**Dr Grace Halden**

Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature

Department of English and Humanities: Birkbeck, University of London

**EDUCATION**

2016-17 PGCE Higher Education (distinction)

2010-14 PhD English ‘Technological Development and Human Disappearance in US Sf since 1945’

Birkbeck, University of London. Supervisor: Roger Luckhurst; examiners: Mark Bould and Adam Roberts

2012 Certificate of Governance, Essex County Council and Governor Services

2010 Teaching Arts in Higher Education, Birkbeck

2008-09 Qualified Teacher Status, Secondary School Education, General Teaching Council for England

2005-07 Master of Arts: English by Research, University of Greenwich

2002-05 Bachelor of Arts (Hons), University of Greenwich, 1st class

**EMPLOYMENT**

2015 - Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature, Birkbeck, University of London

2014-15 Lecturer, Birkbeck

2014-15 Lecturer, Workers’ Educational Association

2014-15 AHRC Research Internship, ArtLess think tank, Birkbeck

2013-14 Associate Tutor, Birkbeck

2011-15 English Intervention and Chair of Curriculum at Phoenix School, Laindon

2010. English Teacher at Brentwood Ursuline High School (GCSE/A- Level)

2009-10 Head of English Curriculum KS4/A-Level at The Renown

2008-09 English teacher at Greensward Academy (GCSE/A-Level)

2006-07 Seminar Assistant at University of Greenwich

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS**

Monograph

*Three Mile Island: The Meltdown Crisis and Nuclear Power in American Popular Culture* (London: Routledge, 2017).

**Endorsement:** ‘Just finished Three Mile Island - FABULOUS! Love it - Grace did a fantastic job on this. Environmental History to American Popular Culture - all sorts of classes could use this. I've got nothing to suggest here - it's great’ (Professor Bill Allison, Georgia Southern University, peer reviewer, 2016).

Forthcoming: *By Design: Transcending the Human in Contemporary Posthuman Literature*, *Media, and Culture*

(Bloomsbury, 2021).

**Endorsement**: The proposal is well-researched, energetically written: the book promises to be excellent. The structure of the proposed book is effective; the texts covered are important; the theoretical approach is solid (Reader 1).

Edited book

*Concerning Evil,* ed. by Grace Halden and Gabriela Madlo (Oxford: IDP, 2013).

Book Chapters

* ‘Growing up in the 21st Century: Pretty Little Liars and their Pretty Little Devices’, in *Girl Talk:  The Influence of Girls’ Series Books on American Popular Culture*, ed. by LuElla D’Amico (New York: Lexington Books, 2016). Peer reviewed.
* Forthcoming/accepted: ‘British Science Fiction 1990s-2010: Technology and Society’, *Blackwell/Wiley Encyclopedia of Contemporary British and Irish Literature,*ed. by Richard Bradford (Blackwell/Wiley, 2018?) - 8000 words.
* Forthcoming/commissioned: ‘Cyberpunk Photography and Art’, *The Routledge Companion to Cyberpunk Culture*, ed. by Graham J. Murphy et al (Routledge, 2019?) - 5000 words.

Articles

* 'Haunting Clouds', in *Nuclear Narratives*, Alluvium Journal, ed. by Christopher Daley, (29 July, 2016) <https://www.alluvium-journal.org/2016/07/29/haunting-clouds/> .
* ‘Light’, in *World of the American Revolution: A Daily Life Encyclopedia* ed. by Dr Merril Smith (ABC-CLIO) (California: Greenwood 2015).
* ‘Mills’, in *World of the American Revolution: A Daily Life Encyclopedia* ed. by Dr Merril Smith (ABC-CLIO) (California: Greenwood 2015).
* ‘Incandescent: Light Bulbs and Conspiracies’, in *Dandelion Postgraduate Journal*, ed. by Robert Stearn and Paul Ingram, 5.2 (March, 2015) <http://dandelionjournal.org/index.php/dandelion/issue/view/12/showToc> .
* ‘20 Things You Didn’t Know About Immortality’, *Discover Magazine* (April 2015).
* ‘Critical Reflection on Christopher Eccelstone’s Doctor’, *Science Fiction Film & Television*, 7.2, 244-6 (2014).
* ‘Textual Non-Event of Nuclear War’, *eSharp University of Glasgow*, 20 (2012): 1-20.

Edited Special Collections

* Forthcoming*: Waste*, ed. by Grace Halden and Alice Burks (Alluvium, 2018).
* Forthcoming*: Waste: Papers on Disposability, Decay, and Depletion*, ed. by Grace Halden and Alice Burks (Open Library of Humanities Special Collection, 2018).

