

Short Story

Cardiff Metropolitan University

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# BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing Yearbook

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University

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### Head of the Department for Humanities

Congratulations class of 2013 - you've made it! There were times (last minute binding of dissertations, electronic submissions gone walkabout, lost memory sticks etc.) when you probably felt like you weren't going to, but that makes it all the sweeter. Here you are on the cusp of this new and exciting world of being a graduate.

I haven't had the opportunity to teach you as much as I'd like (do stay on for the Master's so I can put that right!) but I feel like I've got to know you well through your excellent involvement in our extra-curricular activities. What a range of subjects we've had in the twilight hours of 6-8pm in the Students Union - from steam punk, stick ups using chewy sweets, vampire lore, to painfully brutal poetry from the heart (and that's just a tiny fraction). I watched you grow and develop as practitioners and writers and that's been a very special journey indeed.

Your confidence and performance have developed immeasurably and I know you're going to grab this new world and shake it into a better shape for you and for others. Whatever you do, keep your love of literature and writing in your life - it's part of you and who you are. Be proud of what you've achieved but don't stop there - you're going to make things happen!

A huge thank you has to go to Eleanor Cutler as without her this Yearbook would never have happened. Her vision, hard work and determination to achieve this project for her fellow students has been a joy to behold. We were very lucky to have her as a student and I know I speak for my whole team when I say we'll miss her when she graduates.



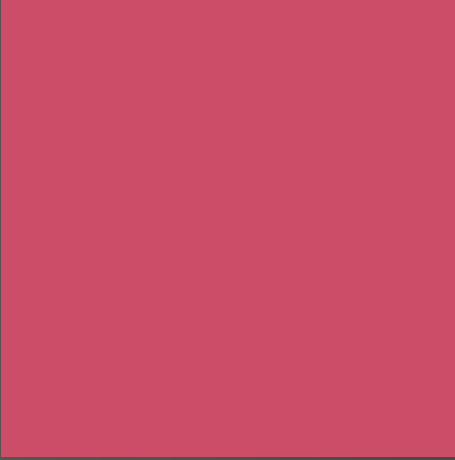


### Programme Director, MA Humanities

My mind goes back to the interviews. January through to March. 2010. All those sharp suits and dresses. Portfolios in coloured plastic. Gordon Brown, Prime Minister. Lady Gaga, 'Telephone'. 'So why have you chosen English & Creative Writing?' A curve ball of devilish design. I interviewed Charis on Skype. A Tanzanian elephant drudged past. That was the first warning – this was going to be no normal year. And luckily for me, and for all those who taught you, that's how it turned out.

I was the first over the top, creative writing year one, Q0.29 and Q0.28, Fridays, three groups. Tables brought together in a wagon circle. First task – go into the bar and bring back a sport's student. Dead or alive in your notebooks.

I waited until the coldest day in your second year before unleashing the trip across the Barrage. Captain Scott and the Terra Nova had nothing on us. Staring out across the time rift to the Millennium Centre, this time next year, that's where you're going to be, I said. And here you are. Pink cowboy hats notwithstanding. It goes without saying I'm going to miss you. You've helped make English and Creative Writing something special. Wherever you go and whatever you go on to do, I wish you every success and happiness.



## Programme Leader, BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing

This academic year has been my third at Cardiff Metropolitan University and you are the first cohort I have seen through the entirety of the BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing degree. Back in September 2010 I am sure you were all feeling the same as me. Was I right to come here? Do I need to wear an Abercrombie and Fitch hoodie in order to fit on campus? Well, I never did need the hoodie and yes, I was so right to come here. Higher Education is about independent learning, critical thinking and collegiality. I have witnessed you demonstrate this in a plethora of ways over the past three years. For me, that is the exciting part of my job. I've been amazed at how Adam Rivers managed to incorporate the lyrics of a Madonna song into a poignant, funny and shocking memoir. I was impressed with Naomi Toseland's response to a creative piece at a workshop – a burp followed by the too perfect retort, "Well, you wouldn't want me to keep it in, would you?" Who could forget Kathryn O'Dobhain's bold announcement? This year I really want to write about incest, delivered with a smile as large as Roath Park Lake. In fact, what is it about my writing workshops? Cerys Jones used them to introduce us all to the concept of

paedo-bashing in Bargoed and Durre Mughal made me hallucinate pink elephants for weeks.

I have witnessed you, a mixed and varied group, grow and learn and question and experiment.

I feel lucky to have been a part of the process that has ended in you finding your voices.

I expect to see many of your names on the covers of books in the future and I am excited that your degrees have provided you with the skills and knowledge you will need upon entering the 'real world'. I look forward to seeing many of you next year on one of our Master's degrees. For those of you going off to do other exciting things, I have one request. Please stay in touch. Join our Facebook page (English, Creativity and Contemporary Media, Cardiff Met) where you can keep in contact and boast your successes on our wall, or follow us on Twitter (@English\_CMU). I would like to leave you with some words of encouragement as you embark upon all things new, from Carol Ann Duffy's 'Away and See':

Nothing's the same as anything else. Away and see for yourself. Walk. Take a boat till land reappears, altered forever, ringing its bells, alive. Go on. G'on. G'on.

