

Annual report of the English Institute at Neuchâtel University – 2019/2020

Martin Hilpert
Institute director

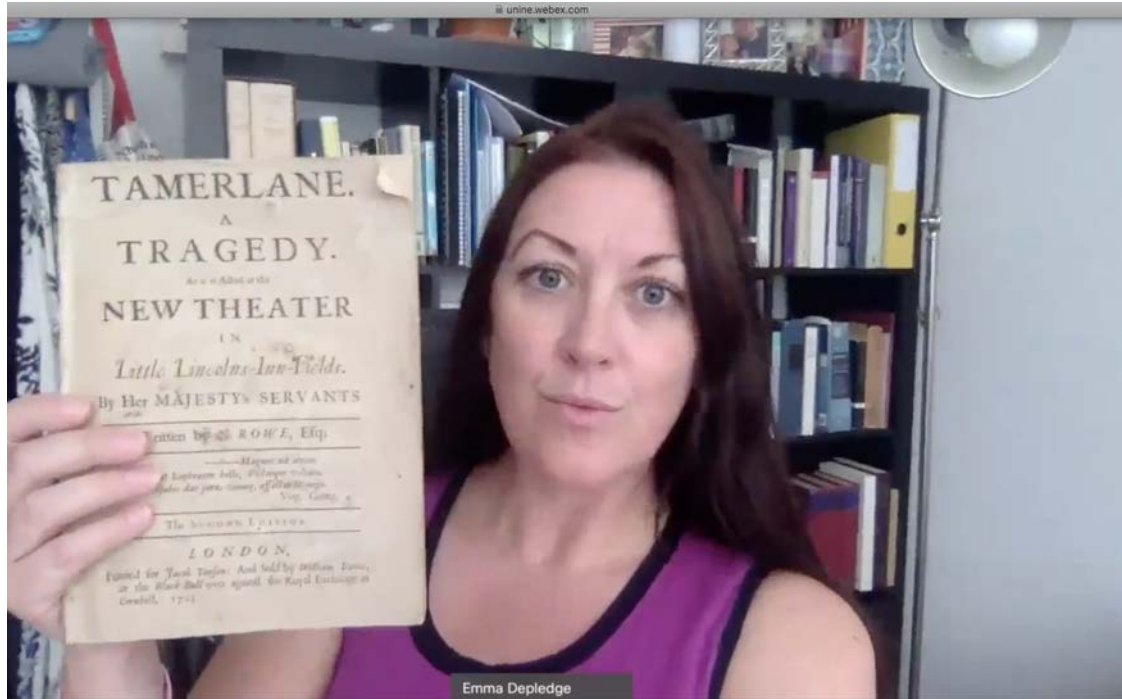
This document presents a short summary of the academic year of 2019/2020 at the English Institute. It is safe to say that the year that lies behind us will be remembered first and foremost for the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had been building up through the first two months of 2020 all over the world, and which led to profound disruptions in all areas of social life, including academic activities. Naturally, international travel was affected first, and many academic conferences were canceled or postponed. The University of Neuchâtel made the switch to distance learning in March 2020. On-campus activities came to a near-complete halt, daily video-conferences became a new reality. We certainly learned one or two things in the process, and we kept in touch with our students through digital pathways. With the exam period in August, the first scheduled events at the faculty were resumed. Guidelines for social distancing and the use of masks are in place. Our hands have never been cleaner. At the time of writing, the fall semester has started. Many courses have digital elements, or are designed in a way that allows for the possibility of continuing on-line, if the situation makes that necessary. In the light of these considerations, a retrospective on the fall term of 2019 is a look back into a world that used to be very different.

The fall semester 2019 started with the enrolment of 45 new students, bringing our total number of students to 197 (152 BA; 30 MA; 8 HEP; 7 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 American Poetry
Old and Middle English
Contemporary British Drama
First Language Acquisition
Second Language Acquisition
Sociolinguistics
Inventing Ireland
Introduction to Creative Writing
The Medieval Gothic
Shakespeare in Performance
Corpus Linguistics
The history of the book and material bibliography
Medieval afterlives
Construction Grammar
Research methods

The sections below highlight individual activities of the members of our institute. The videoconference selfies give an impression of our changed working environments.