Select Reviews

* ‘Aaron Tucker’s Interfacing with the Internet in Popular Cinema’, in S*cience Fiction Film and Television* 8.3 (January 1, 2015).
* ‘David Wittenberg, Time Travel: The Popular Philosophy of Narrative’, in *Foundation*, 44.1 (2015).
* ‘Jonathan Oliver, End of the Road’, in *Foundation*, 44: 118, (2015).
* ‘Andrew Blum’s Tubes’, in *Foundation*, 43: 117, 98-101 (2014).
* ‘2B: The Era of Flesh is Over’, in *Trespassing Journal: Trespassing Medicine*, ed. by Hivren Demir-Atay, 4, 112-115 (December 2014). Double blind peer reviewed.
* ‘Edward M .Learner’s Small Miracles’, in *Foundation*, 42:116, 112-15 (2014).
* ‘Revolution 2.0’ in *Warscapes* (2013): <http://www.warscapes.com/reviews/human-behind-avatar>

**AWARDS**

2018 High commendation for 'Ruin and Rebuild' at the Public Engagement Awards

2017 Birkbeck Excellence in Teaching Award (BETA)

**PROJECTS AND GRANT FUNDING**

2017 ‘Ruin and Rebuild: Exhibition of Urban Dereliction’, *Being Human Festival*, 25 November 2017.

**Endorsement:** Wonderful! A fantastic example of inclusive public engagement with brilliant use of resources - I loved it - well done! Michael Eades (Being Human Fest)

2017 ‘Waste: A Symposium. Papers on Disposability, Decay, and Depletion’, 21 September. An interdisciplinary event exploring representations of waste, both material and metaphorical, within contemporary culture. Publication secured with *Open Library Humanities* (peer reviewed, for 2018). **Funding awarded by Birkbeck’s Research Committee.**

2017-Member of the Atomic Photographer’s Guild. The Guild’s online exhibition of my photographic research project *Radiation Mannequin* is here: <https://atomicphotographers.com/photographers/grace-halden/>

2017-First Contact Research Group. A research cluster at Birkbeck seeking to explore modern narratives about a diversity of contemporary issues. Intended outputs include publications, grants, and international collaborations. Founding member.

2016-‘The Contemporary: An Exhibition’. This is an annual exhibition conceptualized for Arts Week 2016 and 2017. I work with Birkbeck postgraduate students to present a rich mixture of art, photography and dramatic performance on the theme of Art and Politics in the contemporary. **Funding granted by Arts Week Committee.**

2014-15 *The ArtLess Group*. This project involved researching ways to unite the humanities and sciences to promote new,

innovative, collaborative research in the twenty-first century. I was invited onto the team to manage events and public outreach, and to conduct, facilitate, and disseminate new interdisciplinary research. One of the project’s outreach programmes included creating research exhibitions for Bury Art Museum and for tour in Japan. **AHRC funded group.**

2015. *Critical Waves* project member. Within this role, I was invited onto the team as one of six project leaders developing panel discussions and radio broadcasts for Resonance FM and the Institute of Contemporary Arts. The aim of this project was to encourage further research in media and facilitate the global reach of research. The project’s events were pedagogical and enabled young researchers to consider the social importance and relevance of voice and the power of research dissemination in the twenty-first century. **AHRC funded group.**

**SELECT TALKS AND EVENTS**

2018Creative Climate Symposium, May 8th, 2018. **Invited speaker.**

2018‘Technology for Assessment and Extra-Curricular Extension’,Centre for Transformational Practice in Learning and Teaching. 31 January. **Invited speaker**.

2017Roundtable discussion at Birkbeck for Post-War to the Contemporary, December. **Invited speaker.**

2017‘American Crisis’, Waterstones Gower Street, May. **Invited speaker**.

2017‘Disability, Equality and Digital Technology in Teaching and Assessment’, Arts Week, Birkbeck, May. **Invited speaker**.

2017 ‘Ordinary Digital Humanities’, Arts Week, Birkbeck, May. **Invited speaker**.