Away and see.

And when you've done that, remember to come



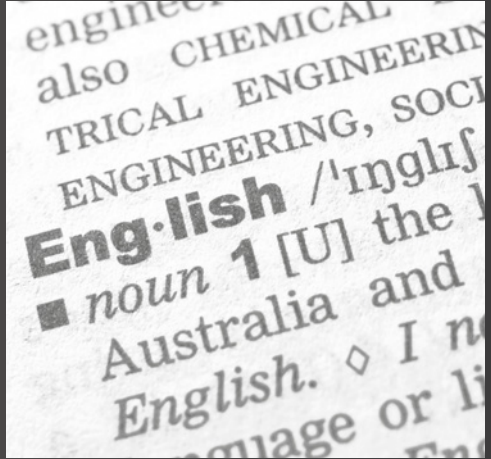
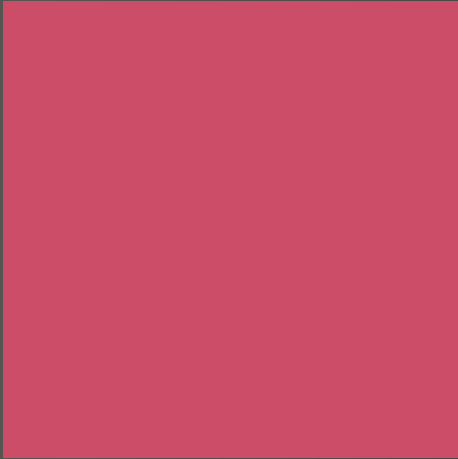
### Lecturer in English

The beginning of my connection with the CW group started in January 2011 when I took over the legendary Charlie Harris's seminar slots for the "Introduction to Poetry" YR 1 module. It was then that I met and came to know people like Freddie, Sally, Josh, Jordan, Eleanor etc. It is always hard to start teaching a new group half way through the year, but when Adam Rivers boldly asked to try my leather boots I felt somehow, despite some initial astonishment, that I was in the right place, and so it was to be. I still remember your presentations on tone, imagery, and sound, and your essays on "compare and contrast" two poems. How far we have gone together!

It was in YR 2 however that I came to know all the Creative Writers well in the HMX 5001 Nineteenth-Century module, both lectures and seminars. It all started with a question from one of Prof. Bryant's arrogant students in Educating Rita: "is it wise to pursue the metaphysical nature of Blake's poetry?" "Most definitely" we agreed. Some of you would still remember how long it

took us to understand the difference between Coleridge's "Primary and Secondary imagination" and his use of "fancy" (did you really get it!?!), Wordsworth's conception of poetry as memory, Shelley's Idealism, Keats's historicism and, how to forget the "mad, bad and dangerous to know" Byron, aka "the sexual predator" (BBC History Channel)? I was so overwhelmed when I read portfolios on Romanticism and its Victorian legacies, I laughed at essays on the "Bionic Hero", I cried at failed presentations on Christina Rossetti, and I "wept! wept! wept! wept" in front of re-sit papers; but despite everything we made it to YR 3.

From September till November 2012 I was delighted to lead the first half of the Gothic module and from January onwards we have shared so many ideas on Shakespeare's work. The Shakespeare conference presentations and exam paper have highlighted the culmination of three years of work and it is in this final year that I greatly realised how much I owe to you and therefore to you all, from whom I have learnt much, many, many, thanks.



In particular, I would like to mention the work of Emily Slee, Hannah Burman, Katie Roby, and Abi Newton, my final year dissertation students. I have been amazed at how my research has benefited immeasurably from your own; I would also like to thank Adam Rivers, whose newly published Gothic anthology (co-edited with Sally Thomas, Abi Savage and Hannah Casley), *Mama I Love You!* (Routledge 2012), kept me company during "A heavy weight of hours"; to have had so many extraordinary projects on subjects I love so much is extraordinary good fortune. I'm also grateful to John McLoughlin for helping me (indirectly of course!) to solve the biggest challenge of my last three years at University: who is Kate (Clavey) and who is Katie (Roby)? To you all, graduates of the BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing degree, please accept my best wishes for the future, keep in touch, come and see us when you can, and please remember us as we all are: 'So are [We] all, all honorable [lecturers]!'.



After graduating from Cardiff Metropolitan University, Tom Atkins aspires to combine his love of placing words in a particular order with his love of music by balancing life as a mediocre poet and life as an unknown music journalist reviewing bands no one has ever heard of.



Hopefully, one day I will be a published writer. Look out for me in Waterstones people! I'm already extremely proud of everything I have achieved during this course; however it would top everything I could ever dream of if I could physically hold my work as a book. I love writing, particularly fiction and this BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing degree has really allowed me to improve my skills through a variety of genres. My love for reading as well as writing has fuelled my desire for a job within the publishing industry. If I'm not going to be the next bestseller then I want to find them!