Prof. Emma Depledge



Emma wrote book chapters for collections entitled *The Arden Research Handbook of Shakespeare and Textual Studies*, *A World of Words and Books: Essays in Honour of Allen Reddick*, and *Shakespeare / Text*. She co-edited a special journal issue for the *Huntington Library Quarterly* ('Performance and the Paper Stage'), continued work on her book project (Mock Heroics and the London Book Trade, 1660-1740), and became an associate editor for the journal *English Studies*. From 2020 she will also write the year's review of Editions and Textual Studies for *Shakespeare Survey*.

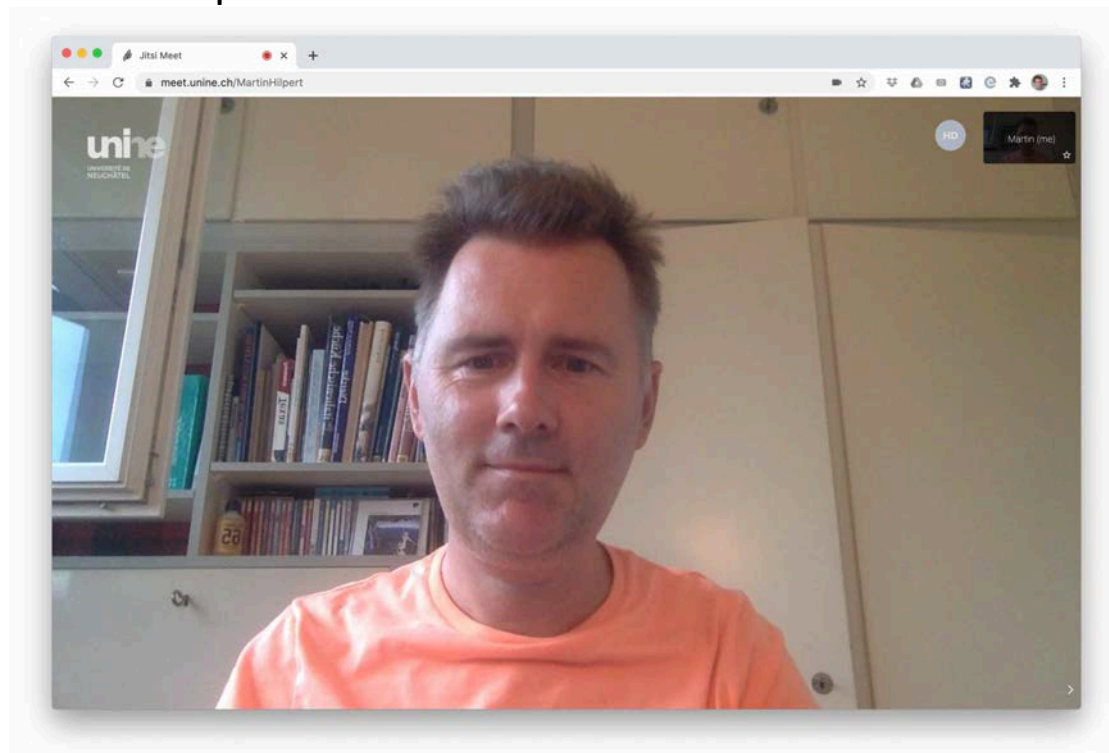
Emma received a W. M. Keck Foundation Fellowship to work at the Huntington Library, California (2 months) and a Carl H. Pforzheimer Endowment to conduct research at the Harry Ransom Center Research, Texas (1 month). She looks forward to taking up these awards and to beginning work on her project, entitled 'Bibliographical Puzzles: A Descriptive Bibliography of Quarto Editions of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*', in the not too distant future. In autumn 2020 she will begin work on a Routledge student guide to Shakespeare's Sonnets and a minigraph on *Shakespeare and Paper* (also for Routledge). She'll also complete work on chapters for the *Oxford History of Poetry in English, Seventeenth-Century Volume*, and the *Oxford Handbook of Shakespeare and Authorship*. Her co-edited collection, *Making Milton: Writing, Publication, Reception* (Oxford University Press), will appear in March 2021.

