

Annual report of the English Institute at Neuchâtel University – 2016/2017

Martin Hilpert
Institute director

This document is a short summary of the activities that have taken place at the English Institute during the academic year of 2016/2017, which was a particularly busy year that culminated in the 2017 SAUTE conference that was held at the institute in April. The conference topic was "The challenge of change in English Language and Literature". We hosted four distinguished invited speakers, shown below from left to right: David Simpson (UC Davis), Felipe Fernandez-Armesto (Notre Dame), Ewan Fernie (Shakespeare Institute Birmingham), and Christian Mair (Freiburg). Terttu Nevalainen (Helsinki) was invited, but had a medical emergency that prevented her from participating.



The following paragraphs highlight some aspects of our teaching, our research, and the social life at the institute. The fall semester 2016 started with the enrolment of 47 new students, bringing our total number of students to 201 (150 BA; 45 MA; 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)
20th Century Drama
Error and Failure in Early Modern English culture
Origin and Originality in Early Modern English literature
Shakespeare and the power of playing
Ernest Hemingway and Gender Trouble
Figures of the female author: Austen, Mansfield, Woolf
Otherness in Medieval Texts
Research colloquium
Medieval English
Magic, marvels, and miracles
Creative writing
English words
English for Teachers

Language of social media
Second language acquisition
Psycholinguistics
Construction Grammar
Varieties of English around the world
Sociolinguistics
Language variation

Prof. Margaret Tudeau-Clayton

Margaret's final year as Professor of Early Modern Literature was marked by the selection for publication of her paper from the many given at last year's huge World Shakespeare Congress (Stratford and London): "worth the name of a Christian"?: the parabolic economy of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*', *Shakespeare Survey 70* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), 225-33.

A paper again selected from the many given at an earlier conference of the British Shakespeare Association is due to appear later this year: 'The King's English' 'our English?': Shakespeare and linguistic ownership' in K. Halsey, A. Vine (Eds.) *Shakespeare and Authority* in the Palgrave Shakespeare Studies Series. She will present this and another book in the series in which she has a chapter — I. Haberman, M. Witen (Eds.), *Shakespeare and Space* (2016) — at the ESRA Shakespeare conference in Gdansk at the end of July 2017.

She will also speak on a panel with Dymphna Callaghan and Ewan Fernie which is called appropriately enough (given her retirement) 'Shakespeare and the Call to Freedom'. Like the published chapters this talk is linked to the book that she has now (at last) completed and that is currently under review with Cambridge University Press: *Shakespeare's Englishes: against Englishness*. Though retiring she will not be sitting on her laurels. She has already signed up for a seminar at the next meeting of the Shakespeare America Association in Los Angeles in Spring 2018.

Prof. Patrick Vincent

In winter, Patrick Vincent prepared a book proposal for Cambridge University Press on the history of European Romanticism, and a research grant proposal for the FNS on Swiss guestbooks. He published four articles, two in journals and two in edited collections. He will give two talks in July, the first at Chillon castle on artistic adaptations of Byron's prisoner, the second in York on Cobbett, Clare, and the 1830 Beer Act.

Among his teaching activities, PV planned a study trip to Edinburgh and the south of Scotland in May as part of an MA seminar on Romantic Scotland and Ireland. He also participated in three CUSO doctoral courses, and served as expert in several MA defenses.

He continued serving as elected member of the University executive board (Conseil de l'Université), which was dissolved in February, and was elected to represent the Faculty in the new legislative assembly (Assemblée universitaire). Finally, PV served in the planning committees of two public outreach events, the first on writer Isabelle de Charrière in September, the second on nonviolence at the Faculty of Letters on 20 May. He also continued to supervise 'Français pour Tous', a French-instruction program for refugees based at the Faculty.

