

Annual report of the English Institute at Neuchâtel University – 2018/2019

Martin Hilpert
Institute director



This document presents a short summary of the academic year of 2018/2019 at the English Institute, focusing on aspects of our teaching, research, and social life. The pictures above show three different types of lecture, with David Correia Saavedra in front of his PhD jury, Samuel Bourgeois speaking as a city guide to delegates of the ICAME-40 conference, and Honor Grace Jackson reading to participants of the Frankenreads event at the English Institute.

The fall semester 2018 started with the enrolment of 46 new students, bringing our total number of students to 207 (155 BA; 38 MA; 8 HEP; 6 PhD). During the two semesters, we offered the following courses:

- Introduction to English Literature (+ workshop)
- Introduction to English Linguistics (+ workshop)
- Practical Language
- Phonetics and Phonology
- Talking point
- Early Modern English Literature (16th-18th century)
- Modern and Contemporary Literature (19th - 21st century)
- Modern and Contemporary Literature (20th century fiction)
- Old and Middle English
- African-American Literature
- English for teachers
- Human language and animal communication
- Introduction to Creative Writing
- King Lear: Play(s), Sources, Afterlife
- Language and Migration
- Language change
- Psycholinguistics
- Rebels, Cheaters, Outlaws
- Restoration Poetry and Drama
- Morphology
- Modernism
- Stones, Gems and Bones

The Art of the Journal
Cognitive linguistics
Corpus linguistics

The sections below highlight individual activities of the members of our institute.

Prof. Emma Depledge

Emma joined the Institute as assistant professor of early modern English literature in summer 2018. She has thoroughly enjoyed her first year at the Institute and has loved getting to know students and colleagues. Emma was also delighted to welcome two doctoral students, Gemma Allred and Honor Jackson, in September 2018.

Emma's first book, *Shakespeare's Rise to Cultural Prominence* (Cambridge), came out in summer 2018, as did an article in the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*. Both Emma's monograph and her first edited collection, *Canonising Shakespeare* (Cambridge), received positive reviews in the *Times Literary Supplement* this year. Emma presented work at the International Shakespeare Conference, Stratford-upon-Avon (July 2018) and the Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. (April 2019). She delivered her inaugural lecture in April 2019.

In spring and summer, she finished work on an edited collection on John Milton and wrote three chapters for edited collections. She's currently writing chapters for the *Oxford History of Poetry in English, Seventeenth-Century Volume*, and the *Oxford Handbook of Shakespeare and Authorship*.

This autumn she's looking forward to collaborations with the BPU Neuchâtel as part of her MA seminar 'An Introduction to Book History and Bibliography'. The seminar will include a trip to the 'Musée suisse du papier, de l'écriture et de l'impression' (Basel), which is supported by generous funds from a 'projets pédagogiques innovants' award. She's also excited to start work as project partner on a collaborative FNS project (with Indira Ghose, UniFr) entitled 'Civility, Cultural Exchange, and Conduct Literature in Early Modern England, 1500-1800', and to work with Emma Rayner, whose thesis she will co-supervise. Emma organised a CUSO workshop ('Print, Politics and the Social World of Early Modern Drama') at UniNe in March 2019. In the coming year she will co-organise a further three CUSO workshops in Neuchâtel. The first is the PhD Day in November 2019; the second is on Literary Utopia and Dystopia (with Honor) in March 2019; and the third (with Gemma) coincides with the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (SAMEMES) conference which Emma is hosting in Neuchâtel from 3-5 September 2020.

Prof. Martin Hilpert

Martin Hilpert continued his collaboration with Susanne Flach on the SNF-funded Lead Agency Project "Re-thinking English Modal Constructions". His administrative duties at the University of Neuchâtel included his work as chair of the English Institute and president of the library commission. Martin carried out a Mobilettes exchange with Professor Anita Auer from the University of Lausanne, who offered a seminar on Language and Migration in Neuchâtel. In return, Martin gave a course on Psycholinguistics in Lausanne. Martin acted as

external examiner in dissertation and habilitation defenses at the universities of Hannover, Pisa, and Lille. He evaluated research proposals for the Finnish Academy, and for the PRIMA funding line of the FNS. In August 2019, the Edinburgh University Press published the second edition of Martin's textbook "Construction Grammar and its Application to English".