In autumn 2019 Emma enjoyed collaborations with the BPU Neuchâtel as part of her MA seminar 'An Introduction to Book History and Bibliography'. The seminar, funded by a

'projets pédagogiques innovants' award, included a trip to the 'Musée suisse du papier, de l'écriture et de l'impression' (Basel). Emma will give a poster presentation based on this class in September 2020. Emma organised a CUSO PhD Day in November 2019; a second workshop on 'Literary Utopia and Dystopia' (organised with Honor) had to be postponed and will now take place online / in hybrid mode this autumn. Emma also co-organised the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (SAMEMES) conference, which will now take place in Neuchâtel in September 2021.

Emma's autumn BA seminar will be taught by Prof. Lukas Erne of UniGe as part of a Mobilettres exchange. Emma will teach a course in Geneva in spring 2021. She looks forward to taking over from MH as director of the Institute from autumn 2020.

Prof. Martin Hilpert



Martin Hilpert continued his collaboration with Susanne Flach on the SNF-funded Lead Agency Project "Re-thinking English Modal Constructions". He received an SNF grant for a project with the title "Clipping in cross-linguistic perspective". The project, which started in January 2020, will analyze contrastively how shortened words such as *prof* and *exam* are formed in English and French. The project team members are David Correia Saavedra, who collaborates as a postdoctoral researcher, and Jennifer Rains, who will write her PhD thesis on the topic.

In terms of publications, Martin edited a special issue of the journal *Word Structure*, on the topic of higher-order schemas in morphology. He further wrote two handbook chapters and one article for a collected volume. He co-authored one journal article with Susanne Flach, and another one with Samuel Bourgeois.

In November 2019, Martin visited several universities in China, where he gave a series of ten lectures on Diachronic Construction Grammar and a course on Cognitive Linguistics. He gave talks in Maynooth, Potsdam, and Stuttgart, and a keynote lecture at the 1st International Conference for Young Researchers in Cognitive Linguistics in Madrid. After the onset of the lockdown, Martin gave a digital keynote lecture at the Chinese Lexical Semantics Workshop, which took place at the City University of Hong Kong. He also appeared on the YouTube channel of the Brazilian Association of Linguistics (Abralin ao vivo).

Martin's administrative duties at the University of Neuchâtel included his work as chair of the English Institute and interim president of the research commission. He also participated in the hiring commission for the professorship in theoretical philosophy, and he reviewed grant proposals for the PRIMA funding line of the SNF.

Prof. Patrick Vincent

The highlight of my year was Anne-Claire Michoux's brilliant defence of her PhD. thesis, *The Golden Mean': Simplicity, Gender, and National Identity in Romantic-Period Women's Writing*, on 27 January 2020. We were all extremely proud of her, and wish her well in her new research position at the University of Zurich.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, I was able to give three invited talks. The first, on the Temple de la Nature in Chamonix, was presented in Ravenna as part of the 'Dreaming Romantic Europe: Workshop 2'. The second, titled 'Literary Switzerland: Some Ideas for Teaching and Research', was addressed to high school teachers of the Collège de la Cité in Lausanne. The third, on the livre d'or des visiteurs à la Croix de la Flégère, was meant to take place at the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere, but became a virtual conference. I was able to organize a reading event at Chillon castle in February, but had to postpone the 'British Romanticism and Europe' conference to summer 2021 for the same reasons.

