

# Call for Expression of Interest



Arts and Humanities Research Council



Midlands4Cities  
Doctoral Training Partnership  
Birmingham Coventry Leicester Nottingham

## The Creative and the Critical: Creative Writing for Researchers

### A Midlands4Cities Dialogue Day

The University of Warwick

29 May 2025

10:00 – 17:00



#### Programmes on the Dialogue Day

- ✎ Two creative writing workshops led by experienced writers (Elaine Chiew and Leanne Moden) where you will learn the fundamentals of writing fiction and poetry, and you will have the opportunity to write your own poem and flash fiction.
- ✎ A roundtable discussion between creative writers and researchers to explore the relationship between the creative and the critical modes of writing.



Traditionally, there has been an invisible division between creative and critical practices. Researchers of literature and culture do not have to write fiction and poetry themselves, and their writing does not have to make sense to a general readership. Nor do creative writers have to write academic texts. Some would argue that the creative and the critical belong to different realms that do not intersect. However, there are myriad ways in which academic researchers would benefit from having creative writing skills. Similarly, creative writers could produce more interesting and engaging work by addressing critical questions or contexts.

This M4C Dialogue Day aims to explore the reciprocal relationship between the creative and the critical by bringing scholars, PhD researchers, and creative writers together. It invites two experienced creative writers (Elaine Chiew and Leanne Moden) to offer fiction and poetry workshops to PhD researchers, and PhD researchers to share their experiences of writing creatively. At the end of the day, participants will have produced two short draft pieces of creative writing (poetry and flash fiction). They will also have gained a deeper understanding of the topic and expanded their employability skillset. This will hopefully inspire many participants to consider writing for the public and working in creative and cultural industries.



#### Leanne Moden

- Poet, theatremaker, and educator
- Semi-finalist at the BBC Edinburgh Fringe Slam in 2018
- Published works including *First Flight: A Poetry Anthology by the Paper Crane Poets*, *Get Over Yourself*, and *Liaisons*

#### Elaine Chiew

- Writer and visual arts researcher
- Longlisted for the Cheshire Novel Prize, twice winner of the Bridport
- Published works including *The Light Between Us*, *The Heartsick Diaspora*, and *Cooked Up: Food Fiction From Around the World*



#### Jane Qian Liu

- Associate professor in Translation and Chinese Studies (University of Warwick)
- Published works including *Transcultural Lyricism: Translation, Intertextuality, and the Rise of Emotion in Modern Chinese Love Fiction, 1899-1925*, 'The Family Man', and 'The Disrupted'

#### Hongwei Bao

- Associate professor in Media Studies (University of Nottingham)
- Published works including *The Passion of the Rabbit*, *Dream of the Orchid Pavilion*, *Queering the Asian Diaspora*, and *Queer China Lesbian and Gay Literature and Visual Culture under Postsocialism*

#### Application

To apply for a place on the M4C Dialogue Day, please send an Expression of Interest (EoI) with the following documents to Dr Qian Liu (qian.liu.1@warwick.ac.uk) and Dr Hongwei Bao (hongwei.bao@nottingham.ac.uk) before **24 March 2025**.

- ✎ A statement (maximum one page) of who you are, what course you are on and why you are interested in this M4C Dialogue Day, explaining how your current PhD study or your future career may benefit from this opportunity.
- ✎ A short writing sample of your creative work in English (and it does not have to be already published or publishable): up to 1,000 words for prose, and up to 100 lines for poetry.
- ✎ Optional: A short statement about whether you need to apply for a travel bursary, how much the cost is anticipated to be and what it will be used for.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome in two weeks after the EoI deadline.

#### Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ You are a PhD researcher currently enrolled at one of the M4C institutions.
- ✓ You are new to creative writing, have not taken a creative writing course, and creative writing is not part of your PhD work.
- ✓ You submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) with all the required documents before the deadline.

#### Notes

This event offers a reimbursement of travel cost (up to £60 per person) upon request and based on need. Participants will need to pay for the travel first and then claim expenses after the event.

Participants will own the intellectual property of their own work produced during the workshop. They may be asked to read out and share their work on a voluntary basis.

