

Curriculum Vitae

SIMON COOKE

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QUALIFICATIONS

- 2010 **Ph.D. (Summa Cum Laude)** in English Literature, Justus-Liebig-University, Gießen, Germany. Thesis: 'Travellers' Tales of Wonder in Contemporary Literature: Chatwin, Naipaul, Sebald'.
- 2003 **MA (with Distinction)** in English: Issues in Modern Culture, University College London. Dissertation: 'W.G. Sebald and the "entire questionable business of writing"'. Essays on Franz Kafka, Elizabeth Bishop, Primo Levi, Paul Celan, and the idea of the 'north' in English culture (mainly music).
- 2000 **BA (First Class Honours)** in English Literature, University of Hull. Final year essays on Yevgeny Zamyatin, Franz Kafka, Samuel Beckett, and, in film, Alfred Hitchcock, William Friedkin, Ken Loach, Alexander McKendrick.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-present **Senior Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature**
Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh
- 2014-2022 **Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature**
Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh
- 2012-2014 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh
- 2010 -2012 **Research Fellow in English**
Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2009-2010 **Co-ordinator of the International PhD Programme in Literary and Cultural Studies**
Justus-Liebig University, Gießen, Germany
- 2006-2010 **Research Assistant and Lecturer** in the Department of English and American Studies,
Justus-Liebig-University, Gießen, Germany

SELECTED PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

I've worked as a Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, in Prague (2001), Hull (2001) and London (2004); as a Community Development Worker (Hull, 2001-2); as an Overnight Reader at PressWatch Media (London, 2004-6); and as an in-house supply teacher (Cheney School, Oxford, 2012). I was an editorial intern at the Art Newspaper (London, 2003) and editor of the books section of an online magazine, Culture Wars (London, 2005-6).

PUBLICATIONS

Work-in-progress:

- "'The answer is Giotto": judging literary prizes' (essay).
- *Parting Words* (novella).
- *Baba Yaga's Library: Reading, Writing, and Literary Gifts* (memoir/essay).
- A translation from the German of Jürg Amann's *Patagonien: Prosa* (Piper 1985), with translator's Notes and Afterword.
- *The Thought of Weekday Matinees: Truant Writings* (miscellanea, fragments, 'sidelines').
- *Addresses* (poems).
- *'Life and Work': Modernity and the Literary Life* (literary criticism).
- *Forms of Secrecy: Modernism, Espionage, and the Literary Imagination* (literary criticism).

Books Published:

- *Travellers' Tales of Wonder: Chatwin, Naipaul, Sebald* (EUP: 2013).
- *Essential Study Skills for BA/MA in British and American Studies*, by Richard Humphrey, Ansgar Nünning, Simon Cooke (Stuttgart: Klett, 2007).

Articles:

- 'A "world of method and intrigue": Muriel Spark's Literary Intelligence', in 'Women, Modernism, and Intelligence Work', a Special Issue of *Modernist Cultures* 16:4 (January 2022), co-edited by Simon Cooke and Natalie Ferris.
- Co-author with Natalie Ferris: 'Introduction' to 'Women, Modernism, and Intelligence Work', a Special Issue of *Modernist Cultures* 16:4 (January 2022), co-edited with Natalie Ferris.
- 'Literary Remains: Muriel Spark, Auto/biography, and the Archive', *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* 36: 1 (January 2021). 105-137.
- "'Parler de soi": Jean Rhys and the Uses of Life-Writing', *Transnational Jean Rhys: Lines of Transmission, Lines of Flight*, edited by Juliana Lopoukhine, Frédéric Regard, Kerry-Jane Wallart (London: Bloomsbury, 2020). 65-70.
- 'Inner Journeys: Travel Writing and Life-Writing', commissioned chapter for *The Routledge Companion to Travel Writing*, ed. Carl Thompson, London: Routledge, 2016. 15 pages.
- 'Bruce Chatwin's *In Patagonia* as quest.' Chapter in *Critical Insights: The Hero's Quest*, eds. Bernard Schweizer and Robert Segal. Ipswich, MA: EBSCO Publishing, 2014.
- 'Sebald's Ghosts: Travelling among the Dead in *The Rings of Saturn*', *Writing the Dark Side of Travel*, ed. Jonathan Skinner, New York and Oxford: Berghahn, 2012. 47-62. This book is a revised version of 'Writings on the dark side of travel', a special edition of *Journeys: The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing*, ed. Jonathan Skinner, 11: 1 (July 2010).