I've been brought up here and there before I went back to my home in Newcastle, for college, and then somehow found myself moving again to come to Cardiff. It's been far from what I know but it's been an amazing three years. I don't really have any concrete plans for the future but making it back from South America alive is step one and then it's a choice between continuing with Creative Writing in Edinburgh or going to Australia/New Zealand to dive. When I eventually do settle down and get a real job I'm not really sure what it will be in, but I've done some time with travel magazines in Dubai so journalism could be worth pursuing. I intend to continue writing when I find time hopefully it'll become more than a hobby.



Hannah Burman is a young writer from the South Wales Valleys with a passion for short stories and poetry. She is currently submitting her work to magazines and competitions in the hope of promoting her work and eventually getting published. After graduating from Cardiff Metropolitan University she hopes to pursue a career in Primary School teaching.



Christian is an aspiring fantasy and science fiction author and part-time petty thief from the Isle of Man. When not annoying his housemates or attending university, he likes nothing more than to sit back with a Terry Pratchett book, a pint of Guinness and a funny t-shirt, ignoring various things including, but not limited to, hipsters, preachers, pub politicians and deadlines. By utilising the skills he has gained from his time at Cardiff Met, and the vast number of pens he has acquired, he hopes to write and publish a series of fantasy books.

Also, he probably has something of yours. We did have a contact number for those interested in inquiring about missing possessions but I'm guessing one of the layout guys misplaced it. I'm pretty sure it started with 0 and had a couple of 6s in there but really, it's probably just better to buy a new one, whatever it was.

### Kindness

*Come on kiddo up you get,  
Let's have a look at your knee.  
That doesn't seem so bad,  
But let's make sure hey?  
You see this plaster?  
It's a magic plaster,  
I bought them from a wizard.  
It'll make you feel better.  
Hasn't worked hey?  
Maybe this will.  
What's that you say?  
It's pixie dust.  
Still not okay?  
Hum, what else do I have?  
An angel feather?  
I plucked it myself.  
No?  
A unicorn horn?  
It's brand new,  
It wanted to be a horse.  
Still nothing?  
Ah, I see,  
I know what'll cure you.  
Go on then,  
Take one,  
Ah yes thank you,  
I've always wanted a wrapper.*



After finishing university I intend to compete a TEFL course, which will give me the opportunity to teach English whilst exploring a bit of the world. I then wish to go into either something social media related or look into going into PR. My three years at Cardiff Metropolitan University has given me more confidence in my creative writing than I had before and I will definitely continue practising my writing in the future, who knows where it could take me!



I moved from North Wales to Cardiff to complete a degree in BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing. I have always enjoyed reading literature, and first became interested in writing after reading the novels of Bret Easton Ellis. Studying this degree has not only sustained, but also increased my appreciation of literature. I have gained confidence in my own writing, and have also been exposed to wonderful writers. I aim to further develop my understanding of literature by completing an MA in this field.





*"I have enjoyed learning about the craft of creative writing and experimenting with new and unfamiliar techniques."*

My name is Kate Clavey and I am from Port Talbot. From a young age I enjoyed reading and writing stories of all sorts. Whilst at secondary school I was a part of the media club, writers' circle and a mentor for a scheme that helped some of the younger children to read. During my time at Dyffryn Comprehensive School, my work was published on two separate occasions; Great Minds United in Poetry Vol III and T.A.L.E.S From Wales Vol 1.

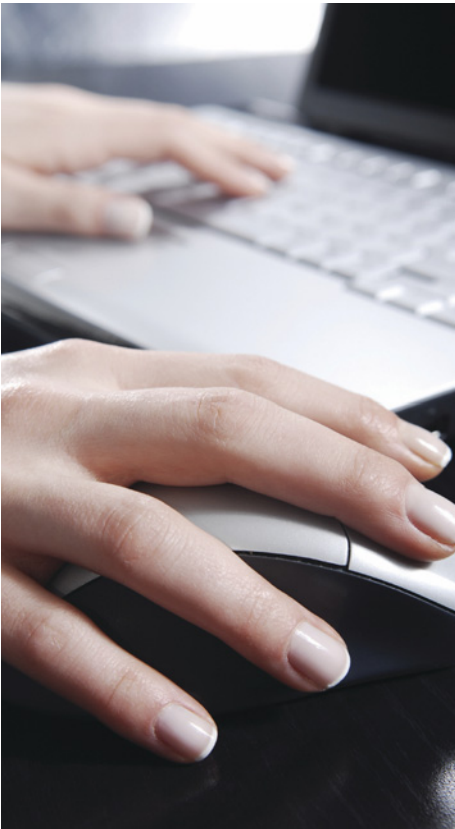
For the past three years I have been an undergraduate student at Cardiff Metropolitan University studying BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing. Whilst here, my work was published in an anthology called *The C Word* edited by my lecturer Dr Kate North. I have enjoyed learning about the craft of creative writing and experimenting with new and unfamiliar techniques and also to enhance my knowledge of English through literature.

