

DR SARAH LOHMANN

HONORARY ASSOCIATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING PROFILE

Utopian literature from Plato to the present day, particularly feminist utopian and dystopian literature of the late twentieth century; moral philosophy and the philosophy of time; twentieth and twenty-first century British and American fiction; intersectional feminist theory, gender and women's writing; science fiction and speculative fiction; systems and complexity theory; Bakhtinian chronotopes; the history of the novel; academic writing; English and German language coaching.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2020 – 2021** **Durham University**
Honorary Associate in the Department of English Studies
- 2015 – 2020** **Durham University**
Teaching Assistant in the Department of English Studies

EDUCATION

- 2016 – 2021** **Durham University**
Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (awarded Jan 7, 2021)
Final project (Module 3): course design 'Feminist Utopian Literature Through the Ages'
- 2014 – 2020** **Durham University**
Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature (awarded Aug 4, 2020)
Thesis: 'The Edge of Time: The Critical Dynamics of Structural Chronotopes in the Utopian Novel'
Supervisors: Professor Patricia Waugh and Professor Simon James
Examiners: Dr Siân Adiseshiah (Loughborough) and Dr Jenny Terry (Durham)
- 2012 – 2013** **University of St Andrews and University of Stirling**
MLitt Philosophy
Dissertation: 'The Ethics of Selves: In Defence of the Connection Between Parfitian Reductionism and Utilitarianism'
- 2011 – 2012** **University of St Andrews**
MLitt Women, Writing and Gender (Distinction in the Dissertation)
Dissertation: 'On the Edge of Time: Feminist Utopias and Four-Dimensionality'
- 2007 – 2011** **University of St Andrews**
MA Hons Philosophy and English Literature (First Class)
- 2003 – 2007** **Städtisches Luisengymnasium, Munich, Germany**
Advanced subjects: English Literature, French
Final grade in Abitur: 1.4

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapter: "What isn't living dies": Utopia as Living Organism in Joanna Russ's *The Female Man* and Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time*, in *Transgressive Utopianism: Essays in Honor of Lucy Sargisson*, eds. Raffaella Baccolini and Lyman Tower Sargent (Peter Lang Publishing, Ralahine Utopian Studies series, 2021).

Short Monograph: *An Introduction to 'Woman on the Edge of Time' by Marge Piercy* (Palgrave SFF: A New Canon, eds. Sean Guynes and Keren Omry, commissioned and awaiting contract by Oct 2021).

Contributions to Textbook: 'Ecological SF of the 1960s and 1970s', 'Dystopia' and 'Utopia', in *This is Not a Science Fiction Textbook*, eds. Mark Bould and Steven Shaviro (Goldsmiths and MIT, forthcoming 2022).

Monograph: *The Edge of Time: The Critical Dynamics of Structural Chronotopes in the Utopian Novel* (in process, communicating with potential publishers)

Journal Article: 'Shaping the Future: The Complex Reconfiguration of Utopia in Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time* and Joanna Russ's *The Female Man*' (in process, communicating with potential publishers)

Invited Interview: 'Meet the Future: An Interview with Sarah Lohmann', *SFRA Review* 50:1 (2020): 13-18. Interviewed by SFRA review editor Sean Guynes for column highlighting the work of 'up-and-coming SF scholars, typically graduate students, postdocs, and recent hires'. Available as pdf at http://sfra.org/resources/sfra-review/50.1/50.1_MTF.pdf.

Book Review: 'Darwinian Feminism and Early Science Fiction by Patrick B. Sharp', *Fantastika Journal* 2:1 (2018): 105-108.

TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Private English and German Language Coaching, 2011/12, 2015/16 and Dec 2020 onwards. Providing English and German language coaching sessions for private clients, focusing on conversation and academic or business vocabulary as required.

Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PG CAP), Durham University, Jan 2016 – Oct 2020. Advanced postgraduate British teaching qualification for university lecturers, taught and assessed at level of master's degree, designed to equip holders with the skills to provide high-quality teaching and learning. Final module passed Oct 2020 (design of undergraduate/MA module 'Feminist Utopian Literature Through the Ages'); PG CAP certificate awarded on Jan 7, 2021.