Martin gave two lecture series abroad, one at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte in Natal, Brazil, and another at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Russia. He also delivered two plenary lectures at international conferences, one at the International Conference on Construction Grammar in Paris, and another one at the International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, which was held in Nishinomiya, Japan.

The highlight of Martin's academic year took place right in Neuchâtel. Together with Susanne Flach, Martin organized the 40th ICAME conference, which was held in the first week of June 2019 at UniNE and which brought corpus linguists from around the world to Neuchâtel. Besides the regular conference presentations, the conference featured five plenary lectures by internationally recognized researchers, a poster session in the courtyard of the FLSH, a boat trip to the Laténium, and a gala dinner with disco dancing. In the photo below, Martin somehow fails to make the "Y" of "YMCA".



Prof. Patrick Vincent

In September 2018, Patrick Vincent conducted research at the British Library and the Alpine Club on various aspects of British travel in Switzerland. On 31 October, he organized a series of "Frankenreads" events to celebrate the publication of Mary Shelley's novel, including an all-day reading marathon. In January, he received an ETH / Congressi Stefano Franscini conference grant, allowing him to organize an international conference on British Romanticism and Europe at Monte Verità in July 2020. As part of his SNFS-funded project on Swiss guest books, which is in its second year, he and Jérémie Magnin photographed a number of books in Chamonix and Martigny in June and July 2019. His work was featured on the Swiss radio program "Forum" on 25 July 2018, on Poesieromande.ch in June 2019, and in the French weekly magazine La Vie on 25 July 2019.

Patrick Vincent gave several guest talks, including "Voir la Suisse avec Papa et Maman : le Grand Tour de huit jeunes britanniques, 1791-1854," at the Colloque des Archives de la vie ordinaire, Neuchâtel, 8 November 2018 ; "La Suisse en miniature: du spectacle romantique à la conquête des Alpes," at the Musée du jeu, La Tour-de-Peilz, 28 February 2019 ; and "Loving Skiddaw Better: Southey in Switzerland," at the Romantic Walking Conference,

Keswick, 28 April 2019.

Articles published during the year include “Les Whigs et la Suisse autour de 1792 : le Passage du Mont Saint-Gothard de Georgiana, Duchesse de Devonshire” in *Suisse politique, savante, et imaginaire: Cohésion et disparité du Corps helvétique au XVIII^e siècle*, Geneva, Slatkine, pp. 84-98 ; “Sans guide dans les Alpes: Arthur Girdlestone,” *l’Alpine Guide et les origines de l’alpinisme autonome*” in *Vaut le voyage? Histoire de guides*, Geneva, Slatkine, pp. 159-167, and entries on Lord Byron, William Wordsworth, and Thomas Hardy in *Le Poème et le territoire : promenades littéraires en Suisse Romande*, Lausanne, Noir sur Blanc, pp. 18-27, 50-57, 92-99.

Dr. Katrin Rupp

In the autumn semester 2018 Katrin Rupp gave an introductory course on medieval English language and literature for BA students and taught a BA seminar on rebels, cheaters and outlaws. In the spring 2019 KR taught an MA seminar entitled “Stones, Gems and Bones”.

As part of the MA seminar, KR organised a field trip to Berne for students to see some stones in town and enjoy a guided tour by Beda Hofmann through the earth science department in the natural history museum.

KR continues her research on the medieval body, focusing in particular on its life after death. She also continues to work at Pädagogische Hochschule Bern, where she teaches several English courses for future teachers.

Dr. Susanne Flach

Over the past year, SF has submitted several single- and co-authored papers. Three have been accepted for publication and are currently in press. A co-authored article on the use of *-gate* in English and German appeared in a collected volume. She also co-edited the 2018 edition of the Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association.

Together with MH, SF organized the 40th ICAME conference, a five-day conference on English corpus linguistics. The team welcomed about 180 international attendees in June 2019 to sunny Neuchâtel.

In late 2018, SF was elected to the board of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association. Since early 2019, she has been serving as an Area Editor for Cognitive Linguistics and Corpus Linguistics for the multi-modal journal *Linguistics Vanguard*.