Through this degree I have gained many skills including being able to deliver a presentation, manage my time effectively to meet deadlines and to be able to work as part of a group. This included being a leader and delegating tasks, and being able to follow a leader and take minutes of our meetings in order to act upon what was said.

What I will take with me from my time at Cardiff Metropolitan University will be the invaluable friendships I have become a part of. The friends that I have met here will be friends of mine for life and I could never thank them enough for all the laughs and support they have given me, even when deadlines were looming.

I look forward to the future where I hope to continue my studies here in Cardiff and then to pursue a career teaching creative writing. I want to help inspire the next generation to explore the art of creative writing in the way my teachers did for me.

*"The experience and knowledge that I have gained from this course has helped my writing to grow in leaps and bounds in terms of its quality and maturity."*



I am an aspiring writer from London who dreams of one day being a best-selling author in the science fiction and fantasy genre. I firmly intend to continue writing the steampunk novel I began for my dissertation, 'A Solemn Act', as the process of researching and writing this piece of fiction has been truly enjoyable, which I attribute to the much appreciated guidance of my supervisors Carole Burns and Spencer Jordan.

In the meantime however I aim to obtain a role as a literary agent or an editor in the publishing industry in the hopes of providing readers with new and fantastic literature. I especially hope to be able to provide my classmates with a helping hand in getting their own work published, as over the course of these three years I have been able to read some utterly fantastic pieces of fiction and poetry from them, and firmly believe they all deserve to be published.

The experience and knowledge that I have gained from this course has helped my writing to grow in leaps and bounds in terms of its quality and maturity. In addition, the wide range of subjects that we have been taught has allowed me to explore avenues of writing that I would not have considered before; for that I am extremely grateful to the lecturers of Cardiff Metropolitan University. I can't thank you all enough.



Ellen Duncan is a young writer from outside Swansea. She has had a short story published in the 2011 anthology *The C Word* and is currently submitting work to magazines. Always interested in writing novels, over the course of the degree she has also developed an enthusiasm for both short stories and poetry and occasionally attends open mic nights to read her work. Next year she intends to complete an MA at Cardiff Met and hopes to be a successful writer in the future.



Sam Harman is a native of Saundersfoot, currently residing in Cardiff and (hopefully) about to begin a Master's degree in English & Creative Writing. He mainly writes short fiction under the influence of a mixture of transgressive fiction, horror and science fiction. He has recently had a short story published within the collection *The C Word: An Anthology of Writing* from Cardiff, and dearly hopes it is not his last.





Rhian Henry is a writer from Newport, South Wales. Prior to attending Cardiff Metropolitan University she was chosen to participate in Academi's writers and residential retreat. Over the course of the BA (Hons) English & Creative Writing degree her talents turned to screenwriting, particularly in the sitcom genre. Her future intentions are to pursue a career as a primary school teacher and hopefully see her efforts in screenwriting one day transcend to television.

### *Whisky & bloodlust*

*The bell tolls for thee,  
My mourning dress is scarlet.  
Ebony tears flowing free.  
In Remembrance: Your 'little harlot'.*

*That's the closest I'll get in this life  
To the words you begged I say.  
Burning bright on my canvas pure white-  
Now they won't fade away.*

*In Memoriam: I'll cross your name, and  
ink out flaws,  
Disguise your blame, and ignore  
your whores.*



James Lam is a Writer and Actor from Cambridge and his writing, like his day to day existence, is based around awkward and socially inept comedy. In the future he hopes to either be in front of a camera or steadily losing his mind behind it when people butcher what he has written for them, either one is fine for him. James hails from Hong Kong and Dubai respectfully and is eager to travel to live in pastures new as soon as he possibly can.



Born on the 31st of January, 1991 to Andrew and Karen Lippett, Charis became the second child of six children and has been scribbling down stories since she was able to hold a crayon. During her time at Cardiff Met, she developed an obsessive fascination with Jeanette Winterson, Orangina bottles, and anything remotely postmodern. Charis wants to move to Canada, hone her poetry skills, and perhaps do a PHD somewhere down the line, primarily because she doesn't much like the thought of going by Miss, Mrs, or Ms.

Charis was born in Cheltenham but left soon after her fourth birthday. Her parents moved her and her family from country to country over the following ten years, leaving her with a permanent case of itchy feet and restlessness. She wants to do it all over again, revisiting the countries that reared her and breaking in new ones, all with the aspiration of becoming a travel writer. She also hopes to one day overcome her fear of chickens.

Writing a steady online diary, Charis documented uni life, menial dramas, and the many lessons she learnt during her three years in Cardiff. [www.diaryofambler.com](http://www.diaryofambler.com) ends after graduation. Take a look, you might be in it. Keep in touch by email -[charis.lippett@gmail.com](mailto:charis.lippett@gmail.com)

She's on Facebook too, but is a bit fickle and prone to deleting it when it suits her. Her profile is simply Charis Amy (no surname, make of that what you will). She will ever be loyal to Twitter - @CharisAmy. She's also on LinkedIn, so endorse her, keep in touch, and offer her a job when she's succumbed to the perils of poetry induced poverty.

