

## British Association for Modernist Studies

### **Applications for Executive Steering Committee, 2021**

#### Background

This year, the BAMS Executive Steering Committee is looking to fill three vacant academic positions and two PG Representative positions. At the close of the application period, we received three academic applications, and five PG Representative applications, all of which included nominations from existing BAMS members. The names, bios and statements are listed below.

#### Election

The election to fill these positions will run from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> February. On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, members will receive a link from the BAMS membership team through Election Buddy (please check your spam folders for this link if you don't receive it on 22<sup>nd</sup> January). This link will allow you to register your votes for the election. The results of the election will be posted on the BAMS website and on BAMS social media after the election closes. If you have any questions about the election, please get in touch with Dan Moore ([d.t.moore@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.t.moore@bham.ac.uk))

#### Applications, Bios and Statements

##### *Academic Applications*

Because we have 3 applications to fill 3 vacancies, we are posting these applications and confirming that, unless the committee receives an objection to an application, all 3 will be elected unopposed on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, for a 3 year term on the committee.

1) Dr Barbara Cooke (Loughborough University)

*Statement:*

I've always enjoyed my relationship with BAMS in the past. I've reviewed for *Modernist Cultures*, and presented at BAMS conferences. I was impressed by the 2019 Troubled Modernisms organisers' solidarity with the Senate House staff, and commitment to a diverse range of keynote speakers. I would be keen to help safeguard BAMS' commitment to diversity and promote professional responsibility and accountability at BAMS events. In particular, I wish to support your work in offering platforms to 'non traditional' speakers so that the society may be firmly embedded in a wider artistic, intellectual and ethical community. I like spotting synergies between areas of research that may at first seem disparate, and bringing together researchers and practitioners who may not otherwise be aware of one another's work to promote new paths of enquiry. As the past year has forced us all to upskill in terms of remote and video conferencing, I would look to be using these tools in the future not only to secure greater accessibility for BAMS events but also to revolutionise the ways conferences and symposia are 'done', using digital platforms not just to mitigate for physical absence but to diversify modes of presentation and engagement too. As regards physical events, as a permanent member of Loughborough University Staff I can book rooms in both our Midlands and London campuses free of charge. The London campus is on the edge of Olympic Park, in Here East, so very well located for international and national travel.

*Bio:*

Dr Barbara Cooke is the Research Theme Lead for Textual Editing and Interpretation at Loughborough University. Her interests in twentieth-century and modernist (auto)biography, life writing and archival research underpin her current project, OUP's Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh. She serves as co-executive editor with Professor Martin Stannard on this 43-volume edition, which is under the general editorship of Alexander Waugh. She has recently co-edited Waugh's autobiography *A Little Learning* for the project and is now at work on the autobiographical 'conversation piece' *The Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold*. She has written on twentieth-century literary subjects for *The Conversation* and is contributing to the *Bloomsbury Handbook of Modernism and the Archive*.

2) Dr Udith Dematagoda (Waseda University, Tokyo)

*Statement:*

I'm of the belief that modernist studies need not only concern itself with the specific geographic regions from which it purportedly originated, nor only with modernism as a historically limited object of study - or one which comprises a canon, however inclusive. Although I'm from the UK, and received all of my education there, I've come to this understanding from spending extended periods of time abroad, but somehow always reflecting back during the various crises of the past years. During my PhD I was a *lecteur d'anglais* at the University of Nice - afterwards I spent three years as a postdoctoral fellow in the *Zukunftskolleg* at the University of Konstanz, and very recently started a position as Assistant Professor at Waseda University in Tokyo. My main aims, if elected, are to build upon the efforts by this scholarly community of truly embracing the notion of a truly Global Modernism; to encourage the insertion of modernist scholarship into current debates within critical theory and philosophy, and ultimately to promote the utility of literary scholarship to an understanding of contemporary culture, politics and society. As an early career scholar, I believe that communicating my experience of navigating the international job market will be of value to PhD students at all stages. I would also bring to this position my experience of being elected to the Executive Committee of the *Zukunftskolleg*, both as an ordinary member for two years, and as acting Chair for six months. I will do my best to facilitate and promote modernist studies in the UK and internationally.

