

Dr Sherah Wells

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Research Interests: 20th-century British and American literature, particularly modernism and post-war; psychoanalysis and psychiatric reform as they engage with issues of domesticity and privacy; medical humanities; literature and space; critical theory, particularly feminist; Catholicism in literature; life-writing

Academic Qualifications

2004-2009: PhD in English Literature, University of Warwick

Thesis Title: ‘Another world,/Its walls are thin’: Psychosis and Catholicism in the Texts of Antonia White and Emily Holmes Coleman

Supervisor: Dr Emma Francis Examiners: Dr Tracy Hargreaves, Dr Gill Frith

2002-2003: MA in English Literature, University of Warwick

2002: BA in English Literature (minor Political Science) with department and university honours, *summa cum laude*, University of Memphis

Research Awards and Funding

Awards

£6,000: Centre for Advanced Studies Post-Doctoral Research Bursary, University of Nottingham, awarded January 2010

£4,200: Institute of Advanced Study Early Career Fellowship, University of Warwick, awarded January 2009

University of Memphis English Department Distinguished Scholarship Award, presented to one graduating English major each year, awarded April 2002

Archival Research

£300: American Study and Student Exchanges Committee Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Travel Fund, University of Warwick, April 2006

Invited Papers, Accepted Papers, Seminars:

£480: Madness and Literature Network, University of Nottingham, 2010

£325: Graduate School, University of Warwick, 2007

£750: Department of English, University of Warwick, 2005-2007

£60: Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London, 2006

£100: University of Nottingham, 2005

Peer Reviewed Publications

Journal Essays

“The Self which Surfaces: Competing Maternal Discourses in *A Proper Marriage*”, *Doris Lessing Studies*, 30.1 (2011) 7-12

Book Chapters

“Strand by Strand: Untying the Knots of Mental and Physical Illness in the Correspondence and Diaries of Antonia White and Emily Holmes Coleman”, in *The Tapestry of Health, Illness, and Disease*, ed. by Peter Twohig, Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009, pp. 43-53, ISBN: 9789042025158

“ ‘The power to love without desiring to possess’: Feminine Becoming through Silence in the Texts of Antonia White”, in *Luce Irigaray: Teaching*, ed. by Luce Irigaray and Mary Green, London: Continuum, 2008, pp. 24-35, ISBN: 9781847060686

Encyclopaedia entries

“*The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton”, in *Facts on File Encyclopaedia: General Themes in Literature*, ed. by Jennifer McClinton-Temple, New York: Facts on File, 2010, pp. 1122-3, ISBN: 9780816071616

“Community in *The Age of Innocence*”, in *General Themes in Literature*, p. 1123

“Love in *The Age of Innocence*”, in *General Themes in Literature*, p. 1124-5

“Social Class in *The Age of Innocence*”, in *General Themes in Literature*, p. 1125-6

“*The Optimist’s Daughter* by Eudora Welty”, in *Facts on File Encyclopaedia: General Themes in Literature*, ed. by Jennifer McClinton-Temple, New York: Facts on File, 2010, p. 1119, ISBN: 9780816071616

“Death in *The Optimist’s Daughter*”, in *General Themes in Literature*, p. 1120

“Family in *The Optimist’s Daughter*”, in *General Themes in Literature*, p. 1120-1

“Memory in *The Optimist’s Daughter*”, in *General Themes in Literature*, p. 1121-2

“ ‘The Bishop’s Lunch’ by Michèle Roberts”, *Facts on File Companion to the British Short Story*, ed. by Andrew Maunder, New York: Facts on File, 2007, pp. 33-4, ISBN: 9780816059904

“ ‘Playing Sardines’ by Michèle Roberts”, *Facts on File Companion to the British Short Story*, pp. 338-9

Online reviews

“*The Bird’s Nest* by Shirley Jackson”, 12 April 2010, www.madnessandliterature.org, 500 words

“*The Shutter of Snow* by Emily Holmes Coleman”, 8 October 2009, www.madnessandliterature.org, 500 words

In progress

“Performing *The Tygon*”, in preparation for *a/b:Auto/Biography*, 6,000 words

“At Home in Exile: Wodehouse and Masculine Constructions of Domesticity”, in preparation, 8,000 words

Privacy and Mental Health in Anglo-American Fiction 1945-1969, monograph, estimated completion, October 2015

Teaching Experience

Postgraduate

Department of English, University of Warwick

Tutor and Lecturer, Academic Writing Programme

2012: MSc in Finance/Finance and Economics (Academic Writing Programme)

Department of Sociology, University of Warwick

Sessional Teacher

2011: Feminist Epistemologies in Action (Convenor)