- 'The Beginnings of the Modernist Short Story of Consciousness: Henry James's 'The Beast in the Jungle'', *A History of the American Short Story*, ed. Michael Basseler and Ansgar Nünning, Stuttgart, 2011.
- 'English as a Foreign Literature: English Studies as a Travelling Concept', *The European Journal of English Studies*, guest eds. Birgit Neumann and Frederik Tygestrup, Spring 2009.
- 'Cultural Memory on the Move: The Dynamics of Memory in the Contemporary Travel Narrative', *Mediation, Remediation, and the Dynamics of Cultural Memory*, eds. Astrid Erll and Ann Rigney, Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 2009 (paperback edition published 2012).
- 'A "convenient vehicle for miscellaneous discussions": Literature, Science and the Travelogue', *The Knowledge of Literature VII*, ed. Angela Locatelli, Bergamo: Bergamo University Press, 2008.
- "'Unprofitable excursions": The Ethics of Empathy in Modernist Discourses on Art and Literature', *Ethics in Culture: The Dissemination of Value in Literature and Other Media*, eds. Herbert Grabes and Astrid Erll. Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 2008.
- 'The "ghosts of repetition": On the Recurrence and Correspondences of Sebald's Date of Birth in the Poetry and Prose Fictions', *Narrative and Identity: Theoretical Approaches and Critical Analyses*, eds. Ansgar Nünning and Birgit Neumann, Trier: WVT, 2008.
- "'Always somewhere else": Generic "unclassifiability" in the work of W.G. Sebald', *Gattungstheorie und Gattungsgeschichte*, eds. Marion Gymnich, Birgit Neumann and Ansgar Nünning, Trier: WVT, 2007.

Reviews and Journalistic Articles

- 'Movement and Belonging: Lines, Places, and Spaces of Travel by Carol E. Leon', commissioned for *Studies in Travel Writing*, 2012.
- "V. S. Naipaul: Die Reiseberichte." Trans. by Stefanie Schäfer for *Kindlers Neues Literatur Lexikon*, ed. Walter Jens (München, Systema: 2009).
- "The Humanities in Europe Today: The ESSCS in Context." Lead article in *The European Summer School in Cultural Studies Magazine 2007: Ways of Worldmaking*, Gießen / ESSCS: December 2007.
- 'On Beauty by Zadie Smith', invited for *Culture Wars* on award of the Orange Prize, August 2006 (online). Published numerous reviews at the e-review as books editor, on books including *Everyman* by Philip Roth, *Edge of the Orison: In the Traces of John Clare's Journey out of Essex* by Iain Sinclair, *The Sea* by John Banville, and "'On Meritocracy": A lecture by George Steiner to launch the Young Foundation', between 2005 and 2006.
- 'The Expressionist Roots of Modernism by Peter Lasko and Manet, Flaubert and the Emergence of Modernism by Arden Reed', *The Art Newspaper*, September, 2004.
- 'Animal art under attack', with accompanying commentary from philosopher Peter Singer, *The Art Newspaper*, January 2004.
- 'Exhibition preview: *Le grand jeu* and surrealism (Rheims, France)', *The Art Newspaper*, December 2003.
- 'Ethnographic exhibitions 2004' (one of 12 essays for the annual magazine, surveying worldwide exhibitions and trends), *The Art Newspaper*, December 2003.

PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC EVENTS

- 'Distant Selves', keynote lecture for 'Autobiography on the Move', Jean Monnet University, Saint Etienne, in collaboration with Paul Valéry University, Montpellier III, May 2022.

