

Alan MacDonald

(Personal details included here)

EDUCATION

2008-present **PhD English Literature (Part-time)**

Newcastle University: Supervised by Dr. Richard Maynard

Thesis Title: 'Conceptions of Authorship in Victorian Fiction' – about to submit.

My research is concerned with how the economic and social impact of the burgeoning print culture shaped public perceptions of the Victorian author and their fiction. My study participates in an increased scholarly interest on writers *within* the literary marketplace, rather than as isolated artists tracing transformations in concepts of authorship through the nineteenth century.

2006-2008 **MA English Literature (Part-time)**

Newcastle University: Distinction

Dissertation: 'A general drama of pain': Nineteenth-Century Constructions of the Self in the Novels of Thomas Hardy'.

2000-2001 **Postgraduate Certificate of Education – Secondary English**

Institute of Education, University of London – received outstanding rating for teaching practice.

1997-2000 **BA English Literature**

Newcastle University: 2:1

Dissertation: 'Conflicting Conceptions of Time in *Far From the Madding Crowd* and *The Return of the Native*.'

AWARDS

2012 **Radcliffe Trust Award**

Award of £800 given by the Radcliffe Trust for part-time study in the Arts in the North East

2012 **Edgar Preece-Williams Award**

Award of £100 from the Edgar Preece-Williams Bequest for part-time PhD students.

2008 **Newcastle University 'Scholarship Award'**

Award of £1,250 given on starting PhD.

PUBLICATIONS

Spring 2013 **A Defence of the Pen: the figure of the author drawn by *Household Words***

This paper has been accepted for publication in the conference proceedings of Charles Dickens and the Mid-Victorian Press (1850-1870) at Reading University in Spring 2013.

CONFERENCES

- Jan 2013 **‘W. M. Thackeray the photographer: ‘our latest developed art and our greatest living novelist’**
Paper presented at 19th Century conference ‘Victorian Knowing and Looking’ at Cumbria University.
- Oct 2012 **‘Fictional Authors: the writer as character in nineteenth-century fiction’**
Paper presented as part of the Teeside Postgraduate Long Nineteenth-Century Network Seminar Series.
- May 2012 **‘The Cosmic Self: Nineteenth-Century Constructions of Identity in the Novels of Thomas Hardy’**
Paper presented at the Postgraduate History & Classics Forum Summer Symposium 2012: ‘Sex, Identity and Morality’ in May at Bangor University.
- Mar 2012 **‘A Defence of the Pen, the figure of the author drawn by *Household Words***
Paper presented at the international bicentenary conference Charles Dickens and the Mid-Victorian Press (1850-1870) in Reading University. Paper **published** in the conference proceeding - Spring 2013.
- Mar 2012 **‘The Victorian Author: Artist or Businessman?’**
Conference poster presented at the University Graduate College Voice of Humanities conference in.
- Oct 2011 **‘W. M. Thackeray as Novelist and Photographer’**
Paper presented at the ‘Thackeray In Time 1811-2011’ conference held at Sheffield University.

PROJECTS

- Apr 2013 **‘Transgression, Trespassing and Taboos in the Long-Nineteenth-Century’**
University Graduate College Postgraduate, Interdisciplinary Initiatives funding for an interdisciplinary postgraduate conference conceived and co-organised with two other research students.
- Dec 2012 ***Tess of the D’Urbervilles***
Lecture on the language and themes of *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* for 40 6th form students at Cooper School, Cirencester.
- Nov 2012 **‘Re-Imagining the Victorians’ – A Study Day for 6th Form students**
This project, conceived and co-organised with two PGRs, won a Community Engagement Team Small Grant award. The day was attended by 20 6th form students from six schools.
- Feb 2012 **‘The Victorian Author Artist or Businessman’**
An exhibition, created as part of the Curating An Exhibition course, displayed for a month. The exhibition showcases the collection’s resources on Victorian authorship.
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DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY

2012 **Journal of Illustration Studies**

Assistant Editor for the Journal Of Illustration Studies, calling for contributions, planning editions, dealing with layout and assisting the Editor.

2012-14 **'Starting and enjoying your PhD: a student's perspective'**

Presentation at the University Graduate College's Induction. Given six times throughout the academic year each time the course is run.

2011-12 **Part-time PGR Representative**

Sat on the English Literature and Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory Sub-Committee as the Part-time PGR representative..

2010-13 **Centre for Editorial and Intertextual Research. (CEIR) Seminar series**

Regularly attended research seminars.

2010-13 **Open days/Enrolment**

I have been involved in open days where my work allowed talking to perspective students and giving tours. I have also worked at enrolment organising seminar sign-up and essay collection.

TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

June 2013 Received the Learning To Teach HEA accredited teaching qualification with Distinction.

Teaching at Newcastle University

2013 **Year 3 Sensation Fiction Seminars**

Teaching cover for Dr Richard Maynard on Sensation Fiction module and 3rd Year marking.

2012-13 **Year 1 English Literature II Seminar**

Two seminar groups.

2011-12 **Year 1 English Literature Seminars**

One seminar group.

2011-12 **Year 1 Assessed Marking**

Assessed marking for Year 1 assessed essays in January and June sessions and attended Yr 1 Exam Board.

All the above has been fitted in around my responsibilities at school. I have negotiated a flexible work pattern at school to enable me to be more involved in teaching in Higher Education and to meet the commitments of my PhD. In student feedback forms, I received the highest rating for every aspect of my teaching.

TRAINING

July 2011 **Postgraduate training session and conference**

A training session on online editing and a conference on Digital Humanities run by the Dickens Journalism On Line project at the University of London.

Jan 2011 **British Library Training Day**

A training day of lectures and practical sessions for postgraduates run at the British Library.

2010-2012 **University Graduate College Courses**

Attended a variety of skills training including Starting Out (Induction), Critical theory and my Thesis, Deconstruction Theory (Theoretical Approaches for Humanities Research), Curating an Exhibition (Humanities), Conference Posters, Organising a Conference, Introduction to Small Group Teaching in the Humanities, Introduction to Assessment and Feedback, Small Group Teaching in the Humanities , Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Literature and Science.

EMPLOYMENT

October 2008 – present:

Head of Sixth Form, Gosforth Manor High School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne - 4 days/week

Responsible for leading and managing a Sixth Form of 170 students in a comprehensive school with a very mixed intake. I have responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Sixth Form, the academic progress and pastoral welfare of the Sixth Form students and the operation of the Sixth Form centre. As a senior member of staff, I contribute to the overall leadership and management of the School. My responsibilities include:

- Ensuring a high quality of pastoral care and student support
- Leading and managing the UCAS process
- Overseeing the running of the Sixth Form Centre
- Developing and delivering a structured tutorial programme
- Overseeing all aspects of reference writing and the administration of the UCAS process
- Ensuring that the School Leadership Team and staff are advised regarding national developments with reference to University policies, careers and specific areas of Sixth Form curriculum.

2005-2008 :

Deputy Head of Department, Gosforth Manor High School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

My main purpose was to lead and manage Key Stage 4 teaching in English and to take on the Head of Department's duties in their absence. My main responsibilities included:

- Overseeing the teaching of Key Stage 4 English
- Checking and maintaining stock for controlled assessments and exams
- Reviewing syllabuses and changes at KS4 and liaising with HoD in determining how changes affect the department.

2001-2005:

English Teacher, Westborne High School, Gateshead

References available on request