

Dr Ben Carver
benjamin.carver@eui.eu

Educational awards and qualifications

2013: Doctor of Philosophy in English (University of Exeter) Thesis title: *Arranging the Past, Reconsidering the Present: The Emergence of Alternate History in the Nineteenth Century*
2009: Master of Arts, English Studies (University of Exeter, Distinction with Dean's commendation)
2004: Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Plymouth University)
1996: MA (Hons) English Literature and Language (University of St Andrews, 2:1)

Publications

Monograph

Alternate Histories and Nineteenth-Century Literature: Untimely Meditations in Britain, France, and America (Palgrave 2017: Nineteenth-Century Writing and Culture series, 300pp) [[link](#)].
Reviewed in *Science Fiction Studies* (46.2) and *Victorian Studies* (forthcoming).

Forthcoming / in press

“‘Strangely Inorganic Patriotism’: Serializing Invasion Fiction at the Turn of the Century’
forthcoming (contract signed), in *English Literary History (ELH)* (c.8,000 words), autumn 2021

Plots: Literary Form and Cultures of Conspiracy (Routledge, eds. Dana Crăciun, Todor Hristov, and Ben Carver), forthcoming 2021

“‘The Cash-Nexus’: Realism and Conspiracy in Balzac and Dickens’ (forthcoming), in *Plots: Literary Form and Cultures of Conspiracy* (Routledge, eds. Dana Crăciun, Todor Hristov, and Ben Carver), forthcoming 2021, contract signed (c.8,000 words)

Published essays, articles, & chapters

‘Genres of conspiracy in nineteenth-century British writing’, in *Routledge Handbook of Conspiracy Theories*, Ed. Michael Butter, 2020 (c.6,500 words)

‘An Entangled Forest: Evolutionary Theory and Speculative Fiction’, *Urbanomic* [online](#), May 2018

“‘All good earthly things are in Utopia also’: Familiarity and Irony in *News from Nowhere* and *A Modern Utopia*’. In *Utopias and Dystopias in the Fiction of H. G. Wells and William Morris: Landscape and Space*, ed. Emelyne Godfrey (Palgrave, 2016)

“‘A Gleaming and Glorious Star’: Rethinking History in the Plurality-of-Worlds Debate’, *Journal of Victorian Culture* 18.4 (December 2013) [open access [link](#)]

Reviews

Maps of Utopia: H. G. Wells, Modernity, and the End of Culture (Simon James, 2012) for *Victoriographies* 4.1 (2014)

The Spectre of Utopia (Matthew Beaumont, 2012) for *Literature & History*: 21.2

Another Earth (dir. Mike Cahill, 2011) for the *New York Review of Science Fiction*: May 2012

Funding & grants awarded

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) funding (€3,000) for ‘Short-term Scientific Mission’ to Sofia University (March 2018)

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST): Membership of ‘Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories’ network: transferable funding for travel and networking (2016-2021)
University of Exeter: Departmental studentship (£75,000) for PhD study (2009-2012)

BAVS: conference grant (£500) for ‘*Strange New Today*’: *Victorians, Crisis and Response* (2011)

PhD examining experience

Examiner of doctoral dissertation ‘Conspiracy theory and conspiracy practice: a novel and exegesis’ for Swinburne University of Technology (Australia).

Employment

2020-present: Teacher of Academic English, European University Institute (Italy)

2018-2020: External lecturer, Aarhus University (Denmark)

‘Literature in English 1: Form and Genre’ (1st-year course, lecturer and seminar tutor)

‘Science Fiction, Technology, & Society’ (2nd-year elective, course convenor)

‘Film Culture’ (2nd-year elective, course convenor)

2014-2018: Lecturer in English, Falmouth University

‘Introduction to Cultural Studies’ (1st-year module, lecturer and seminar tutor)

‘The Knowing Self: Literature and Culture 1540-1688’ (1st-year module)

‘Literature and Screen’ (2nd-year module, convenor and seminar tutor)

‘Cultural Theory and the Politics of the Popular’ (2nd-year module, lecturer and seminar tutor)

‘Making Nations: Literature and Culture (1832-1914)’ (2nd-year module, lecturer and tutor)

‘Representing Utopia’ (2nd-year module, convenor and seminar tutor)

‘Monarchy and Dissent’ (1516-1688) (2nd-year module, lecturer and seminar tutor)