Charis decided to handwrite her entire dissertation because that's what she thought Woolf would have done. Turns out Virginia used a typewriter. Go figure.



## Ghosts

*Light sits on the tip of his nose  
On the end of my bed at midnight.  
The moon could not shine a light as  
bright as he can,  
the stars don't have stories like his.*

*I press it like a slot machine  
down Mumbles Pier, waiting,  
hoping for one more exhale of hot air to  
pass his lips and send me back to sleep.*

*There are no cheekbones  
beneath his full, fat face.  
Not as I saw him last, leathered and blue,  
rotting black in bed like an overripe  
orange.*

*Be quiet, don't breathe, or you'll wake  
the whole house with your laughter.  
If she knew you were home for tonight  
she'd surely strangle her breaths to  
meet you.*

*Notes like raindrops fall fast on the  
sheets at my feet.  
Old lullabies I know so well soak my  
bones, wrapping my body like hot milk.*

*Old man, first father, you look  
lovely tonight.  
Close the curtains, on your way out.*

*"Charis wants to move to Canada, hone  
her poetry skills, and perhaps do a PHD  
somewhere down the line."*



"Freddie's writing style is heavily influenced by postmodernist writers and his works often show a knowledgeable and intricate synergy with the style."

Freddie de Mendonça is an enthusiastic and vivacious writer from Plymouth. Freddie's writing style is heavily influenced by postmodernist writers and his works often show a knowledgeable and intricate synergy with the style. His major reading influences come from avant-guard writer Brett Easton Ellis, with books such as *American Psycho* and *Glamorama*. Upon completing his degree at Cardiff Metropolitan Freddie hopes to go into Primary school teaching, furthering young minds and crafting future writing competition for his fellow graduates to keep them on their toes.

Freddie's fun loving attitude and carefree ways are equally matched by a strong intelligence and dedication to work. His love for writing however is matched by his passion for competitive cycling, a pastime and sport that he takes seriously and performs excellently in. Often he can be found, outside of lecture time, in the SU with a group of friends eating, drinking and making the most out of his time at Cardiff Met. Above most things Freddie has found a majority of his inspiration for his writing at the bottom of a pint glass.





Originally from Cornwall, I am mostly a prose writer but do dabble in poetry and scriptwriting. Next year I hope to study for a Master's in Creative Writing before continuing into teaching. Using the skills I have acquired during my three years at Cardiff Metropolitan University, I wish to carry on with my dissertation and get it published.



Rhys is an aspiring writer within the science fiction and horror genre with an insatiable fondness for hats. Utilizing the skills developed at Cardiff Metropolitan University, he hopes to one day actually finish and publish a novel that is wildly popular and commercially satisfying.

### *The Cartographer*

*Zoom in on this map  
And you will see  
Brown hills dotted at intervals  
Along the blue rivers and purple glaciers  
Look closer and you can see the trenches  
That time has carved out  
Now zoom out and you'll find  
Those gullies were not made by water  
Or air or any other form of nature  
They are but scars on the fleshy  
landscape  
Shiny and pale in colour  
They will remain  
Even as time ages the skin beneath*



*"University experience has made me realise the importance of writing workshops. I have gained valuable feedback and insights into other people through these during my degree, and this is one of my motivations for wanting to do an MA after my degree."*

I have been brought up in Cardiff. Coming from a multicultural background, it sometimes feeds into my writing through the language I use or the subject matter. Writing has been and is my way out in a form of OCD where you attempt to control words when you cannot control life. It becomes a release.

Much of my writing is based on female experiences, varying from history to now. Most of my narrators are also women. It is not really something I set out to purposefully do but it is where I end up. I wouldn't define my work as feminist because I think it is more than just one genre, with more than one agenda.

University experience has made me realise the importance of writing workshops. I have gained valuable feedback and insights into other people through these during my degree, and this is one of my motivations for wanting to do an MA after my degree. I have also been pushed to attend workshops outside of University. This took me out of my comfort zone and developed my group skills furthermore. I hope to hold a workshop of my own one day, for young writers.

As well as fiction, I am also interested in poetry. I find Open Mics are a good way of determining where your work stands first hand. It allows you to build up confidence and experiment with performance

poetry and shorter pieces, as well as meet like-minded people. In October 2011, I performed poetry as part of the Literature Wales Daylit Festival in a UWIC vs. Cardiff University poetry slam. This degree has given me an invaluable step up in the academic and literary world. In my second year, I had an opportunity to do an online work placement with the National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE), which gave me experience of arts administration and online writing as a possible outlet. The placement allowed me to see how my hobby of blogging and writing articles could be viable in the industry. As a result I have been updating my blog frequently. The content varies from my own reflective thoughts and experiences to reviews on books.

My aim after the MA is to work in the publishing industry, however recently I have also started researching into teaching Creative Writing. I think it would be rewarding to teach one of your passions at a higher education level. Alongside this, I intend to continue working on novels and poetry in the hope of getting published and read one day.