I co-edited a book, *Dévoiler l'Ailleurs, Correspondances, Carnets et Journaux Intimes*, published by Alphil in Neuchâtel. I also published two print and one on-line article. The first, 'Voir la Suisse avec Maman et Papa: Les jeunes britanniques sur le Grand Tour, 1790-1850', examines print and manuscript journals of teen-age tourists in Switzerland. The second, 'Between a Blessing and a Curse: John Ruskin and Neuchâtel', provides an in-depth study and catalogue of Ruskin's work on Neuchâtel. In 'Le Temple de la Nature', I examine the visitor book culture surrounding the famous Chamonix landmark. Finally, I contributed eight articles in the Eclairage section of the local newspaper, Arc-Info. Last but not least, I continued working on the Cambridge History of European Romanticism, and finally finished my monograph entitled *British Romanticism and Switzerland: Liberal Uses of a Romantic Myth* after far too many years.

Dr. Anne-Claire Michoux

The academic year 2019-2020 was a very exciting as well as an emotional time for me, as it marked the end of my PhD, and the start of a new position at another institution. In January

2020, I successfully defended my doctoral thesis, for which I was awarded the distinction *summa cum laude*. The months leading up to the defence were at times challenging, and I could not have done it without the support of friends and colleagues at the Institute of English studies. My first thanks go to my supervisor, Prof. Patrick Vincent, for his unwavering support and constructive feedback. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the rest of the team for being their friendship and encouragements—I could not have done it without you. I am grateful in more ways than I can express.

While completing my PhD in the autumn of 2019, I taught the first-year workshop at Neuchâtel alongside a BA seminar at the University of Fribourg, on 'Spectacular Romanticism', a course designed to introduce students to the different meanings and cultures of spectacle in the Romantic period, across a wide range of genres and media. In February 2020, I started a postdoctoral position at the University of Zurich, where I will be exploring representations of the female voice in the long eighteenth century. For this too, I would like to thank Neuchâtel, for having given me the confidence and the tools necessary for the next steps in my career.

Dr. Katrin Rupp



In the autumn semester 2019 Katrin Rupp gave an introductory course on medieval English language and literature for BA students and taught a BA seminar entitled "The Medieval Gothic". In the spring 2020 KR taught an MA seminar on medieval afterlives. The MA seminar was meant to inspire the students to attend the SAMEMES conference on afterlives in September 2020 that KR was about to organise together with Emma Depledge and Rory Critten. KR asked students to write modern versions of Geoffrey Chaucer's Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale that they were going to present at the conference. However, due to the pandemic, the conference had to be postponed to September next year.

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

Dr. Susanne Flach



suz
@skeptikantin

If you live in a tiny, barely furnished apartment and realise you're gonna meet your students several times weekly.

[Tweet übersetzen](#)



10:19 nachm. · 31. März 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

SF was on leave from the Institute between October 2019 and March 2020 for a post as visiting professor at Universität Leipzig, where she taught a lecture on the History of English, as well as seminars on syntax, sociolinguistics and methods in linguistics. Since February, she has been working as a Senior Research and Teaching Associate at Universität Zurich. SF continues to be a part time member at the Institute in order to work with MH on modal auxiliaries for the remainder of the SNF project.

Over the last year, she published two journal articles and two book chapters, including a joint journal article with MH resulting from the project, and she has two journal articles currently in press. SF and MH are the co-editors of an edited volume with selected papers from the ICAME conference, held in June 2019. As of December 2019, SF is a board member for the journal *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*.

SF was invited to teach a week-long methods course in Rio de Janeiro in March and at the Czech Summer School of Linguistics in August 2020. She had invitations for keynote talks at the International Conference on Multimodal Communication in Osnabrück and at Prague Linguistics in April. All events have been postponed.

In August 2020, SF received an SNF Ambizione grant for a project that will allow her to study constructional networks.