Training Course, 'An Introduction to Teaching and Learning Online', Durham University, early June 2020. Two-week course to support academics and other teaching staff in developing modules that can be taught online, appreciating the pastoral and academic support needs of an online learner, and using institutional tools for e-assessment and e-feedback.

Digital Research Methods Webinar, Newcastle University, June 4, 2020. One-day webinar exploring the challenges, motivations and solutions to moving research and data collection online.

Fellow of The Higher Education Academy (FHEA) awarded Feb 2018 after successful completion of Modules 1 and 2 of DULTA (Durham University Learning and Teaching Award), later renamed Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PG CAP), Jan – Sep 2016 and 2017 (see above).

Four years of experience as Teaching Assistant on first-year course 'Introduction to the Novel', Durham University, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20. Tasks included tutorial teaching, essay and exam marking, holding essay feedback sessions for each student, and pastoral student support.

Lecturer, Postgraduate Lecture Day, Durham University, May 2019, 'Everywoman in a Man's World: Identity and the Struggle for Selfhood in *Jane Eyre*'

Three years of experience as lecturer in Science Fiction for Supported Progression Summer School, Durham University, Aug 2016, 2017 and 2018. Designed and delivered interactive lectures on Science Fiction literature and critical analysis, followed by evaluation through essays.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER INTERNAL ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT & RESPONSIBILITIES

Project Officer for exhibition *Time Machines: The Past, the Future, and How Stories Take Us There*, displayed at Palace Green Library, Durham in summer 2017, Jan 2016 – Apr 2017. Researched, collaborated on and wrote majority of text for exhibition on time travel and narrative, an outreach project by Durham University English department and Palace Green Library. Worked in team with academic lead Professor Simon James and curatorial lead Emma Hamlett. Project used as REF impact case study for English department.

Convenor, 'Inventions of the Text' Seminar Series, Durham University, Oct 2016 – Jun 2017. Organised bi-weekly talks by local and international academics on subjects related to the study of English literature. Tasks included leading team of three assistants, communicating with speakers, chairing all events and organising publicity.

Co-convenor, Late Summer Lecture Series, Durham University, Feb – Oct 2015. As part of a team of three, organised public lecture series through the Department of English Studies, with a focus on interdisciplinary papers. Duties included inviting speakers, organising funding, publicising lectures, and chairing events.

Research Assistant on New Town Literature Project, Durham University, Jul 2015. Compiled bibliography of literature on post-war New Towns in Britain for book project led by Dr John Nash. Responsible for making use of

various physical and online databases to produce an extensive listing of all relevant primary sources as well as literary criticism of New Town literature, contemporary reporting on New Towns, and recent historical and sociological discussion of both New Towns and New Town literature.

Editor, Durham University Postgraduate English Journal, Nov 2014 – May 2015. Solicited, selected and edited academic articles and reviews as well as organising the referee process for the prestigious Open Access Durham University Postgraduate English Journal, one of the longest-running online postgraduate English journals, and overseeing its publication both online and in print.

PhD Student Representative, Durham University Student Staff Consultative Committee and Board of Studies, Department of English Studies, Oct 2014 – Oct 2015. Acted as representative of PhD students in the Department of English Studies in regular meetings concerning teaching and student issues.

SELECTED OUTREACH PROJECTS

Featured Interview for Podcast Episode on *The Dispossessed*, Utopian Horizons Podcast on Soundcloud, Oct 2018. Invited interview by Paul Walker-Emig on *The Dispossessed* by Ursula K. Le Guin, available on Soundcloud.

Co-host of ‘Exploring Utopian York’ Podcast (guided tour and discussion) for York Festival of Ideas 2018 with Dr Adam Stock of York St John University, Apr – Jun 2018. Researched, wrote and recorded 1.5-hour academic podcast exploring utopian visions, science fiction and the imagination in relation to the history and urban planning of the city of York. Interdisciplinary outreach project representing Durham and York St John Universities, archived on York Festival of Ideas website.

Interview for ‘Feminist Utopias and Afrofuturism’ Podcast, Palace Green Library on Soundcloud, Summer 2017. Discussed alternative time travel stories featured in ‘Time Machines’ exhibition at Palace Green Library, Durham (of which I served as Project Officer) alongside Dr Jenny Terry, Senior Lecturer in Department of English Studies, Durham University.

