Europe's largest centre for adult education. I convene and teach 12-week courses on creative writing. My responsibilities include: designing and delivering module material; preparing reading lists and course content; devising and marking assessments; planning and leading workshops; creating and maintaining online learning facilities; providing feedback; pastoral and learning support; working closely with academic and administrative colleagues.

September 2020-Sep. 2022. Fellow in Creative Practice, University College London

In my research project "An art practice predicated on the unknowable" – Using Poetry to Disrupt and Expand our ideas about Knowledge', I worked with students and academics at The Institute of Advanced Studies to explore how poetry writing methodologies can intervene in and disrupt our ideas about what knowledge is and how we produce it in academic contexts. Responsibilities included: producing a new hybrid work that incorporated poetry and creative non-fiction; showcasing this work during research seminars and public exhibitions; collaborating with colleagues to explore new creative-critical research avenues; organising and running symposia on experimental methods; teaching creative methods to undergraduate, MA and PhD students.

September 2018-June 2020. Lecturer in Creative Writing and English Literature, University of Manchester

I moderated and led creative writing and English literature modules for undergraduate and MA students. My responsibilities in this role included: designing and delivering module material; preparing reading lists and course content; devising and marking assessments (essays and creative writing); planning and leading workshops; creating and maintaining online learning facilities; providing feedback; pastoral and learning support; working closely with academic and administrative colleagues; supervising poetry projects.

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

OWH used creative writing to bring together Oxford's disparate communities. My responsibilities included: running The Peregrine Prize for young writers; 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.

January 2017-June 2017. Graduate Teaching Assistant in English Literature, University of Manchester

My responsibilities in this role included: writing and delivering seminars; marking assessments (essays and exam scripts); creating and maintaining online learning facilities; supervising student projects; providing written and verbal feedback; pastoral and learning support; working closely with academic and administrative colleagues across departments.

September 2016-August 2017. Residential Life Advisor, University of Manchester

As a live-in student advisor in the university's halls of residence I was responsible for providing pastoral support to undergraduate and postgraduate students and being 'on-call' to resolve student welfare issues on a shift-basis.

December 2013-September 2016. Freelance Writer and Editor

I ran creative writing workshops and seminars as a visiting tutor in libraries, cafes, museums, churches and other public spaces. I also provided editorial services on a freelance basis for self-publishing authors.

October 2009-December 2013. Administrator, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

Initially working in the library shop I was promoted onto the administrative side of the business, developing new product ideas by sourcing content from the library's enormous collections.

June 2007-June 2009. English Teacher, Amity Education, Japan

Amity Education teaches English to students from 6 months to 18 years' old. My responsibilities included: planning and teaching classes; leading extracurricular activities; devising, leading and coordinating study skills workshops; pastoral and learning support .

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Modules Taught

- Module Convener: Writing Poems I (University of Manchester. Undergraduate. Level One); Writing Poems II (University of Manchester. Undergraduate. Level Two); British and Irish Women's Poetry (University of Manchester. Undergraduate. Level Three); Introduction to Writing Poetry (University of Oxford, Department for Continuing Education); Getting Started with Writing Poems (City Literary Institute); History of the Sonnet (Literature Cambridge); Sylvia Plath: Poetry and Prose (Literature Cambridge); Close Reading: Keats (Literature Cambridge); Close Reading: Browning (Literature Cambridge); Close Reading: Elizabeth Barret Browning (Literature Cambridge); Close Reading: Christina Rossetti (Literature Cambridge).
- Lecturer and seminar tutor: 'Theory and Text' (University of Manchester. Undergraduate. Level One).
- Workshop convenor and tutor for undergraduate level one, level two, level three, MSt students and PhD students (Homerton College, University of Cambridge).
- Workshop convenor and tutor for an interdisciplinary short course in creative methods for undergraduate, MA and PhD students (University College London).

CREATIVE AND EDITORIAL PROFILE

Awards

- Winner of the 2013 AM Heath Prize
- Fourth place winner of the Streetcake Prize for Experimental Writing 2021
- One poem highly commended in the 2021 Forest Poets Prize
- One poem highly commended in The Poetry Society and Artlyst Art to Poetry Prize 2020
- One poem highly commended in the 2018 Poetry Book Society Student Poetry Prize
- Selected as one of the fifty best British and Irish poets of 2018 by the poet Maggie Smith
- Selected as an *Aesthetica* 'Poet of the Week' in September 2020
- *The Love I Do to You* named an Oxford Poetry Library Book of the Month February 2020 and nominated for The Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection 2020
- Poems and publications shortlisted for The Poetry Book Awards 2019, The Poetry Book Society and Mslexia Women's Poetry Prize 2019, The Melita Hume Prize 2017, The Bridport Prize 2014 and 2018, The RSPB and *Rialto* Nature and Place Poetry Prize 2017, The *Aesthetica* Creative Writing Award 2018 and 2021.