*Bio:*

Udith Dematagoda is Assistant Professor at Waseda University in Tokyo. He received his PhD in English from The University of Glasgow in 2016. From 2017-2020, he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the *Zukunftskolleg*, an institute of advanced study based in the University of Konstanz, and has held visiting positions at Cornell and Johns Hopkins. He is author of *Vladimir Nabokov and the Ideological Aesthetic* (2017), and editor of *Left Wings Over Europe*, a volume of the *Collected Works of Wyndham Lewis* forthcoming through Oxford University Press. His second book, nearing completion, explores the confluence of masculinity, technology and ideology within fascist modernism. Apart from Lewis, it considers work by Louis Ferdinand Céline, Pierre Drieu la Rochelle, Henry de Montherlant, Julius Evola, and Gottfried Benn, among others. He has acted as peer-reviewer for *Modernism/Modernity*, and his articles, essays and reviews have appeared in *The Journal of Wyndham Lewis Studies*, *Modernist Cultures*, *The Slavonic and East European Review*, *The Journal of Extreme Anthropology*, and *Studies in the Novel*. He is also the general editor of Hyperidean Press, an independent literary press dedicated to experimental prose and poetry which he co-founded in 2020.

### 3) Dr Rob Hawkes (Teesside University)

#### *Statement:*

As a long-standing member, I have seen first-hand how BAMS has shaped, invigorated, and inspired an expansive, inclusive, and welcoming research landscape in Modernist Studies in the UK (and beyond) since its inception. From large international conferences held over several days to smaller one-day/online events, research networks, clusters and seminar series such as the NMS, SNoMS and LMS, the events and groupings that have proliferated under BAMS form a vibrant, interconnected web of activity.

I have been a member of the Ford Madox Ford Society's Executive Committee since 2009, have played an active role in promoting the Society via social media and, in 2013, I redesigned and took over the management of the Society's website. In 2012, I co-organised 'Ford Madox Ford's *Parade's End*: Modernism and the First World War', a three-day international conference held at the Institute of English Studies; in 2014, I hosted the Northern Modernism Seminar at Teesside University; and, in 2017, I was a member of the organising committee for the inaugural 'English: Shared Futures' conference.

I believe these experiences demonstrate my potential to make a significant contribution to the work of the BAMS Executive Steering Committee in coordinating activities and seeking new opportunities to expand and develop the organisation's work. At an increasingly precarious time for Higher Education and scholarship in the UK, I believe that BAMS has a vital role to play in demonstrating the enduring importance of Modernist Studies – and the Humanities more broadly – in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *Bio:*

Dr Rob Hawkes is Senior Lecturer in English Studies at Teesside University. He is the author of *Ford Madox Ford and the Misfit Moderns: Edwardian Fiction and the First World War* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); and co-editor of *Ford Madox Ford's Parade's End: The First World War, Culture, and Modernity* (Rodopi, 2014); *War and the Mind: Ford Madox Ford's Parade's End, Modernism, and Psychology* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015); and *An Introduction to Ford Madox Ford* (Routledge, 2015). He is a Fellow of the English Association and a member of the Executive Committee of the Ford Madox Ford Society.

## Postgraduate Representative Applications

### 1) Gill Beagent (PhD Candidate at University of Chester)

#### Statement:

Being a member of BAMs has been enriching and enjoyable. I presented at the NWiMS Conference in December 2019 in Liverpool and met many people who I still keep in touch with. The ModWrite is a supportive, disciplined and friendly space in which to focus on projects work and the conferences are always inspiring.

#### My BAMs Vision:

1. To maintain the high quality of support and services provided by the British Association of Modernist Studies (BAMs) through pro-active engagement with the Modernist studies community, quality communication and organisation.
2. In the context of the on-going pandemic, and the restrictions and strains this places on individuals in their research and work, I believe it is important to maintain high-quality on-line support for the foreseeable future. The continuence of events such as ModWrite and conferences are important to the furtherance of this goal.
3. I also propose exploring the possibility of collaborative working with libraries and other institutions, such as the British Library and university libraries in America, who hold valuable research materials, to consider facilitating on-line events where materials could be displayed and discussed. A 'round table' event I recently attended, where individuals shared objects, which have assisted their research, is the inspiration for this idea. Through our discussion in ModWrite yesterday, a prevailing concern for students is the frustration of not being able to access information held in libraries and, if it is possible to find some common resources which a group of individuals are interested in, a collaborative event might go some way to supporting members.
4. When live events are again allowed I would like to be part of the team who bring together Modernist studies individuals both safely and responsibly. Ensuring adherence to guidelines to ensure safe, informative and enjoyable events, where important networking opportunities and the sharing of research enhances the Modernist studies experience, will be an important aspect of this.