‘Eugenics in Utopian Literature’ Podcast, READ: Research in English at Durham website, Aug 2017. Recording of ‘Eugenics in Utopian Literature’ paper presented at *Late Summer Lecture Series*, Durham University.

INVITED TALKS, PANELS AND KEYNOTES

Invited Paper: ‘Utopian Chronotopes and the Feminist Utopia as Critical Thought Experiment’ at ‘Utopian Thinking in International Law, Human Rights and Governance: Cross-Disciplinary Seminar including International Law, Human Rights, Literature, Architecture and Sociology’, Newcastle Law School, Newcastle University, Nov 2019.

Keynote Address: ‘And Then There Were None: Feminism, Identity and the Possibility of a Human Utopia’ for ‘Identitees: A Spectrum of Representation’, MA graduate conference, Teesside University, Middlesbrough, Mar 2018.

Keynote Address and Panellist: ‘Complex Relations: Rethinking Utopia in Marge Piercy’s *Woman on the Edge of Time* and Joanna Russ’s *The Female Man*’ for DurhamCon, annual convention of the Durham Science Fiction and Fantasy Society, at Durham University, Feb 2018; also held panel discussion with fellow keynote speaker Justina Robson.

Invited Talk: ‘The Coming Races: Eugenics in Utopian Literature’, Late Summer Lecture Series, Durham University, Durham, Sep 2017.

Invited Talk: ‘Shaping the Future: How Feminist Utopian Novels Used New Concepts of Time Travel to Create Better Worlds for Everyone’, seminar series accompanying Time Machines exhibition, Palace Green Library, Durham, Jul 2017.

Invited Talk: ‘On the Edge of Time: The Complex Reconfiguration of Reality in Marge Piercy’s *Woman on the Edge of Time* and Joanna Russ’s *The Female Man*’, Inventions of the Text seminar series, Durham University, May 2017.

Invited Panellist: ‘Round Table: The Status of the Individual and the Collective in Utopianism’, with Franziska Bork Petersen and Lyman Tower Sargent, Utopian Studies Society conference, Lisbon, Jul 2016.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

“‘Wheels turning in opposite directions’”: Objective Temporality, Utopia and the Individual in Sheri S. Tepper’s *The Gate to Women’s Country* and Ursula K. Le Guin’s *The Dispossessed*, **‘SpecFic 2021: Time and History’ Conference**, Karlstad University, Karlstad, Sweden, Dec 2021. [abstract accepted]

“‘Up close a world’s all dirt and rocks’”: Gardening and the Anthropocene in Le Guin’s Utopian Fiction’, **‘The Future of/as Inequality’: Science Fiction Research Association 2021 Annual Conference**, Seneca College, Toronto, Canada (virtual), June 2021.

‘A Time for Utopia: Individual and Collective Utopian Temporality in Ursula K. Le Guin’s *The Dispossessed*’, **‘When is Theory? Shifts of Time Frame in Contemporary Literary Studies’ Conference**, Babeş-Bolyai University, Rumania (virtual), April 2021.

“A scene like this, whereon to close the drama”: Contagion, Extinction, and the Meaning of Life in Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*’, **‘Living in the End Times: Utopian and Dystopian Representations of Pandemics in Fiction, Film and Culture’ Conference**, Cappadocia University, Ürgüp, Turkey (virtual), Jan 2021.

‘A Utopia Without Us: Ecofeminism, the Anthropocene and the Paradox of the Non-Human Utopia’, **‘Worlding SF’ Conference**, University of Graz, Graz, Austria, Dec 2018.

“Thin in meaningful we’s”: Individual and Collective Identity in Classics of Utopian Literature’, **‘Organic Systems’ Conference**, Birkbeck University, London, Sep 2017.

‘The Coming Races: Self-Defeating Eugenics in Late-19th-Century Utopian Literature’, **‘Current Research in Speculative Fiction’ Conference**, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, Jun 2017.

‘Dystopian Entanglements: Violence in Feminist Utopian Literature of the Late 20th Century’, **‘Dystopia Now’ Conference**, Birkbeck University, London, May 2017.

