

# ENGLISH & CREATIVE WRITING

#1  
IN THE UK\*

BA (Hons) Newsletter | Spring 2020



2019 Graduate journeys and accolades (left to right):

Joshua Johnston: MA Screenwriting, University of Manchester; Steven White: PGCE, University of Bolton; Lauren Carroll: MA Publishing, UCLan; Katie Wolstencroft: Now teaching at St. Patrick's RC High School; Humna Mirza: PGCE, University of Bolton; Rowen Walker: Winner, The Octagon Prize for scriptwriting

## GRADUATE SUCCESS: JOSHUA JOHNSTON'S SCREENWRITING

Here in the department of English and Creative Writing we pride ourselves on equipping our students with the skills to secure work and further study in the creative industries.

We are delighted to announce that recent Creative Writing graduate Joshua Johnston (above, far left) is now studying on the MA Screenwriting at the University of Manchester. Here's what Josh has to say about his time with us:



*"Studying Creative Writing at the University of Bolton prepared me for graduate study by helping me during every step of my undergraduate course. Due to the small class sizes it felt far more personal, and the working relationships built with the lecturers helped me to become a better writer. I was more than just another random student in a lecture hall full of 100+ students. Without this type of teaching, I wouldn't have been able to get a place on my Masters degree."*

**Joshua Johnston**  
BA (Hons) Creative Writing



## CREATIVE INDUSTRY & EMPLOYABILITY

Students in English and Creative Writing at Bolton have the opportunity to gain valuable industry experience with many partner organisations and on internal projects.

Current placements include The Bolton Review, with student editors working to deliver the university's in-house arts magazine; The New Writing Showcase, creating and producing the university's professional stage performance of new student writing; Carcanet Press, working at the offices of one of Manchester's major independent publishers; and the Hay Festival, Hay-on-Wye, gaining insight into preparations for one of the UK's most popular literature festivals.

Students have also gained insight from recent industry guest speakers including Ellen McLeod, co-director of The Poetry Business; Kevin Duffy, founder and director of Blue Moose Press; Alex Keelan, playwright; Stephen Hornby, scriptwriter; and Clare Gannaway, Curator of Contemporary Art at Manchester Art Gallery.

\*English is **No.1** in the UK for **Student Satisfaction** (The Complete University Guide 2019), gained **100% NSS Student Satisfaction** (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019) and is **No.1** in the UK for **Student Experience** (The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021).





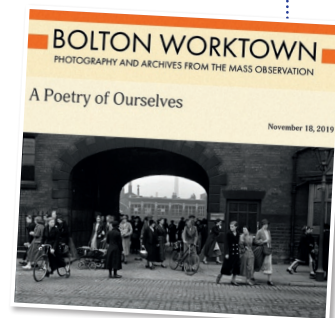
## ON THE ROAD: HAWORTH

English and Creative Writing staff and students have enjoyed several literary trips in recent months. Journeying to the Brontë Parsonage Museum and stunningly atmospheric Haworth moorland, students were recently treated to a guided tour around the Parsonage and a talk about the inspirational Brontë family. We visited Charlotte and Emily's grave and had chance to explore the village cafes and pubs.



## POETRY OF OURSELVES COMMISSION

In the 1930s, Bolton was at the heart of Mass Observation, a large-scale investigation into the habits and customs of the people of Britain. One of the movement's founders, Charles Madge, a poet and journalist, saw Mass Observation as a form of "popular poetry" which would shed new light on everyday life. Creative Writing students from the university, in conjunction with Bolton Library and Museum Services, have set about evoking the original participatory spirit.



The exhibition in the Worktown Gallery draws on extensive archives exploring Madge's early vision for Mass Observation. The museum has been inviting visitors to answer "if you weren't here, where would you be?" They embraced the activity with enthusiasm by supplying hundreds of answers, before the museum commissioned students to create new poems based on some of these answers, producing 'A Poetry of Ourselves'.

Third-year Creative Writing students AJ Moroz, Morgan King, Kate Jones and Penelope Alonso-Ritchie all rose to the challenge with great creativity. You can read their poems here: <https://boltonworktown.co.uk/a-poetry-of-ourselves>

## LECTURERS AWARDED RESEARCH PRIZES

English and Creative Writing lecturers, Dr Kim Edwards Keates, Dr Evan Jones and Dr Valerie O'Riordan were recently awarded prestigious Jenkinson Research Prizes in recognition of their ongoing research activities. Valerie received Research Publication of the Year award for her O. Henry prize winning publication 'Bad Girl'; Kim received the Early Career Researcher of the Year award and a Ryley Award to support student research on the 'Whitman and Women' project, while Evan won a Jenkinson Award, funding research dedicated to English and Creative Writing's 'Whitman 200: Community and Diversity' project.

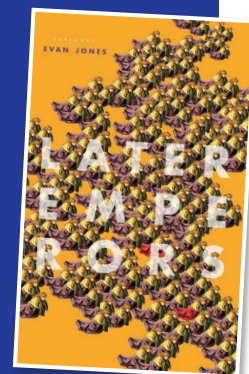
Professor Patrick McGhee commented that:  
*"The 2020 Jenkinson Awards event has been the largest ever with a wide range of past and present projects recognised for excellence in the context of our Teaching Intensive, Research Informed philosophy."*

## LIVE LITERATURE: SPRING 2020

The start of the Spring semester has seen students enjoy a variety of exciting performances. As well as privileged access to Octagon rehearsals of Willy Russell's Shirley Valentine, starring TV comedian and actor Mina Anwar, we're partway through another vibrant programme of Live Literature events.

In February, the season kicked off with Rosie Garland spellbinding our audience, with performance poetry and extracts from her latest novel, The Night Brother.

Our next Live Literature event (date TBC) will feature English lecturer Evan Jones who will be launching his highly anticipated second book of poems, Later Emperors (pictured), alongside fellow Carcanet poets and the press's founder, Professor Michael Schmidt.



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