SF was a keynote speaker at a two-day workshop in Bamberg on Grammaticality, and was invited to give talks in Osnabrück and Vienna. She gave conference talks in Paris, Koblenz, Córdoba, Munich, and Lausanne. Together with a colleague in Basel, she organized a one-day workshop on learner data, where MH and SF presented a case study.

SF taught corpus linguistics in Osnabrück in the summer term of 2019. For the winter term 2019, she will be visiting professor in Leipzig and teach classes in history, sociolinguistics, syntax, and empirical methods.

Dr. David Correia Saavedra

David Correia Saavedra successfully presented his dissertation “Measurements of Grammaticalization: Developing a quantitative index for the study of grammatical change” in June 2019. DCS has also continued his collaboration on Chinese grammaticalization with Linlin Sun from the University of Mainz. Together, they wrote a paper called “Measuring grammatical status in Chinese through quantitative corpus analysis”, which has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the journal *Corpora*.

Dr. Dorota Smyk-Bhattacharjee

Dorota Smyk-Bhattacharjee contributed to our linguistic course offerings with a class with the title 'English for Teachers.'

Dr. Suzana Zink

At the beginning of summer, Suzana took part in the interdisciplinary conference *Modernism in the Home* held at the University of Birmingham (1-2 July), where she gave a talk entitled “Turn-of-Century Rooms and the Pull of Modernity in Virginia Woolf’s *Night and Day* and *The Years*”. The conference was followed by a research stint at the British Library as well as an art history course at the Courtauld Institute, London.

Suzana has also been invited to give the keynote speech at the one-day symposium *100 Years of Night and Day*, organised by the University of Westminster, London. The event, celebrating the centenary of Virginia Woolf’s second novel, will take place on 26 October 2019.

This year, Suzana taught *Practical Language*. She also taught a pre-session intensive English course and various courses, including academic writing for the humanities and social sciences, at the UniNE Language Centre.

Gemma Allred

Gemma Allred joined the Institute in February 2019 under the supervision of Emma Depledge. Her research considers how Shakespeare is marketed and sold – looking at the paratexts that support Shakespeare in performance – so the posters and flyers that advertise performances and the programmes, webpages and social media initiatives that are aimed at audiences. Specifically, the extent to which these paratextual materials contribute to meaning and how they help (or hinder) audience understanding of the performance.

Gemma presented at the British Graduate Shakespeare Conference at the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-Upon-Avon and was awarded the Liz Ketterer Trust Travel Bursary. She also had an article, 'Who's There? Britain's Obsession with Celebrity Hamlet 2008-2018' accepted for Shakespeare Survey 73. In Spring 2019 Gemma taught the workshop element of the introductory courses to literature and writing.

Anindita Basu Sempere

Anindita Basu Sempere continued her doctoral research and writing. She continues to construct a timeline and map of Elizabeth Bishop's Brazil transition in *Mapping Bishop* and collaborated on adding new analytic tools to the digital humanities software, including a timeline with frequency visualization and improved searching and sorting functions. She started an alpha version of *Mapping Dillard* using the same software system but using topographical maps. ABS mapped Annie Dillard's *An American Childhood* and "walked the map" this summer, taking photos along the way to later create a deep map of the text.

In the fall, ABS was invited to give a weeklong writing workshop at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna where she taught students from the Design Investigations studio. The workshop was called "Writing for Designers: Intro to Narrative Structure and Style." In July she presented a paper called "Changing Places: Using Spatio-Temporal Maps to Link Literary Texts with Movement" at the Association for Computers and the Humanities conference in Pittsburgh, PA. In her presentation ABS discussed experiential aspects of the *Summer of Darkness* and *Mapping Bishop* projects.

ABS taught Introduction to Creative Writing in the fall, which ended with a public student reading. She taught Talking Point in the spring. She coordinated the inaugural Institute Writing Awards, which were announced in the fall. She continued to work on picture book manuscripts and began to write a new middle grade novel. In the fall ABS also co-founded and launched a consultancy called Place Lab Ltd. which does work at the intersection of location, narrative, and technology.