- 'Muriel Spark's Literary Intelligence', invited talk at the 20th Century and Contemporary Literature Graduate Research Seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2020.
- 'Muriel Spark 100', at the Cuckfield Bookfest - invited panellist, with Prof Patricia Waugh and Dr Colin Mcllroy, to mark the centenary of Muriel Spark's birth, October 2018.
- "'Parler de soi": Jean Rhys and Auto/biography', paper accepted at 'Transmission Lines: An International Jean Rhys Conference', Sorbonne University, Paris, June 2018.
- 'Literary Remains: Muriel Spark and the Archive', paper accepted at 'Memories, Traces, Imprints: An International and Interdisciplinary Conference', Jean Monnet University, Saint Etienne, November 2017.
- 'Literature, Modernity, and Mobility', invited contribution to an Interdisciplinary Symposium, 'Ideas on the Move', SLU (Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet) Alnarp, Sweden, September, 2015.
- 'Life and Work: Modernity and the Literary Life', invited talk at the Edinburgh English Literature Seminars, February 2014.
- 'Travellers' Tales of Wonder', invited talk at the 20th Century and Contemporary Literature Graduate Research Seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2013.
- 'Travel and Walking', panel chair, W.G. Sebald: An International and Interdisciplinary Conference, UEA Norwich, September 2008.

TEACHING

Recent courses designed and taught (University of Edinburgh)

Postgraduate core course organiser and tutor:

- Modernist Aesthetics, MSc Literature and Modernity core course, 2014-2020 (with Dr Benjamin Bateman 2018-2020).

Undergraduate/Postgraduate option course organiser and tutor:

- Modern and Contemporary Life-Writing. 2021-present.
- Fiction and Espionage (with Prof Penny Fielding). 2018-present.
- Cities of Literature: Metropolitan Modernities (with Prof David Farrier), 2016-18/2023.

Postgraduate workshops:

- Translating Travel Writing (for the MSc in Translation Studies).
- International Approaches in the Humanities.
- Travel Writing as Research Field.
- Working with Author Archives.
- Travel Theory, 'Travelling Theory' and Transatlantic Travellers as Theorists.

Doctoral Research Supervision:

- Angus Sutherland - "'Opaque images of broken rebellion": W.G. Sebald's Emblematics.' Successful award 2023.
- Nicole Chen – 'A "Self in Process": Contemporary Biofictions of Virginia Woolf.' Successful award 2022.
- Saori Mita – 'Queer Spies in Literature, Film, TV, and Theatre' (jointly supervised with - as lead - Dr David Sorfa. Successful award 2021.

- Alan Goodson – ‘The Real Figure in the Carpet: Biofiction and the Making of Henry James.’ PhD p/t, year 3.
- Maxime Geervliet – ‘The Self on Trial: Confession in Knausgaard, Cusk and Almadhoun.’ PhD, year 3.
- Rosie Sinclair – ‘Muriel Spark and Music’ (jointly supervised with Allyson Stack). PhD p/t, year 2.
- MScR II (one-year thesis): Alan Goodson – ‘The Foreigner in (Popular) Fiction: Comparing Victorian and Contemporary Representations’. Successful award 2018.
- MScR II: Adam Bloom (one-year thesis) - ‘Vladimir Nabokov and the Real.’ Successful award 2015.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Moray Endowment Trust funding (£800) for a three-week research trip to the McFarlin Library, University of Tulsa, to research the Muriel Spark Papers.
- Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA) funding for ‘Travel and Truth’, a conference co-organised September 2011 (£2,500) at Wolfson College, Oxford, underwritten by Oxford’s John Fell Fund. Application made with Clare Broome-Saunders and Tom F. Wright. Led to the publication *Women, Travel Writing, and Truth*, edited by Clare Broome-Saunders (London: Routledge, 2014).

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2020-present – Founder and convenor of the Edinburgh Life-Writing Network (ELWN): <http://blogs.ed.ac.uk/elwn>.
- 2021-present – Co-founder and co-convenor of the Edinburgh Network for Studies in Secrecy (ENSIS): <http://blogs.ed.ac.uk/ensis>.
- 2014-2019 – Co-director of Edinburgh Spy Week: www.spyweek.ed.ac.uk.
- 2019-present – Lead Judge for the James Tait Black Prize (in Biography): www.ed.ac.uk/events/james-tait-black/.
- 2011-2012 – Co-founder and former co-convenor of podcast interview series, Between the Lines: Conversations in Translation (with Prof Timothy Mathews (UCL)): www.ucl.ac.uk/european-languages-culture/news-events/podcasts.