Selected Creative Publications

Books

- *Michael* (Broken Sleep Books, 2022)
- *The Rafters Were Still Burning* (Dancing Girl Press, 2021)
- *The Love I Do To You* (Eyewear, 2019)

Selected Anthologies and Magazines

- *Broken Sleep Books Anthology 2022* (Broken Sleep Books, 2022)
- *The Streetcake Experimental Writing Anthology 2021* (Streetcake, 2021)
- *Out of Time: Poems for the Climate Emergency* (Valley Press, 2021)
- *On Commemoration: Global Reflections upon Remembering War* (Peter Lang, 2020)
- *A Change of Climate* (MMU, 2019)
- *The 50 Best New Poets British and Irish Poets of 2018* (Eyewear Publishing, 2018).
- Poems have recently appeared in: *Stand Magazine*, *The Oxford Review of Books*, *Aesthetica*, *Anthropocene*, *At Length Magazine*, *Poetry Birmingham Review*, *The Tangerine*, *Spelt Magazine*, *The Interpreter's House*, *Iamb Poetry*, *9 West Road*, *The Irish Literary Review*, *The Oxonian Review*, *Slippage Lit.*, *Cadaverine* and on The Poetry Book Society and The Poetry Society websites

Creative Collaborations, Organisations and Projects

- **Liquid Voices: Poetry and Research in Conversation. 2021-Ongoing.** Convened by Dr Katie Collins, Dr Helen Mort and Dr Mariah Whelan, this project brings together poets, researchers, researcher-poets and poet-researchers interested in exploring the intersections of poetry and research and to explore the questions we, as members of this growing field of inquiry, should be asking of our practices, our ethics, our outputs and ourselves.
- **First in Family and Female? Class, gender and barriers faced by first-generation women studying the social sciences at an elite university. 2021-2022.** This project brings together creative and sociological methods to explore the experiences of working-

class and first-in-family women studying social sciences at UCL. The project sought 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.** This interdisciplinary 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.

Editorial Roles

- **Present. Founding Editor, *bath magg***
My responsibilities include: soliciting work; commissioning work; editing poetry submissions; publishing poems; all aspects of project management, fundraising and administration; writing editorials and interviewing our feature poets.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Selected Publications

- 'Truth Tellers: Traumatic Truth-making as Art and Politics', *The Journal of Visual Culture* (in preparation)
- 'Evangelical Catholicism in Eimear McBride's *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*'. *The Irish University Review* (in preparation)
- 'Using a Family Archive to Prompt Creative Work', *Writing in Education*, Issue 74 (Spring 2018), pp. 44-48.
- 'Poetry, The Pandemic and Healing', *Poetry by Heart*, April 2021
- 'Where an Object Holds its Meaning: Memorial Objects and Poetic Form', TORCH Blog, January 2018

Selected Conference Papers, Public Lectures, Exhibitions and Engagement Activity

- Digital Poetry Roundtable (Convenor, Chair and Panellist), Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London, June 2021
- What Can Poetry Methodologies Bring to Academic Practice? (Convenor and Chair), Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London, June 2021
- Poetry and Climate Change (Chair), Homerton College, The University of Cambridge, May 2021
- 'DNA and Creativity: Workshop for Schools', Online, Manchester, May 2021
- 'Alumni Lecture: Poetry and Connection', Homerton College, The University of Cambridge, Sep 2020
- 'DNA and Creativity: Celebrating DNA Day 2019', public creative writing workshop exploring DNA and family history, Manchester Central Library, Manchester, November 2019
- 'Visual and Embodied Methodologies' (co-exhibitor), co-exhibition of drawings by Vladimir Miladinovic, video by Gaelle Cornec and poem objects by Mariah Whelan, The Exchange Gallery, London, October 2019
- '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

- Poetry, Memory and Family History, National Association of Writers in Education Annual Conference, National Association of Writers in Education, November 2018
- 'Using a Family Archive to Prompt Creative Work' (panellist), John Rylands Research Institute Annual Conference 2018, University of Manchester, June 2018

Conference, Seminar and Symposium Organisation

- 'Is it shame or is it water: Poetry and Research in Conversation' (Oxford Centre for Life Writing, University of Oxford, August 2021).
- 'Specific Qualities that Cannot be Displayed on Paper: Digital Poetries Now' (University College London, June 2021).
- 'What can creative approaches bring to research?: Poetry and/as Research' (University College London, June 2021)
- 'Poetry and Climate Change: a Roundtable' (Homerton College, May 2021)

RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING

- Jacqueline Bardsley Poet-in-Residence, Homerton College, The University of Cambridge, August 2020-August 2023
- Fellow in Creative Practice, Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London, September 2020-September 2022
- £5000 funding award from The Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London to develop a hybrid creative-critical text that explores the relationship between poetry and research
- £12,000 National Lottery funding award from Arts Council England in 2020 for *bath magg*
- VEM+ Poet-in-Residence, The Department of War Studies, King's College London, June-August 2019
- £3000 Economic and Social Research Council pilot grant to develop creative-critical methods for the Truth Tellers project
- Poet-in-Residence, The Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, September-December 2018
- Recipient of a £57,000 doctoral research grant from The School of Arts Languages and Cultures, The University of Manchester in 2016 to complete my PhD
- HEA Associate Fellow

References available upon request