2016 Talk for Birkbeck’s Teaching Day, ‘Using Panopto for Assessment’, December. **Invited speaker.**

2016 Roundtable discussion at Birkbeck on science fiction, December. **Invited speaker.**

2016 Talk for Institute of Contemporary Arts, ‘Exploration: Ruined Things’, May. **Invited speaker.**

2015 Interviewed by Workers Educational Association, February. **Invited speaker.**

2015 Roundtable discussion at Birkbeck on science fiction, May. **Invited speaker.**

2015 Lecture for EMC's Dystopia, Speculative Fiction, ‘Future Fiction’, December. **Invited speaker.**

2014 ‘Ascending or Descending? Ideas of Disability and the Singularity in Stargate Universe’, *Current Research in Speculative Fiction*, University of Liverpool, June.

2014 ‘Technophobia and Technoparanoia: Looms, Luddites, and Laptops’, *Fear and Loathing*, University of Kent, May.

2014 '(Future) Apocalypse Now', *Memories of the Future*, Chelsea College of Arts, UAL, May.

2014 'Light Bulbs: Theories and Conspiracies and Representation’, *Holding things in common: the vernacular, everyday objects and memory*, Birkbeck, May.

2013 ‘The Pursuit of Legal Rights for AGI in the Speculative Future’, *Beyond AI 2013*, University of West Bohemia. **Fully** **Funded Speaker; receiver of funding for best paper.**

2013 ‘The dominance of technology in Gravity’s Rainbow: the light bulb and the cybernetic apocalypse’, *Lines, Legacies, Anniversaries: International Pynchon Week*, Durham University, August.

2013 ‘Gender in Virtual Worlds: Masking of Identity and Intention’, *Ignite© Gender violence and virtual worlds: brave new world(s) of regulation?*, Open University, September.

2013 ‘The Digitalisation of Reader Response’*, E-reading between the lines: 21st century literature, digital platforms and literacies*, Brighton University, July.

2013 ‘The Technologically Rapine’, *Current Research in Speculative Fiction*, The University of Liverpool, June.

2013 The ‘bare life’ of the human in conflict contexts: the static behaviour and group movement of war zombie’, *Zombies: Eating, Walking & Performance*, Plymouth University, April.

2013 ‘Technology, psychological doubling and genocide. How remote technology facilitates evil acts as explored through science fiction after World War II’, *Evil and Human Wickedness 14th Global Conference*, Interdisciplinary.net, April. **Partially** **Funded speaker.**

2013 ‘Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: projected fictional landscapes based on the memory of nuclear holocaust’, *Memories of Conflict, Conflict of Memories International Conference*, University College London, February.

2012 ‘Apocalyptic imagination: the fear of a nuclear driven apocalyptic event within American Cold War literature (1945-1959)’, *Two Cultures or Co-evolution? Science and Literature 1800-Present*, Keele University, May.

**TEACHING, CONVENING, AND DIRECTING**

I am currently the director for two MAs: Contemporary Literature and Culture, and Creative and Critical Writing (which I co designed). I am also the Academic Lead for the Foundation Year and convenor for several BA and MA modules.

2018 - Academic Lead

I am the Academic Lead for the Arts and Humanities Foundation Year. I oversee the structure of the degree, admissions, and progression. I work alongside many departments in the Arts as well as Social Sciences and HEIS. Since taking on this role in 2018, I have implemented many changes to the Foundation Year to streamline and improve provision.

2017 - PhD and staff training at Birkbeck

Critical theory for MPhil/PhD Students; ‘Teaching in Higher Education’ for MPhil/PhD students.

Staff training workshops on using technology for teaching and assessment, including the use of Panopto.

**Endorsement:** “Grace is an outstanding member of the Department and has not only satisfied but exceeded our expectations, particularly in the areas of research and teaching” (Ana Parejo Vadillo, 2016, comments on probation form).

2015 -MADirector and Lecturer at Birkbeck

Director of the MA Contemporary Literature and Culture,I am responsible for structuring modules, designing reading lists, shaping and updating the online learning environment (Moodle), planning classes and resources (ensuring differentiation), setting essay questions, marking and moderation, overseeing assessment offences panels, and preparing work/information for exam boards. I additionally work with colleagues to design the Summer Programme across three MAs. I take a full part in Arts Week, leading MA students to set up an exhibition. I also curate and maintain the MA Contemporary Literature and Culture social media space and keep the website up to date. In 2018 I codesigned the MA Creative and Critical Writing with Julia Bell, this MA will welcome applicants for 2018 start.

**Endorsement:** “You are an experienced teacher. You have a good relationship with your students and have taken time to get to know them quite well.” Sessions are “meticulously and thoughtfully planned” with “an element of surprise and intrigue” (Dr Christina Howell-Richardson, 2016, PGCHE assessor).