#### Bio:

I am a second year PhD English Student with the University of Chester. The working title for my research is, 'Contextualising Space and Place in the novels of Elizabeth Taylor.' This author first came to my attention in 2017 when I attended the British Library event, *Typesetting Feminism: Virago Press: The history and impact of the feminist imprint*. This timely introduction led me to research Elizabeth Taylor's novels for my MA, with the Open University, for which I was awarded a distinction.

Prior to this, I worked in Local Government, latterly in a project management role supporting a group of forty Headteachers across all phases of education. In this position I was responsible for identifying common issues and creating solutions which included, facilitating collaborative projects, conferences

and training. After juggling full-time work and part-time education I was awarded an upper second-class honours degree and following this took early retirement to enable me to continue my studies.

2) Emily Bell (PhD candidate at University of Antwerp)

*Statement:*

In the last year, when rubbing elbows was exchanged for bumping them, virtuality has provided much-needed respite from the isolation of PhD work. Online conferences have established international channels of communication for many of us. Mindful of my geographical position as a student in Belgium, my involvement in BAMS beyond the immediate crisis (plus the nascent post-Brexit era) is likely to retain elements of the virtual; I believe this is mutually beneficial for BAMS' accessibility and European ties.

NWiMS 2020 was pivotal for me: my apprehensions over presenting digitally dissolved when met with the convivial atmosphere of this conference. I am motivated to facilitate more such events and connectivity, from ECR networking opportunities to low-stakes reading groups. As a liaison for doctoral Literature students at Antwerp – compiling newsletters and establishing social initiatives, such as a book club – I have experience of this role's communicative responsibilities.

My warm introduction to BAMS through NWiMS chimes with my experience of reading *The Modernist Review*. My longstanding enthusiasm for creative and academic writing alike – notwithstanding some sketch comedy strings to my bow – give me confidence to continue the congenial tone of the editorials. Another thematic issue could be centred on 'delay', resonating with the indefinite postponements of the last year. Indeed, to be talking about modernism at this one-hundred-year distance bears significance. I hope to utilise *TMR's* interdisciplinarity and multimedia to reflect on centenaries: publications, exhibitions, concerts, events and films, whether little known or firmly canonical. Sinking into the modernist quagmire, dredging up forgotten relics will forge new relationships with our modernist past and peers.

*Bio:*

Emily Bell began her PhD at the University of Antwerp with the Centre for Manuscript Genetics in October 2019, having previously studied at the National University of Ireland, Galway (MA, 2019) and the University of Oxford (BA, 2017). Focusing on intertextuality in the works of James Joyce and other near-contemporaneous intertextualists, her research aims to elicit a continuity between pre- and post-modernist intertextual methods, pushing back on Joycean exceptionalism. Her PhD also comprises the realisation of a digital edition of Joyce's library. She has presented at the James Joyce Italian Foundation's annual conference (January 2020) and BAMS' New Work in Modernist Studies (December 2020). She has published two academic book reviews in the *James Joyce Broadsheet*.

3) Jennifer Cameron (PhD candidate at University of Hertfordshire)

*Statement:*

The past year, more than any other, has taught me how important connections are. Connections with others in the same field as yourself are important. Belonging to a community, sharing ideas, whether in person, on Zoom or through print will always put a smile on my face and that is why I want to be part of the team that keeps the BAMS community going.

Reading the Modernist Review is something I look forward to every month. I am keen to help continue printing this excellent research. A special 'Fashion and Modernity' or 'Modernist Colours' issue, inspired by my research, is a secret wish of mine but I would also like to showcase recently completed PhD theses.

One thing I would really like to introduce is a modernist book group. This would be held online but hopefully in the future a face to face meeting could be organised to coincide with BAMS conferences. Given the success of ModZoom, which I have thoroughly enjoyed each week, I think a monthly book group would be a great way to meet fellow modernists and to broaden our reading horizons.