Undergraduate

Department of English, University of Warwick

Tutor, English Literature and Academic Writing Programme

- 2012: Computer Science Professional Skills (Academic Writing Programme)
- 2011-2012: Modes of Reading
- 2008-2009: U S Writing and Culture, 1780-1920
- 2007-2008: The European Novel
Literature in the Modern World, 1900-1960
- 2006-2007: Literature in the Modern World
- 2005-2006: Literature in the Modern World
Modes of Reading

Department of English, Newman University College

Visiting Lecturer

- 2012: 18th-Century Literature (Convenor)
Early Modern Identities (Co-Convenor)

School of English, University of Nottingham

Tutor

- 2010-2011: Invention and Tradition
- 2011: 20th Century: Forms in Transition

Department of English, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee

Instructor

- 2004: Introduction to University Writing
- 2003: English Composition

Invited Papers

“Developing your career in an interdisciplinary environment”, Department of English PG Symposium, University of Warwick, 27 June 2012

“Beyond the Looking Glass: 1950s Cultural Representations of Women’s Mental Health”, Centre for Advanced Studies Seminar Series, University of Nottingham, 10 May 2010

“Teaching Luce Irigaray”, Luce Irigaray Conference, University of Liverpool, 16 June 2007

“The Space Where Silence Takes Place: Antonia White’s Interaction with Catholicism as a Means of Cultivating Feminine Becoming”, In all the World We are Always Only Two: Towards a Culture of Intersubjectivity, University of Nottingham, 23-25 June 2006

Professional Development

Psychiatric Narratives Workshop, University of Glamorgan, Glamorgan Archives, 23 November 2011

Roundtable: Cooperation and Collaboration in Research in Literature, Postgraduate Research Symposium, Invited Speaker, University of Warwick, 22 June 2011

Collaboration Day: Madness in Literature and Language: Future Steps in Health Humanities at Nottingham University, Invited Attendee, Nottingham, March 2010

Teaching Practice Seminar Series, University of Warwick, 2005

Dangerous Bodies: Women and Modern Medicine, 1830-1950, Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, 2005

Selected Peer Reviewed Conference Papers

“Authority, Masculinity, and Exile: Bertie’s Anxiety in the Bedroom”, Space and Place in Middlebrow: 1900-1950, Institute of English Studies, University of London, 14 September 2012

“‘No Family, No Neurosis’: Doris Lessing’s Representations of 1950s Female Sexuality”, MLA Annual Convention, Los Angeles, 6-9 January 2011

“Publicly Private, Privately Public: Emily Dickinson and Emily Holmes Coleman”, International Conference on Narrative, University of Birmingham, 4-6 June 2009

“I am Sick of Clara: Antonia White’s Problematization of the Autobiographical Novel”, International Conference on Narrative, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., 15-18 March 2007

“Strand by Strand: Untying the Knots of Mental and Physical Illness in the Correspondence and Diaries of Antonia White and Emily Holmes Coleman”, Making Sense Of: Health, Illness, and Disease, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, 12-15 July 2006

“‘I Dare Say I Shall Coalesce into Some Sort of Human Shape Soon’: Psychosis and the Female Body in the Texts of Antonia White and Emily Holmes Coleman”, Arts and Humanities Research Council, Study Day: Memory, Illness, and the Body, The Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, London, 11 May 2006

“Dissolution of an Irreducible Difference: Madness in the Texts of Antonia White”, The Human and Its Others, American Comparative Literary Association Annual Meeting, Princeton University, New Jersey, 23-26 March 2006

“Preparing a Place of Proximity: Applying Irigaray’s Theory to the Literary Depiction of Psychosis”, Applying Irigaray: An Interdisciplinary Panel, Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies Graduate Forum, University of London School of Advanced Studies, 6 December 2005

Participation in National Symposia

Luce Irigaray Seminar for PhD Students, University of Nottingham, 16-21 May 2005

Conferences and Symposia Organization

Festival Committee Member, Early Career and PhD Programme Leader, Festival Social Sciences, University of Warwick, May 2011

Co-organizer and Administrator for Luce Irigaray’s Plenary Speech and postgraduate student seminar, part of the *Rethinking Identities and Cultures* series, University of Warwick, May 2006

Convenor, Arts Faculty Postgraduate Research Seminar, University of Warwick, 2005-2006

Member of Organizing Committee, First Annual University of Warwick Postgraduate Research Symposium, 2005

University Administration

Administrator, ESRC Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre, University of Warwick, April 2011 – January 2012

Office Coordinator, Centre for Globalisation and Regionalisation, Office of Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research in the Arts and Social Sciences, University of Warwick, August 2010 – March 2011

Memberships

Associate Student Researcher, Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, 2010 -

Feminist and Women’s Studies Association UK and Ireland, 2010 -

Modern Language Association, 2010 -

Madness and Literature Network, 2009 -