Prof. Martin Hilpert

Martin Hilpert received a Lead Agency Grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF Grant 100012L/169490/1 "Re-thinking English Modal Constructions: From feature-based paradigms to usage-based probabilistic representations"). The grant covers a three-year research project on the meaning and use of the English modal auxiliaries. The project will be conducted together with Prof. Ilse Depraetere and her collaborators at the Université Lille-III in France. In March 2017, Dr. Susanne Flach from the Free University of Berlin was hired as a postdoctoral researcher who will collaborate with MH on the project. The project has already hosted two visiting scholars, namely Robert Daugs from the University of Kiel and Pascal Hohaus from the University of Hannover.

Together with David Correia Saavedra, MH continued to work on his SNF-funded project "Why is there regularity in grammatical semantic change? Reassessing the explanatory power of asymmetric priming", which is now completed. In the past year, MH and DCS presented their work at international conferences and co-authored two articles on the basis of the project. One has been accepted for publication in the journal "English Language and Linguistics", the other one is currently under review.

MH's other publications in the past year include collaborative articles with Stefan Th. Gries (University of California at Santa Barbara), Christoph Rühlemann (University of Paderborn), and Holger Diessel (University of Jena). MH's book "Construction Grammar and its Application to English" (Edinburgh University Press) was translated into Chinese and published by the Beijing University Press.

MH was invited to become associate editor for the journal "Cognitive Linguistics", a position he took up in early 2017.

MH gave invited keynote lectures at the International Construction Grammar Conference in Juiz de Fora, Brazil, and the Annual Conference of the Institut für Deutsche Sprache in Mannheim, Germany. He also gave invited talks at the universities of Cambridge, Ghent, Münster, Mainz, and Berlin.

MH acted as external examiner in a dissertation defense at the university of Lille-III and as expert in a habilitation defense at the university of Paris-8.

Together with Prof. Anita Auer from the University of Lausanne, MH carried out a Mobbettres exchange term. Prof. Auer came to Neuchâtel to teach a seminar on language on social media, MH taught a course on psycholinguistics in Lausanne.

MH's administrative duties at the University of Neuchâtel included his work as chair of the English Institute, president of the library commission, and chair of the hiring commission for Margaret Tudeau-Clayton's succession.

Dr. Alice Leonard

This year Dr Alice Leonard has been revising her monograph *Error in Shakespeare*. OUP are interested in it and have soliticted the full manuscript. She has an article currently under review with *Early Modern Literary Studies* entitled 'Metaphor as Error in *Midsummer Night's Dream*'.

AL organised a successful trip to the excellent Lyon Printing Museum for her 2-3rd year module 'Error and Failure in Early Modern Culture'. Between 1-2 December

2016 she took ten students for a museum visit and hands-on printing workshop to learn more about early modern printing.

On Saturday 11 March 2017, AL was a panelist at the CUSO PhD Day on Conferences and Publications alongside three other speakers. The day consisted in doctoral training for new and well-established PhD students.

From 30 July -5 August 2017, AL attended the prestigious 'Rare Book School' course on 'Introduction to the Principles of Bibliographical Description' at the University of Virginia, USA. This provided intensive training on describing and interpreting material books and was funded through a generous grant from UniNE's Subvention égalité.

After teaching and researching at the University of Neuchâtel for four and a half years, AL has secured a postdoctoral Marie Curie funded fellowship at the University of Warwick, UK, to work on sixteenth and seventeenth century travel literature.

Dr. Katrin Rupp

In the autumn semester 2016 Katrin Rupp taught a BA lecture on medieval English language and literature and a BA seminar entitled "Magic, Marvels and Miracles". In the spring 2017 KR taught an MA seminar on Otherness. In April 2017, KR went to Berne Burgerbibliothek with her MA students to study original manuscripts.

At the 2017 SAUTE conference in April KR co-presented (with Anne-Claire Michoux) a paper on social change as embodied by Geoffrey Chaucer's Wife of Bath and Jane Austen's Anne Elliot. KR is now turning the paper into an article for publication. On 22 June, KR gave an invited talk on love in the Middle Ages at the Psychoanalytisches Seminar in Luzern.

KR is the co-editor (with Nicole Nyffenegger) of a collection of articles entitled *Writing on Skin in the Age of Chaucer*, for which she co-wrote the introduction and which is to appear with De Gruyter in autumn/winter 2017. She also contributed an article on Osborn Bokenham's *Legendys of Hooly Wummen* to a volume of essays entitled *Fashioning England and the English* (edited by Rahel Orgis and Matthias Heim), which is under contract with Palgrave Macmillan.