‘Modernisms’ (2nd-year module, lecturer and seminar tutor)

‘Re-Inventing the Victorians’ (2nd-year module, lecturer and seminar tutor)

‘Aftermaths: Literature and Culture 1914-1968’ (3rd-year module, lecturer and seminar tutor)

‘To The Millennium: Literature and Culture 1968-Present’ (3rd-year module, lecturer and seminar tutor)

Final-year undergraduate dissertation supervision (supervision of literature dissertation prize-winners in 2017 & 2018)

2010-2013: Graduate teaching assistant, University of Exeter

‘Academic Literacies I & II’ (1st-year modules, convenor)

‘From Modernism to the Contemporary’ (2nd-year tutor, seminar tutor)

‘Literature and the Environment’ (3rd-year module, convenor and seminar tutor)

Seminar teaching on MA Literature, Place and Identity

Assistant supervision of MA dissertations

2004-2009

Academic Skills Coordinator, Falmouth University. In this role I designed and delivered workshops on academic writing across a range of Arts, Media and Design courses. I also supported students individually with their essays and dissertations. From 2004–2007 I coordinated the EAP (English for Academic Purposes) programme.

Other work experience

2018-

Academic copy-editor. This work includes copy-editing of journal articles (pre-submission) and doctoral dissertations, as a freelance and also for Aarhus University’s Sprogservice.

2010-2011

Transcriber for the [Tyndall Correspondence Project](#). The role involved transcribing hand-written correspondence, which was delivered electronically. Work on this project involved liaison between junior and senior transcribers and with IT specialists involved in the project.

Invited speaker appearances

Public lecture: ‘What is a Conspiracy Theory?’, part of the ‘Fascinating Research Festival’ organized by Aarhus University (April 2019)

Visiting research lecture on history-writing and conspiracy narratives for the History department at Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf (June 2018)

Visiting research lecture on speculative historical thought for the Institute of Critical Social Studies, Sofia University (March 2018)

Media appearances

Interviewed on alternate history novels on Radio 4’s ‘Open Book’ programme (22 May 2016)

Selected conference papers

- “Realist Narration and Conspiracy Form in Balzac and Dickens’. International Society for the Study of Narrative annual [conference](#), Mississippi State University (2020)
- “Cut-Ups for Disastrous Success”: The Composition of William Burroughs’ Paranoid Style’. NAES 2019 annual conference, Aarhus University (2019)
- ‘Fraud and Realism in Balzac’s Short Fiction’. Fraud and Forgery in Literature of the Long Nineteenth Century [conference](#), Aarhus University (2018)
- ‘Poisoned Bullets and Healthy Circulation: Serialised Invasion Narratives and their Readerships’. Research Society for Victorian Periodicals annual [conference](#) (2017)
- ‘Promised Lands: Utopian Topography in Morris and Wells’. Social Fabrics: Utopias and Dystopias in relation to the Work of William Morris and H. G. Wells (2013)
- ‘Lessons from Non-history: Excavating Value from Apocryphal Past in Disraeli and Renouvier’. BAVS annual [conference](#), University of Sheffield (2012)
- ‘Nothing New under the Sun: Nebulae and History’. BAVS annual [conference](#), University of Birmingham (2011)
- ‘The Alternate-historical Form and the Historical Imagination’. BAVS annual [conference](#), University of Glasgow (2010)
- ‘Blanqui’s Eternity: Time’s Challenge to Utopia’. Utopian Studies Society annual [conference](#), Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin (2010)

Additional languages

French: fluent speaker
Polish: intermediate
Italian: beginner

Membership of professional and research centres

Cultural Transformations (Aarhus University-based research network)
Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA)
Member of the British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS)
Member of the International Society for the Study of Narrative (ISSN)

Committee posts

2014-2016: Staff-student liaison group (Falmouth University)
2012: Postgraduate representative on Centre for Victorian Studies committee (University of Exeter)
2010-2011: Postgraduate representative on Staff-student liaison committee (University of Exeter)

Research organization

2018: Coordinator of an international, collaborative online reading of Roland Barthes’ *S/Z*
2011: *‘Strange New Today’: Victorians, Crisis and Response* conference (organizer), University of Exeter / Devon and Exeter Institution
2010: Postgraduate workshop & research-relay event (co-organizer), for PhD students affiliated with the University of Exeter’s Centre for Victorian Studies

Online profile

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ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6156-107X>