Dr. Samuel Bourgeois



Samuel Bourgeois taught the first-year English Linguistics Workshop for the academic year 2019-2020. In August, he successfully presented his doctoral dissertation, “‘Well, like, oh yeah...’ Non-dialogical functions of discourse markers in journalistic writing”. In May, SB gave a video presentation on findings related to his PhD thesis in the digital edition of the ICAME 41 conference that was hosted by the University of Heidelberg. For the 2020-2021 academic year, SB is teaching BA seminars at the University of Neuchâtel and Lausanne.

Dr. David Correia Saavedra

After defending his PhD in June 2019, David Correia Saavedra came back to the English Institute as of January 2020. He is now working as a post-doctoral researcher on the FNS project “Clipping in a cross-linguistic perspective”. Together with Jennifer Rains and Martin Hilpert, he has been participating in the elaboration of a clipping database that will be used for multiple subsequent studies. He served as an expert in the “Schweizer Jugend Forscht” competition in early 2020 and he has also successfully submitted a proposal for a CUSO workshop called “Recent Approaches to the Quantitative Study of Language: Rules and Un-rules” that will take place in September 2021.

Dr. Suzana Zink



In autumn 2019, Suzana was 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, took place on 26 October. This year, Suzana also started new research work into the contemporary reception of May Sinclair, a lesser-known modernist writer, who was, however, very successful in her lifetime. Her paper entitled "“Miss Sinclair’s Sparkles”: May Sinclair in Contemporary Newspapers’ was going to be presented at the conference “Networking May Sinclair / Les réseaux littéraires de May Sinclair” at the University of Nantes, 18-19 June 2020 (subsequently postponed as a result of the current health crisis). In spring, Suzana contributed an article to the forthcoming volume *La casa dei pensieri: Metafore della mente nel linguaggio naturale e in quello letterario* published by the University of Perugia, Italy. Her article “Virginia Woolf’s Topographies of the Mind” looks at Woolf’s use of spatial metaphors to represent human consciousness.

Teaching-wise, a highlight of this spring’s *Practical Language* course was the PL creative writing competition, in which students had to produce a short poem based on a selection of three artworks. Nine students took part and their work was read by Suzana and an ‘external judge’ based in Ireland, who wrote a ‘judge’s response’ to each of the entries submitted. Alongside the judge’s feedback, all participants received a copy of *Poems on the Underground* and their work was shared with the rest of the class on Moodle.

Gemma Allred



Gemma has continued with her research over the last year. She has also presented at the Shakespeare Association of America annual conference with a paper titled: 'All for your delight, we are not here': Questioning the preeminent role of the traditional theatre critic'. She has also participated in the British Graduate Shakespeare Festival presenting a paper on Shakespearean Allusions in Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*. Gemma is the co-editor and contributor for, 'Action is Eloquence: (Re)Thinking Shakespeare' a blog looking at modern performance, adaptation, and appropriation of Shakespeare on stage, screen and beyond. She has additionally contributed reviews of Shakespeare in performance to *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *Shakespeare*, and *Papers on Language and Literature*. She has written a chapter for a forthcoming companion reader, *Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's Emilia: A Companion Reader*. The chapter, titled, '#IAmEmilia: How Marketing Created a Movement' considers how the marketing of Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's *Emilia* acted not only to sell a theatre production, but also to create a movement, a feminist call to arms.

Anindita Basu Sempere



In the fall Anindita received copies of some of Elizabeth Bishop's journals and manuscript drafts from Vassar College Special Collections, and she has been focusing on archival research and genetic criticism. In March she presented a paper based on this research, titled "The Path from Sable Island to Santos," at the New England MLA conference, and she is currently expanding the paper into a chapter for the proposed book *Mapping Elizabeth Bishop*. While in Boston for the conference, ABS gave a talk at Wellesley College titled "Visualizing Literary Creation: Frankenstein, Elizabeth Bishop, and the Digital Humanities." This talk was hosted by the Computer Science, Data Science, and Media Arts and Sciences departments and held in the English department, so she had the chance to speak and meet with students across disciplines. In June she gave a (virtual) talk as part of the Critical Media Group's Colloquium series at the Institute of Experimental Design and Media Cultures in Basel. She presented part of her doctoral research in a talk titled, "Mapping Bishop: A Case Study on the Dialogue between Software Models and Literary Analysis."