Dr. Dorota Smyk-Bhattacharjee

Dorota Smyk-Bhattacharjee contributed to our linguistic course offerings with a seminar on English for teachers and another one on English words.

Dr. Steve Oswald

Steve Oswald taught phonetics and phonology during the fall of 2016.

Dr. Rahel Orgis

Rahel Orgis was on an 18-month research leave (February 2016 to July 2017) to work on her postdoc monograph project on early modern narrators at the Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg im Breisgau with a Swiss National Science Foundation Early Postdoc Mobility Fellowship awarded through the Scientific Research Committee at

the University of Neuchâtel.

During her research leave, RO contributed two reference articles on Lady Mary Wroth to the Gale Researcher (published 2016), organised panels on diachronic narratology and early modern prose fiction at the conferences of the International Society of the Study of Narrative and the Renaissance Society of America and presented her new research for her postdoc project at these conferences (ISSN 2016, ISSN 2017, RSA 2017).

Most importantly, RO saw through press her monograph, *Narrative Structure and Reader Formation in Lady Mary Wroth's Urania*, which appeared with Routledge in January 2017. Further to her monograph, RO published three journal articles in 2016/17: "Murder on the Banks of the Medway: The Deceptive Beauty of Penshurst Place and England in Lady Mary Wroth's *Urania*" (*Sidney Journal* 34.1, pp. 67-79), "'Father and son, I ha' done you simple service here': The (Interrupted) Circulation of Money in Dekker and Middleton's *Roaring Girl*" (*SPELL* 33, pp. 143-162) and "An Author Re-reading: Lady Mary Wroth's Corrections to the Printed *Urania* and the Manuscript Continuation" (forthcoming in the autumn 2017 in *ELR* 47.3). The research for this last article was funded by a "Subvention Egalité" grant awarded by the Commission Egalité des chances of the University of Neuchâtel for a one-month stay at the Newberry Library, Chicago. Together with Matthias Heim, RO co-edited a volume of essays entitled *Fashioning England and the English*, to which she contributed a chapter and co-wrote the introduction. The volume is under contract with Palgrave Macmillan.

Parallel to her research, RO continued to coordinate the CUSO doctoral programme in English Language and Literature, which is steadily growing and offered twelve doctoral events in 2016 and thirteen in 2017.

Divine Harrison

Divine Harrison taught Practical Language during the academic year.

Anindita Basu Sempere

Anindita Basu Sempere continued her research on how place is experienced and mediated. She gave an invited lecture at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, USA on the *Summer of Darkness* app, which she co-created and launched in the spring of 2016. The talk, *Direct Encounters with History: Summer of Darkness and the Performance of Archive*, was the final event in a series called *Data is Made Up of Stories: University-wide Futures from the Digital Humanities*. During her visit to SMU, she was a guest in the digital humanities graduate seminar and provided feedback on doctoral student final projects.

The *Summer of Darkness* app was in Arizona State University's National Science Foundation-funded Frankenstein Bicentennial Project as part of their "Frankenstein at 200" exhibition at Hayden Library. The app was featured in *Ars Technica*, a leading science and technology magazine, and *Publishing Perspectives*, a trade magazine for international book publishers that's affiliated with the Frankfurt Book Fair.

ABS served on the conference committee for the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) Creativity & Cognition 2017 conference as a reviewer for poster sessions.

She taught Introduction to Creative Writing in Fall 2016. The course culminated in a public reading by students. She taught Talking Point in Spring 2017.

Dr. Susanne Flach

Susanne Flach joined the Institute in March 2017 as a post-doctoral researcher in Martin Hilpert's SNF-funded project "Re-thinking English Modal Constructions: From feature-based paradigms to usage-based probabilistic representations", in cooperation with the Université Lille-3 in France. MH and SF attended the project's kick-off meeting in Lille in May 2017.