Samuel Bourgeois

Samuel Bourgeois taught the first-year English Linguistics Workshop. Since the winter semester 2019, he has attended two international conferences both in Switzerland and abroad. In June, SB presented a paper at the ICAME 40 conference in Neuchâtel. The presentation was entitled "'Oh yeah, one more thing: It's gonna be huge.' On colloquial (inter)subjective uses of oh yeah in journalistic writing". The results of this paper are currently being organized into an article that he plans to submit to an edited volume. In August, SB attended the SLE 52 conference in Leipzig Germany where he presented a poster entitled "'Ok, qui d'autre na, nobody on the line right now?' A Diasystematic Construction Grammar approach to Discourse Markers in Bilingual Cajun Speech." The presentation was based on an article in an edited volume that is currently under review. SB is currently in the writing stages for the PhD dissertation. He plans to submit his thesis in early 2020.

Honor Grace Jackson

Honor Jackson was hired as a Doctoral Assistant to Professor Depledge beginning in August 2018, and taught two of the Introduction to English Literature workshops in the fall semester before taking maternity leave in February after the birth of her son. Honor is working on her thesis entitled 'Early Modern Utopias on the Page and Stage' and, during her first few months, Honor presented her early research findings to a CUSO panel in Fribourg. She has now had her first abstract for an international conference accepted, and is due to give the paper in Murcia at the SEDERI Junior Researcher Conference in October 2019. Honor's proposal for a CUSO conference on Literary Utopia and Dystopia has been approved by the board and she will host the conference in March 2020.

Jérémie Magnin

Jérémie Magnin attended and presented at the SAUTE Conference entitled "Brexit and Beyond: Nation and Identity" hosted by the University of Basel in May 2019. His paper, entitled, "The Importance of Being 'A.C.': Visitors' Books and National Ideology in the Swiss Alps" focused on British visitors' guestbook inscriptions in two Zermatt hotels, comparing entries by members of the Alpine Club with other travelers and asking how Swiss visitors' books helped construct British identity through the values celebrated in the practice of mountaineering and by the Alpine Club. JM continued scanning hotel visitors' books in archives, hotels and museums to add more hotels to the collection of visitors' books of the Swiss Guestbook Project, visiting Bern, Basel, Geneva, Zermatt, Sion, Martigny and other parts of the Valais, as well as Chamonix.

Anne-Claire Michoux

In the autumn of 2018, I taught the first-year workshop along with Honor Jackson. The semester focused on Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. In the spring of 2019, I devised a BA seminar entitled 'Spectacular Romanticism: British Cultures of Spectacle, 1780-1830', which explored the different meanings of 'spectacle' in the Romantic period, to broaden students' understanding of the richness of literary productions at the turn of the nineteenth-century. The course placed an emphasis on visual culture and addressed themes such as self-fashioning, the rise of celebrity culture, and the notions of private and public spheres.

Having successfully secured a *Fonds de Donation* grant for archival research, I spent two weeks in Oxford at the Bodleian Library in August 2018 and two weeks at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. There I researched the private correspondence of the Edgeworth family and unpublished manuscripts by Maria Edgeworth. This work confirmed some of the findings of my doctoral thesis. I have been working towards the completion of my thesis, which will be submitted in the autumn of 2019.

In March 2019, I organised a public event 'Une Soirée avec Jane Austen' to celebrate the bicentenary of Austen's death. The evening consisted of a lecture by Dr Erszi Kukorelly (UniGe) and a performance of extracts from *Pride and Prejudice*.

Over the summer of 2019, I attended the annual BARS conference in Nottingham on the topic of 'Romantic Facts and Fantasies', where I delivered a paper on Frances Burney's diaries ("Fanny Burney" or "Madame d'Arblay": Who is the Real Frances Burney?) I also participated in the ERC workshop tied to the online REVE project led by Professor Nicola Watson. I presented a document I discovered in the National Library of Ireland archives where prominent French writers and politicians supported the stay of the Edgeworth family in Paris in January 1802, when the family was promptly asked to leave the country without any explanation. This document is a testament to the endurance of Enlightenment ideas in the early nineteenth century and the dream of a European Republic of Letters.

François Spangenberg

As always, our institute coordinator François Spangenberg has kept the administrative side of the institute in perfect order, and he has been looking after all of us, as well as our students, with exceptional care. We owe him a very big thank you!

To end this report, I'd like to say that I continue to be impressed with the work that everyone in the institute is doing. It is especially wonderful to welcome new members and see them thrive in our community. I look forward to the new academic year.

Martin Hilpert
Neuchâtel, October 2019