ABS received an Egalité grant from the Bureau égalité des chances to support a trip to Cambridge, MA to conduct archival research at Harvard's Houghton Library. She taught Introduction to Creative Writing in the fall and arranged the fourth annual public student reading. She coordinated the second annual Institute Writing Awards, which were announced at the end of fall semester. In the spring she taught Talking Point.

Honor Grace Jackson

In 2019-2020 Honor Jackson taught the first-year workshop for *Introduction to Literature in English* with Anne-Claire Michoux for the autumn semester in which we covered drama (Shakespeare's *Hamlet*) and prose (Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*). During the spring semester she taught poetry and critical theory and, alongside Gemma Allred and Philip Gerard, we transformed this class-based, practical and interactive workshop into a digital

format and devised new ways of teaching. Over the summer Honor has been working with professor Emma Depledge to update the curriculum for first year students in the autumn semester.

Honor has continued to work on her PhD, the title and subject of which, 'Gender, Politics, and the Utopian Impulse in Late Seventeenth-Century English Literature' was approved in January 2020. She has received Doc.Mobility funding from the FNS to take a 12 month research trip and consult rare collections at The Huntington Library and The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library in California. The proposed research trip was intended to take place between February 2021 and January 2022 but due to the Covid-19 pandemic will likely be postponed.

In October 2019 Honor attended the SEDERI Junior Researcher Conference in Murcia and presented a paper entitled 'Rewriting Utopia: The Diversity of Subversion in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (1611) and Dryden and Davenant's *The Tempest* (1611); or *The Enchanted Island* (1667)' in which she explored the ways in which utopian elements are rewritten for different contexts and how this can shed light on politics and representations of gender. Honor also attended an online Swiss Paper Day in May 2020 and presented a paper entitled: "'Being Form's to Cheat": Dryden's Eve and the Female Threat in *The State of Innocence and Fall of Man* (1677)' in which she explored the representation of Eve in *The State of Innocence* and related this to contemporary concerns around Catholicism and gender. Honor has been helping to manage the impact of Covid-19 on conferences and events which she was involved in. The international SAMEMES conference which Honor helped to organise alongside Professor Emma Depledge, Dr. Katrin Rupp and Dr. Rory Critten was due to take place in Neuchâtel in September 2020 and has had to be postponed until September 2021. A CUSO workshop Honor had organised on Literary Utopia and Dystopia had to be postponed but is now intended to go ahead in November 2020 in a hybrid online format.

Jérémie Magnin



Jérémie Magnin wrote an article for the 2019 edition of Forum, the journal of the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection, which focused on tourism and protection of cultural

property. His paper, and first publication, entitled “Nineteenth-Century Culture of Visitors’ Books: Zermatt and the Golden Age of British Mountaineering”, examined two hotel visitors’ books from the 1850s and 1860s in Zermatt, to show how British guests identified themselves abroad, how this influenced their material and textual practices, and what their entries reveal about the relation between individuals and national ideology. JM continued scanning hotel visitors’ books for the Swiss Guestbook Project, spending two weeks in St-Moritz, Pontresina and Samedan, in the Grisons. Other archival work was postponed due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Jennifer Rains



I started my doctoral studies in English Linguistics in January 2020 as part of Martin Hilpert's FNS project, "Clipping in a cross-linguistic perspective".

François Spangenberg



François Spangenberg, our institute coordinator, has steered our department through the COVID-semester with the confidence and sang-froid of an experienced captain at sea. We are extremely grateful for your work, François!

I'd like to end this report with another word of thanks, namely to Emma Depledge, who has taken over as Head of the English Institute with the fall semester of 2020. There is no doubt in my mind that Emma will find ways to make the nicest institute at the most attractive university in Switzerland an even better place for all of us.

Martin Hilpert
Neuchâtel, September 2020