“Solar Loyalties”: Posthumanist Ethics and Utopia in Naomi Mitchison’s *Memoirs of a Spacewoman*’, **‘500 Years of Utopia’: Utopian Studies Society Conference**, Lisbon, Portugal, Jul 2016.

“Not for your benefit, but for theirs”: The Unsustainable Ethics of Plato’s *Republic* and More’s *Utopia*’, **‘The Uses of Utopia’ Conference**, Cambridge University, Cambridge, Jun 2016.

‘A Feeling for the Organism: Feminist Science and Complexity Theory in Recent Feminist Utopias’, **‘Bridging the Divide: Literature and Science’ Conference**, University of Kent, Canterbury, Jun 2016.

“I swim a different stream”: The Dynamic Global Complexity of Marge Piercy’s *Woman on the Edge of Time* and Joan Slonczewski’s *A Door into Ocean*’, **Society for Utopian Studies Conference**, Pittsburgh, Nov 2015.

‘Feminist Utopias, Complexity Theory and the Utopian City’, **‘Utopia and the Ends of the City’ Utopian Studies Society Conference**, Newcastle University, Newcastle, Jul 2015.

‘Relocating Utopia: Complexity Theory and the Emergence of Utopia in Marge Piercy’s *Woman on the Edge of Time* and Joanna Russ’s *The Female Man*’, **‘Locating Fantastika: An Interdisciplinary Conference’**, Lancaster University, Lancaster, Jul 2015.

‘On the Edge of Time: Feminist Utopias, Complexity Theory and Parallel Future Histories’, **‘Sideways in Time: Alternate History and Counterfactual Narratives’ Conference**, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, Mar 2015.

SELECTED AWARDS

Four-time winner of Hatfield Award (Gold), Hatfield College, Durham University, recognising strong community engagement and academic development, 2016/17-2019/20.

Hatfield Research Award (£175) – awarded funding to attend conference ‘Worlding SF: Building, Inhabiting and Understanding SF Universes’ at the University of Graz in Graz, Austria, Dec 2018.

Durham University Research Award (£145) – awarded funding to attend ‘Dystopia Now’ Conference at Birkbeck University in London, May 2017.

Durham University Faculty of Arts and Humanities Postgraduate Research Support Fund Grant (£900) – awarded grant in competitive scheme to attend Society for Utopian Studies Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, Nov 2015.

EDITORIAL ROLES, EXTERNAL ACADEMIC ORGANISATION & PEER REVIEWING

Section Editor: English & Comparative Literature, German Editorial Team, Open Library of Humanities (eds.-in-chief Caroline Edwards and Martin Eve), Oct 2016 – present.

Peer reviewer for *Architecture and Culture* (ed. Suzanne Ewing), Sep 2020.

Peer reviewer for *Paradoxa* (eds. Paweł Frelik and Alison Sperling), Feb 2020.

Peer reviewer for *Fantastika Journal* (ed. Charul Palmer-Patel), Dec 2017.

Postgraduate Assistant Organizer, *Utopia and the Ends of the City*, Utopian Studies Society conference, Newcastle University, Newcastle, Jul 2015. Performed various administrative tasks related to conference organisation, including organising data, arranging accommodation, setting up panels, communicating with speakers, and assisting attendees during the conference.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG)
- British Science Fiction Association (BSFA)
- Contemporary Women's Writing Association (CWWA)
- Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA)
- The Society for Utopian Studies, United States (SUS)
- Utopian Studies Society, Europe (USS)
- British Association for Contemporary Literary Studies (BACLS)

REFEREES

- **Professor Patricia Waugh**, Department of English Studies, Durham University, Hallgarth House, 77 Hallgarth Street, Durham, DH1 3AY, United Kingdom, p.n.waugh@durham.ac.uk
- **Professor Simon James**, Department of English Studies, Durham University, Hallgarth House, 77 Hallgarth Street, Durham, DH1 3AY, United Kingdom, s.j.james@durham.ac.uk
- **Dr Siân Adiseshiah**, English Department, Loughborough University, Martin Hall, Towers Way, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, United Kingdom, s.adiseshiah@lboro.ac.uk
- **Dr Mark Bould**, Faculty of Arts, Creative Industries, and Education (ACE), University of the West of England, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY, United Kingdom, Mark.Bould@uwe.ac.uk