Social Media:

<http://www.durremughal.wordpress.com/>

[https://www.twitter.com/Durre\\_shahwar](https://www.twitter.com/Durre_shahwar)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/shahwar>

*"For me, the best experience I have had during my time at university was spending time with my fellow students. Not just socially, but also creatively."*



My name is Kathryn and I'm from Cwmbran, South Wales. I would describe myself as creative person with a good sense of humour and tremendous shoe collection.

Going to university has helped me realise my ambition to not only write but also work within the media, specifically television development and production. I have a keen interest in producing television that examines what makes the everyday man or woman tick and university has been instrumental in developing my creative writing skills.

During university, I have had two work experience placements. The first was with an independent production company in Cardiff and this was the placement that first made me realise that I would like working in the production of television as well as writing it. Using this knowledge, I then secured a placement in the BBC Wales Sport department and spent five days shadowing producers, directors and journalists. Both of these placements have further fuelled my determination to work within the media and given me value experience to get there.

For me, the best experience I have had during my time at university was spending time with my fellow students. Not just socially, but also creatively. Without my friends and peers, I don't think my writing would have developed as it has. Working with others, discussing our writing, has improved not only my academic work but also my confidence.



*"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on Cardiff Metropolitan University's English and Creative Writing course."*

My previous writing experience includes poetry published in the Newport Young Writer's Academy 2010 anthology, but my main ambition is in writing teenage fiction, particularly in the genres of humour and fantasy. I hope one day to be able to combine both my writing and drawing skills within my work. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on Cardiff Metropolitan University's BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing course, and I look forward to carrying on the skills I have learnt there as I develop as a writer.

### *A Version of Love*

*"Strip," she said.*

*... Alright.*

*"Meet me. TJs. Midnight."*

*Typical. My midnights until She came along had been reserved for quick, mumbled 'Auld Lang Syne's and awkward kisses on the porch steps. But She, the night-of-my-life, had changed everything. If She could rule the world, then She'd start everything at midnight; these last five years are a crazy blur of them.*

*'The Strip' makes it sound really cool, right? Sounds really rock'n'roll; all leather, studs and whiskey skies. It's not. We only nicknamed it 'The Strip' because it's a long*

*road with a load of kebab houses crammed onto it, one after another after another, copying themselves into oblivion and out-of-business. My shadow's caught by the toxic neon glow of their windows, those that are open. The others between are long-shut hopes and dreams, decaying and no one caring. I retch a little at the stench of alcohol and piss smashed in the doorways. Someone's been sick, and there's a stain up against one shutter that I hope is ketchup, but you never can tell. I slip past a huddle of figures in a shadow. I don't see their faces, only their hoods and the lit ends of their cigarettes that obviously aren't tobacco. My attempts at going unnoticed, of letting my black clothes blend in, fail. "Fag!" they hiss, dropping ash.*

*At least they know what they're smoking, I'll give them that.*

*I hear a chatter of voices, the buzz of too-loud music, and then see the green smoke curling around the sign. I hadn't had the heart to tell her TJs changed hands ages ago. Now there's a new name on the front. THE GOBLIN MARKET.*

*"I've learnt a lot...I will look back on university as an experience made better by extraordinary people."*



The all too brief time I have spent at university has allowed me to develop and hone my creative writing skills, and will hopefully allow me to fulfil my aspiration of becoming a successful science fiction author. I've learnt a lot. Regardless of my future success and almost inevitable failings, I will look back on university as an experience made better by extraordinary people. I honestly attempted a more heart-rending and tear inducing statement, but after pumping most of my soul into my dissertation acknowledgments, I'm afraid I'm spent.



I have loved nurturing and developing my creative writing throughout my time at university. I will continue to write creatively in my spare time and write for my online lifestyle blog. I hope to harness all of the techniques I have learnt and hopefully, one day have a bestselling novel on the shelf.

### *September 7th 1533*

*I was fifteen years old when I saw my first dead body. The season of cherries, nectarines and apricots was leaving rotting flesh over the dry soil.*

*That day was particularly dry and the city of London was like an arrow drawn against its bowstring. The Boleyn womb was swollen like a river ready to slip the king-spawn into the bloodline. The future king was due to arrive any day now. Banners and bunting waited eagerly atop buildings for the moment of arrival when all of England would be in celebration.*

*I once asked Giles what would happen if the new arrival was a girl like Princess Mary, who would be the heir then? He speculated that there would be another queen on the throne within the year.*

*I could smell it before I saw it. The odour was unfamiliar to me and practically undistinguishable from the bitter, incinerating stench of the Thames. Regardless, it had my attention- the unfamiliarity was there, like a thin black thread in a quilt of grey. I had been told to wait at the harbour at noon until the stock arrived. It was a little before noon and deciding that they would more than likely not have arrived yet, I veered off path. It was down on the muck-saturated banks of the Thames that I had my first glimpse of him. Although it was the lone seagull I spotted first. Perched on a smooth grey stone cleaning its wings.*

*I walked on watching the bird take off into the greying sky and landing a few feet away on a jutting wall, he was observing me with a tilted head. I kept watching him until my foot came to contact with the stone he was previously perched on. It squelched and cracked beneath my boot. I looked down and to my horror, I discovered that it was a dead man's face. His milk-curdled eyes stared at me in accusing terror. I felt a gust of wind in my face but I needed little encouragement to turn on my heels and run.*





Adam Rivers is a published writer hailing from Walsall. His creative work is always very true to the human spirit and explores timeless topics and ideals. His first piece of published work was featured in Dr Kate North's anthology *The C Word* during his three years at university. Adam will be undertaking a Master's degree as well as continuing to be a wonderful loving partner.