2015 -BA and MAConvener and Lecturer at Birkbeck

At MA level, I co-convene MA ‘Cultural and Critical Studies Core 2’ (which I co-teach), ‘Reading the Contemporary’ and ‘Narrating Nations After 9/11’. At BA level, I convene the BA Humanities and BA English ‘Final Year Project’ modules (Level 6). I convene and teach BA ‘Lost in the Funhouse’ (Level 6). I oversee the running of ‘21st Century Fiction’, mentoring postdoctoral and postgraduate teachers (Level 6). I give a number of one-off lectures and workshops (for example, ‘Production of the Human’ and ‘Critical Theory’ for BA Humanities, and ‘Post-War to Contemporary Literature’ for MA Modern Literature and Culture).

**Endorsement BA:** ‘Lost in the Funhouse’ is “comprehensively taught” and “thoroughly engaging”. Positive feedback directed towards myself include: “Tutor Grace Halden was excellent – open and engaging” (student feedback questionnaires, 2016).

**Endorsement MA:** “Great tutor – to keep a bunch of people (of different ages, from different backgrounds) coming every week, listening and learning for three hours, then discussing, being passionate about literature and culture – it’s not the easiest task but the term was amazing and inspiring” (‘Reading the Contemporary’ student feedback questionnaire, 2016).

2015 -Module designer at Birkbeck

In 2016, I redesigned the BA English and BA Humanities ‘Final Year Project’ modules. Responding to feedback by examiners and students, I planned and passed substantial changes through SATQEC. Changes included a new assessment strategy, reworked assessment criteria, and a unitary approach to the English and Humanities project modules. In 2015, I redesigned the module ‘Narrating Nations After 9/11’ (MA) after it failed to run in previous years. Due to the changes I implemented, the module recruited enough students to run. In 2017, to keep the MA Contemporary Literature and Culture course fresh, I designed a new module entitled ‘Being Human’ which focuses on posthuman studies. In previous years, I redesigned the BA modules ‘Lost in the Funhouse’ and ‘Reading 21st Century Fictions’. Based on my innovative way of designing modules, I have been put forward for a BETA award (Birkbeck Excellence in Teaching Award) as encouraged by Dr Mark Blacklock.

**Endorsement (design):** On the proposal for ‘Being Human’ (MA): “the work on the module proposal is of a high standard. The design you have developed is interesting and seems very appropriate” (PGCHE assessor 2017).

2013-15 Convener, Associate Tutor, and Sessional Lecturer at Birkbeck

As an associate tutor, I taught ‘Romance’ (Level 5) and ‘British Fiction 1945-79’ (Level 6). As a sessional lecturer, I designed ‘Reading 21st Century Literature’ and taught on ‘Technotexts’, ‘Transnational Fiction’, and ‘Writing History’ (Level 6).

2014-15 Convener and Lecturer (Level 3/4) at The Workers’ Educational Association

I designed and taught courses on the subjects of English, History and Philosophy for adult learners working at levels 3 and 4. The cohorts were diverse and some of these learners were vulnerable.

2008-12Teacher KS2, KS3, GCSE/A-Level

I have worked in education since 2008, working at secondary level and guiding students into higher education. I understand the curriculum and learning backgrounds of UCAS applicants and have a deep appreciation of the transition between FE and HE. I hold a certificate in Governance (2012) and have specialized training in curriculum assessment, leadership, educational management, and knowledge of learning challenges and policy development.

**Endorsement:** I was graded ‘Outstanding’ during my QTS assessment.

2006-07 Lecturer and Seminar Assistant for Future Fiction at the University of Greenwich

I assisted seminar teaching for Dr Mike Alsford, for the Level 4 BA class ‘Religious Themes in Future Fiction’.

**OTHER ADMINISTRATION AND ADDITIONAL ROLES**

2018 - Member of interview panels for permanent positions within the department

2017- Social Media Liaison – I direct the departmental blog and Twitter.

2017 - Assessor for Research Fellowship under the Joint Application Scheme for Early Career Research Fellowships (Churchill College, Fitzwilliam College, Murray Edwards College, Robinson College and Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge).

2017 - Online Editor: *Alluvium* https://www.alluvium-journal.org/ .

2015 -   Representative for *The Satellite Group*, subcommittee of Birkbeck’s Teaching and Quality

Enhancement Committee (focused on technology-enhanced learning).

2015 - Reviewer: *Science Fiction Film and Television.*

**RECENT TRAINING**

2017 Film Essay Course at the Derek Jarman Lab in August led by Edmund Bolger.