Since joining the institute, SF has finalised a microfiche version of her dissertation and submitted an article on phraseology to the 2017 Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association. She presented at the SAUTE conference in April and was invited to give two talks at the Goethe Universität in Frankfurt in June. In Neuchâtel, she heads a monthly R and corpus statistics user group for interested staff and advanced students.

Anne-Claire Michoux

Anne-Claire Michoux taught the first-year introduction to literature. She attended several conferences, in Switzerland and abroad. In October, ACM went to the annual International Frances Burney Society conference, which took place in Washington DC. Her talk focused on the politics of the body in Burney's journals and her last novel, *The Wanderer* (1814) [title: "'An Adept at Metamorphoses': The Female Body and National Politics in Frances Burney's Journals and *The Wanderer*"]. In April, the biannual SAUTE conference took place in Neuchâtel, on the topic of 'change' and ACM presented a paper with Dr Katrin Rupp, which discussed the changes in women's condition, comparing the fates of female characters in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, 'The Wife of Bath', and Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. ACM and KR are currently adapting this presentation for publication in the SPELL volume related to the conference. ACM has also contributed to the volume *Fashioning England and the English: Literature, Nation, Gender*, co-edited by Rahel Orgis and Matthias Heim, which will be published with Palgrave Macmillan. Her chapter discusses Austen's negotiation of Englishness in *Emma* (title: "'To be a true citizen of Highbury': Language and National Identity in Jane Austen's *Emma* [1816]").

ACM has co-organized two CUSO events, one with Dr Emma Depledge in Fribourg, on the imagination in the long eighteenth century. The event hosted Professor Ros Ballaster (Oxford University) as a guest speaker. ACM presented a preliminary version of the paper that was presented later in Washington. The second event was a two-day workshop in Neuchâtel, on the secret politics of the novel. Invited speakers were Professors John Mullan (University College London) and Garrett Stewart (University of Iowa). ACM gave another presentation on the problem of secrecy in Romantic fiction.

Samuel Bourgeois

Samuel Bourgeois has been a student at the Institute since 2013, and has been involved in various aspects of the Institute including serving as a language coach,

student assistant and member of the social committee. Starting in May 2015, he became a Doctoral Assistant in English Linguistics and is responsible for running the English Linguistics Workshop. Besides his teaching and his dissertation work on the emergence of oral discourse markers in written genres, he has attended the Digital Humanities Summer University in Leipzig.

He has also given presentations of his dissertation research at the ISLE4 conference at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the SAUTE Conference at the University of Neuchâtel, and the ICAME38 conference at Charles University in Prague. He will soon also be giving presentations at the SLE conference at the University of Zürich, and the ISLE Summer School in Regensburg where he will present progress on a side-research project on the usage of discourse markers found in the Cajun English variety. As part of the research for this project, he was also a guest speaker on the popular local call-in radio program entitled “La Tasse de Café” on KVPI 1050 am in Ville Platte Louisiana.

David Correia Saavedra

David Correia Saavedra successfully applied for a one year FNS Doc.Mobility grant (P1NEP1_171937) and will be staying in Antwerp from 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2017. In addition, a joint PhD contract was signed between the Universities of Antwerp and Neuchâtel. He is still working on his dissertation dealing with the quantitative aspects of grammaticalization. DCS was also invited by the University of Mainz to give a guest lecture on 07/11/2016. He has collaborated since then with their team on a joint project, in which he applies the methods developed for his dissertation on a Chinese dataset. This collaboration will be presented at the SLE2017 conference in Zürich (10/09/2017-13/09/2017).

François Spangenberg

François Spangenberg, our institute coordinator, has been watching over us, handling all the paperwork that needed to be done, and reminding us of important deadlines a second and third time with never-failing patience. We all really appreciate your work, François!

I would like to end this report with a brief outlook on the coming academic year, which will be an eventful one for the institute: We will welcome a new colleague in Early Modern literature. The hiring commission has been busy going through a large number of applications, and we look forward to meeting the candidates. We and the students will miss Margaret, and we wish her all the best for the projects that she can tackle now in her retirement!

MH

Neuchâtel, August 2017