### *Tracks by Adam Rivers*

*To Jump or not to jump, those are your choices. The trains pass you on the platform full of other lives. You play Nerina Pallot. She's your only friend. You're constantly high, forever coming down, paranoid. stuck, trapped in a world of bad choices and wrong tracks. Every breath belongs to some debt of regret. Taking amphetamines makes the heartbeat. Ketamine takes you to a different place, not a happier one but one you don't have to understand. Ecstasy used to make you love but not anymore. Everyone is watching you. They have*

*been for months. What about the man at the bus stop last week? You knew he was watching you. He was undercover, he was filming you from inside his McDonald's bag and you knew it. You saw his ear piece. You watched him, watching. You approached him and shouted. "Do you think I'm fucking stupid?" You smashed the contents of his bag on the floor. A half eaten Big Mac and fries fall to the ground. You run away.*

*Your life ends in eight days. Your boyfriend finishes the relationship and asks you to move out. You cry and beg "NO!" You say he can sleep with other people, you won't mind. You pick up a wine opener, slash your arms and beg. Beg him to love you. Beg him to let you stay. He says you need help. Dripping blood over his cream carpet you bag up your CDs, leaving a few for an excuse to return. And return you will at 2 am in the morning after he's been out. Hidden behind a tree. You watch him get out a taxi and go inside. You just need to see that he's not sharing his bed before you can get in to yours. You dread going to sleep because you hate the thought of waking up.*

*You're fired and being the top salesman won't save you. Nor will the manager's tears. You're a liar. You only started working here because of the money, you knew you wouldn't pass probation. You have a criminal record and a CRB check is completed to seal your contract. You weren't supposed to enjoy it; you hadn't planned on being the best or making lots of money. In your disciplinary you try to save yourself but one of the convictions would be unspent. The wine opener*

*scratches burn under your shirt as you beg. It was black and white. You go home. Get high. Go out. Undress. One night stand. Dress. Go home. Comedown.*

*You want him back. You want him back every day. He calls you hungover, sleeps with you, cuddles you, makes you feel whole, sleeps with you again then says it's wrong and sends you home. You get barred from the local pub. You see him kissing someone else. You punch the stranger in the face. When he falls you kick him till your ankle can't kick him anymore. He's cut and bruised but has no idea how you're feeling. He'll think you're crazy but he won't go to the Police, even though he could have. Covered in someone else's blood you'll sleep with the taxi driver because he wanted you. Friends will say you've gone too far and watch in silence as you drink and sniff, bomb and drink, leaving behind a trail of empty bottles and empty drug wrappers.*

*You've been accepted with a Housing Association. A few weeks before you move someone takes everything you own. You don't care, they can have it. You call your friend and ask if you can stay with her until you get the keys. You've been accepted in to college. You've always wanted to go to University. You could do it. You really could. You wipe your eyes. You watch the trains a little longer. You leave the tracks. You change your life.*

*"Adam's creative work is always very true to the human spirit and explores timeless topics and ideals."*



Sally Thomas is the mature one of the year but would prefer to be compared to a fine wine rather than a smelly block of cheese. In her spare time Sally manages a husband, three children, a part time job and a house. In the future Sally hopes to write a best selling novel and feature in the *Guardian* book charts for at least 26 weeks. When not writing, Sally can be found shouting at the rest of her family and pictures herself in ten years in her house in Provence drinking chilled Chardonnay on the patio waiting for a visit from a Hollywood director to discuss her novel being turned into a film script.



Alex Trew is a writer and editor from South Wales. Published online and in print, his first short story appeared in the 2011 anthology, *The C Word*. For a time he was the menswear writer at online culture magazine [beatreview.com](http://beatreview.com), and he currently runs and edits [litbomb.co.uk](http://litbomb.co.uk), a literary magazine he co-founded in early 2013. "For me the best part of the course was the freedom of working in an energetic environment with a strong group of young writers, all of us looking towards improving our writing for ourselves and others".

#### Stay in touch:

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# CARDIFF SCHOOL *of* EDUCATION



## Research Community

At Cardiff Metropolitan University you can study for a research degree full or part-time which may take place entirely on campus, or at your place of work, or a combination of both.



The Cardiff School of Education's research community is continually developing around its three main departments: Teacher Education and Training, Humanities and Professional Development.