Conferences are an extremely enjoyable and essential part of postgraduate research and the New Work in Modernist Studies conference is one of the friendliest I have been to. I feel my experience of organising residential conferences for an embroidery group which I am a member of, would be invaluable in this role. Particularly my experience organising conference space, facilities, fees and entertainment.

I hope you will consider me for this role.

*Bio:*

Jennifer Cameron is a second year PhD student and Visiting Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Hertfordshire. She is currently researching the cultural and social significance of the colour of dress in modernist literature, written by women in the 1920s. Prior to this she holds a Master of Arts with Distinction in English Literature from the University of Hertfordshire and an LLB (Hons) from the University of Glasgow.

#### 4) Domonique Davies (PhD candidate at University of Reading)

*Statement:*

Having started my PhD in September 2020, I joined BAMS upon recommendation from my supervisors. Attending the 'New Work in Modernist Studies' conference in December 2020 was an eye-opening experience to a range of fantastic and exciting work, and I came out of the conference feeling that I was part of a wider research community.

The greatest contribution I can make to BAMS is my willingness to get involved with all aspects of the PG rep role. I would like to work alongside others to continue the innovative work of the current PG reps, such as ModZoom, and creating connections between modernist researchers. Continuing to create an inclusive and inviting environment for new PGRs within BAMS and building up teaching resources for PGRs and ECAs are elements I am eager to build upon. I would be interested to explore the possibility of holding an event for those looking to undertake a PhD in modernist studies and providing them with information and advice around applications and funding.

During my MA at the University of Kent, I was one of four editors of the postgraduate journal *Litterae Mentis*. The role involved:

- Generating and advertising the CfP
- Answering emails, maintaining the website and social media
- Selecting abstracts and sourcing peer reviewers
- Proof-reading articles and writing the editorial

My previous job was in events, running UNIQ, a large-scale residential programme for Year 12 students at the University of Oxford. From this I have experience in planning and organising events, (online and in person) and would be excited to utilise my experience for BAMS events.

Bio:

Domonique Davies is in the first year of her PhD at the University of Reading. Her project looks at the work of Wallace Stevens in relation to ecocritical studies. Her work aims to show how Stevens was moving towards a form of ecopoetry through investigation into his theoretical ideas on poetry in his letters and essays, and close readings of selected poems. Outside of research she dabbles in writing poetry, most of which is about plants.

5) Elena Zolotariov (PhD candidate at the Institute of English Studies, University of London)

*Statement:*

As a postgraduate representative of BAMS, I'd firstly want to strengthen what is already in place: especially with *The Modernist Review* that is committed to engage with global modernisms on an interdisciplinary level. While I've worked on publications such as [The Menteur](#) where it was my responsibility to secure submissions through submittable and find ways to appeal to a wide audience, I'm currently editing my university's [student-led organization blog](#) (which I founded). We post a variety of articles weekly, so I've learned to work in a fast-paced environment. In a similar vein, I'd help to put together an electronic version on Issuu of the *Modernist Review* that you could flick through digitally. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, I think there are fun and engaging ways to come together as a community through modernist book clubs and rewinding tea and coffee sessions (virtually for the time being!) where the visual and the literary come together in conversation (such as Gertrude Stein next to a cubist painting, which, I know, is a cliché). One of the things I enjoyed most in my previous roles was to bring people together through our mutual interests and also, to expose individuals to new and fresh ideas by bringing academics and creative voices together. For instance, facilitating a conversation between author Yelena Moskovich and Professor Claire Davison as one of the events for Dangerous Ideas opened up many interesting avenues to discuss surrealism, Djuna Barnes, theatre, and performativity.

*Bio:*

Elena Zolotariov is a 1st year PhD candidate at the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. She is an English literature graduate of Aberystwyth University, where she completed her BA (Hons.) in 2017, and the University of Kent's Paris School of Arts and Culture, where she gained her MA (Dist.) in 2019. She is currently focusing on the life and works of Ernest Hemingway under the supervision of Professor Sarah Churchwell and Dr Christopher Ohge. Her current roles include being the President of the student-organization for the School of Advanced Study named [SASiety](#) and co-organizing an International Women's Day Symposium. Her previous roles include president of [The Paris Society](#), [Director of Dangerous Ideas Festival](#), Publicity and Designer of a literary and arts magazine named [The Menteur](#).