

Contact details

Email j.j.zimble@bham.ac.uk (mailto:j.j.zimble@bham.ac.uk)

University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT
UK

About

I am a Lecturer in Modern English literature. I teach across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, with a focus on colonial and postcolonial literatures and an interest in critical theory, linguistics and narratology.

Qualifications

- BA (Oxon)
- GDL (City)
- MPhil (Cantab)
- PhD (Cantab)

Biography

I completed my undergraduate degree in 2002 at St Hugh's College, Oxford. After a period away from academia, I returned in 2004 to undertake an MPhil in Criticism and Culture at Pembroke College, Cambridge, followed by a PhD in English Studies. I spent a year at the University of California, Berkeley as a Visiting Scholar in 2006-2007. Before joining Birmingham, I was the Junior Research Fellow in World Literatures of the 20th and 21st Centuries in English at Wolfson College, Oxford.

Teaching

I contribute to the first-year modules 'Literary Aesthetics after 1800' and 'Critical Practice', and to the second-year modules 'Tragedy' and 'Literature in Britain since 1945'. I also convene the third-year module 'Postcolonial Poetry and Poetics'.

Postgraduate supervision

I have supervised MA and MSt dissertations on a range of postcolonial topics and welcome research proposals in this area.

Research

I have recently completed my first monograph, *J.M. Coetzee and the Politics of Style* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), which traces the emergence and meaning of Coetzee's spare, stark and sometimes lyrical prose. My next book will focus on the achievements and failures of South African poetry, and forms part of a larger collaborative research project, *Crafts of World Literature*, initiated by myself and Dr Ben Etherington (UWS, Australia). Following a successful international conference in 2012, we are co-editing a special issue of the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*.

Other activities

Recent participation in conferences and workshops:

- 'Misconceived Reception: Reading and Reviewing J.M. Coetzee's Early Novels in South Africa'. The Politics of Reception: Nations, Commodities, and Radicalism, Reception Study Society Panel, Modern Languages Association Convention (9th-12th January 2014)
- "All the Formative Forces": Guy Butler's Poetry and Poetics Reconsidered'. Keynote address at Poetic Craft and White Settler Colonialism: A Workshop on Australian and South African Poetics, Writing and Society Research Group, UWS, Bankstown Campus (13th-14th September, 2013)
- "Neither Progress, Now Regress": The Emergence of J.M. Coetzee's Bare Prose Style'. Field, Material and Literary Technique: A Primer for Crafts of World Literature, with Ben Etherington, Writing and Society Research Group, UWS, Bankstown Campus (6th September, 2013)
- 'Madness as a Function of Contradictory Narration'. Colloque International 'Narrateurs Fous'/ International Conference 'Mad Narrators', EA CLIMAS, Université Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux 3, Bordeaux (18th-20th October, 2012)

Conferences organized:

- Craft Wars: Comparative Perspectives on Postcolonial Poetry. International Workshop, University of Cape Town, South Africa (18th-20th September, 2014)
- Crafts of World Literature. International Conference, Faculty of English, Oxford (28th-30th September, 2012)

Publications

- *J.M. Coetzee and the Politics of Style*(Cambridge University Press, 2014)
- With Ben Etherington. 'Field, Material, Technique: On Renewing Postcolonial Literary Criticism'. *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 49.3 (2014) 279-298.
- Co-editor with Ben Etherington and Rachel Bower. *Crafts of World Literature*, a Special Issue of the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 49.3 (2014)
- 'Mythology, Empire and Narrative' in *Late Victorian into Modern, 1880-1920: Oxford 21st-Century Approaches to Literature*, eds. Laura Marcus, Michèle Mendelssohn and Kirsten Shepherd-Barr (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2014)
- Review of Keya Ganguly's *Cinema, Emergence and the Films of Satyajit Ray*. *New Formations* 80/81 (2014) 226-229

- 'Interview with Josh Comaroff and Ong Ker Shing'. *The Salon*6 (2013), http://jwtc.org.za/volume_6.htm (http://jwtc.org.za/volume_6.htm)
- 'Caring, Teaching, Knowing: Spivak, Coetzee and the Practice of Postcolonial Pedagogies'. *Parallax*17.3 (2011) 19-31.
- 'For Neither Love nor Money: The Place of Political Art in Pierre Bourdieu's Literary Field'. *Textual Practice*23.4 (2009) 599-620.
- 'Under Local Eyes: The South African Publishing Context of J. M. Coetzee's *Foe*'. *English Studies in Africa*47.1 (2004) 47-59. Reprinted in *Print, Text and Book Cultures in South Africa*, ed. Andrew van der Vlies (Wits University Press, 2012), pp. 195-207.

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