# CARDIFF SCHOOL of EDUCATION

Most of its educational research is firmly grounded in applications to practice and knowledge transfer, while research in humanities focuses on English literature and creative writing and, to a lesser extent, history. Staff within the school have a wide range of research interests. As well as those with well established research profiles, a significant proportion of lecturers are undertaking higher degrees and developing additional research interests to contribute to the School's portfolio. The School also has Education research links with the Cardiff School of Sport, Cardiff School of Art and Design and Cardiff School of Health Sciences with an interdisciplinary focus.

Our research and research supervision teams are based on two groups: Pedagogy and Andragogy Research Group (PARG) and Arts and Humanities Research Group (AHRG). These groups also include Academic Associates (PhD and EdD (Professional Doctorate) Research students).

## **Pedagogy and Andragogy Research Group (PARG)**

The PARG group focus their research on the following areas:

- Culture and Pedagogy
- Higher Education
- Physical Education
- ICT in Education
- Language in Education
- Music Education
- Early Years and Outdoor Learning
- Adult and Continuing Education.

## **Arts and Humanities Research Group (AHRG)**

The AHRG group focus their research on the following areas:

- History and Politics
- Identities
- Space, place and location
- Creativity.



# CARDIFF SCHOOL *of* EDUCATION



## Master's Courses

The School is made up of three main areas: Initial Teacher Education (ITET), Professional Development and Humanities. It is one of the largest centres for ITET in the United Kingdom and has an established reputation for the excellent quality of its provision, recognised by Estyn through its inspection process.



The research ethos within the school is supported by the School's regular and well-established research seminar series. Areas of particular research activity are educational policy in Wales and the UK, language and literacy, English Literature, Welsh language and bilingualism, partnerships in ITET and research into learning and teaching. Most of the School's educational research is firmly grounded in applications to practice and knowledge transfer, while the philosophy of research in Humanities is connected with the examination of specific genres within the field of English literature.





# CARDIFF SCHOOL of EDUCATION

## There are three masters courses in the Department of Humanities:

- MA Creative Writing
- MA English and Creative Writing
- MA English

Each of these courses can be taken as either a full time (one year) or part time (two years). All taught sessions run from 5pm, ideal for those wishing to organise their study around employment.

More information can be found at: [cardiffmet.ac.uk/humanities](http://cardiffmet.ac.uk/humanities)

### Contact:

Dr Spencer Jordan

Email: [sjordan@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:sjordan@cardiffmet.ac.uk)

Tel: 029 2041 7246

## Calling all Writers

Four short fiction courses are also:

- Novel Writing
- Short Story Writing
- New & Experimental Writing
- Writing in the City

Ideal for any writer who wishes to develop and improve their own creative practice.

Each course runs over twelve weeks and will cost £440 per course.

More information can be found at: [cardiffmet.ac.uk/humanities](http://cardiffmet.ac.uk/humanities)

### Contact:

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# CARDIFF SCHOOL *of* EDUCATION



## Research degrees

MPhil, PhD, M Prof Prac and Professional Doctorate (EdD Pathway)

The School offers the following research degree programmes:

### **MPhil (Full or Part time)**

A Master's level research degree culminating in a dissertation of 60,000 words and oral examination.

### **MPhil/PhD and PhD (Full or Part time)**

A doctorate by research culminating in an original contribution to knowledge in the form of a 80,000-100,000 word thesis (or equivalent for creative projects) and oral examination.

### **EdD and MProf Prac (Part time)**

The Ed D is a professional doctorate which is offered by the School of Education within Cardiff Metropolitan University's professional doctorate programme. Students examine a research topic arising out of professional practice in the field of education and undertake a number of assessed modules with a final 40,000-60,000 word thesis and oral examination (credits total 540).







# CARDIFF SCHOOL of EDUCATION

The findings make an original contribution to professional knowledge and practice. Students successfully completing 360 credits in Part 1 may exit with a Master's in Professional Practice.

The research undertaken by academic associates (research students) in the School mirrors the research interests of supervisors and the School's two research groups, the Pedagogy and Andragogy Research Group (PARG) and the Arts and Humanities Research Group (AHRG).

These mainly relate to the following fields:

- **Education including:**
  - ICT in education
  - Language in education
  - Music education
  - Early Years' education
  - Outdoor Learning
  - Additional Learning Needs education
  - Adult and Community education
- **English literature, creative writing**

Studies often centre around the theme of 'Narratives, Identities and Place'

Please see the school web site for more details of research and research degrees: [www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/cse](http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/cse)





# Welcome to the Cardiff Metropolitan Alumni Network

The Cardiff Metropolitan University Alumni Network is made up of all former students who graduated from CardiffMet. Membership is automatic on graduation, opening up a wealth of opportunity. With links to over 40,000 alumni in the UK and around the world, who knows where your next conversation might take you?

The Alumni Network is here to help you make the most of Cardiff Metropolitan previous student connections - which include a former Children's Laureate for Wales, TV and radio presenters, illustrators and designers who can help you make the most of your work in the future.

[www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/alumni)

Join us on [LinkedIn](#)

(Cardiff Met (UWIC) Alumni)

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

(CardiffMetDARO)

Add us on [Facebook](#)

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Stay in touch with your Alumni Network, scan this bar code and keep your details up to date.



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