

# Dr. Sally Blackburn-Daniels

E-MAIL: [sally.blackburn-daniels@open.ac.uk](mailto:sally.blackburn-daniels@open.ac.uk) / [sallyblackburndaniels@gmail.com](mailto:sallyblackburndaniels@gmail.com)

MOBILE +44 (0)7739 666641

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

The outcome of my doctoral research is a single author, interdisciplinary study, focusing on the engagement of Vernon Lee (Violet Paget, 1856-1935) with the natural sciences. This study explores the specialization of scientific disciplines during the period 1850-1935, and questions the use of neurology, psychology, biological inheritance & eugenics, anthropology, archaeology and geology within the essays and fiction of Lee.

My current interests lie historically within the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, particularly in using digital humanities to engage with the intertextual: marginalia, correspondence, networks and mapping. My recent work on the *Holograph-Lee project* (HoL) brings together my research on Lee, and my interest in DH. My role involves transcription of holograph material and entering genetic metadata.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Sept 2014-Sept 2018 **PhD, University of Liverpool (Statham Award-funded)**  
Sept 2012-Sept 2013 **MA Victorian Literature, University of Liverpool: Distinction**  
Sept 2010-June 2012 **BA (hons) English and American Studies, The University of Manchester**  
Sept 2008-June 2010 **Open University, Introduction to Literature**

## OTHER RELEVANT TRAINING/ QUALIFICATIONS

Jan 2020-present **Member of MLA/ Modern Language Association**  
**Member of SHARP/ The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing**  
July 2018-present: **Member of British Association of Decadence Studies (Ordinary Elect Member, 3-year position)**  
Sept 2017-present: **Member of the Literature, Science and Environment Research Cluster, University of Liverpool**  
Oct 2016-present: **Member of the International Vernon Lee Association (Communications Officer)**  
May 2016-present **Member of the North American Society of Victorian Studies**  
Aug 2015-present: **Member of the British Society for Literature and Science**  
Aug 2014-present: **Member of the British Association of Victorian Studies**

## RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Sept 2019-July 2020: **Impact Consultant for English, The Open University**  
Sept 2019-April 2020: **Postgraduate Researcher in English, READ-IT Project, The Open University**

Jan 2019-June 2019 **Tutor, University of Bolton**  
Sept 2014-June 2019: **Graduate Teacher, University of Liverpool**  
July 2016-Sept 2018: **Scholars Programme Tutor, University of Liverpool**  
July 2017-Sept 2017: **Realising Opportunities Tutor, University of Liverpool**

## **RELEVANT TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITY**

### **UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH: MODULES AS TUTOR**

**EST4005 - Introduction to Literature, Text and Context (2019) – u/g**  
Class sizes approx. 30, 1x 6 hour class per week

### **MODULES AS LECTURER**

**EST4002 – English and Creative Writing, Inspirations (2019) – u/g**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH: MODULES AS TUTOR**

**ENGL111 – Literature in Time (2015, 2016, 2017) – u/g**  
Class sizes approx. 9-10, 3 classes per week.

**ENGL113 – Ways of Reading (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019) – u/g**  
Class sizes approx. 9-10, 3 classes per week.

**ENGL603 – Dissertation Project (2017, 2018) – p/g**

**ENGL601 – Research Skills (2016) – p/g**

### **MODULE DESIGN**

**ENGL113 – Ways of Reading (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019) – u/g**  
Designed and implemented the reading list for this module, which was focused on critical theory.

### **MODULES AS LECTURER**

**ENGL395 – The Fin de Siècle (2016, 2017) – u/g**

**ENGL113 – Ways of Reading (2018) – u/g**

### **OUTREACH TEACHING**

**LSP – Liverpool Scholars Programme (2016, 2017, 2018) – A Level**

**RO – Realising Opportunities Tutor (2017) – A Level**

## **LEADERSHIP, PROFESSIONAL AND COLLEGIAL EXPERIENCE**

- July 2020: **Awarded** Douglas Englebert Best Paper Award at ACM Hypertext 2020 with colleagues Alessio Antonini and Francesca Benatti for ‘On Links to Be: Exercises in Style #2’
- March 2020: **Peer Reviewer** for *CROMOHS: Cyber Review of Modern Historiography*
- Jan-March 2020: **Peer Reviewer** for *Studies in Travel Writing*
- January 2020: **Contributor** – Nineteenth-Century poetry reviewer for *The Year’s Work in English Studies* (3 year contract)
- Nov 2019: **Co-Organiser** of *Extinctions and Rebellions* – the Winter Symposium of the BSLS British Science and Literature Society.
- October 2019: **Co-Organiser** of Digital Vernon Lee Workshop, and IVLS annual meeting
- June 2019: **Editor** and transcriber of online materials at the *Holograph Lee Database* (HoL)
- May 2019: **Co-Organiser** of Vernon Lee 2019: An Anniversary Conference alongside colleagues from University of Surrey, University of Oxford and Università luav di Venezia
- May 2017: **Co-Organiser** and host for the University of Liverpool English Postgraduate Conference (approx. 50 attendees and speakers)
- June 2017: **Student Award Winner** at University of Liverpool Postgraduate Poster Day (award of £50)
- June 2017: **University Representative** at University of Liverpool Open Day, involving meeting and speaking to students (and their parents) interested in studying at Liverpool
- Apr 2015-June 2017: **Postgraduate Representative** for English – responsible for liaising between staff and students
- May 2016: **Organiser** and host for the University of Liverpool English Postgraduate Conference (approx. 50 attendees and speakers)
- June 2015-Sept 2016: **LiNK Placement**, *The Bluecoat Arts Centre*, Liverpool – responsible for creating a database of small press and publishers to be utilised by Head of Programme, Marie-Anne McQuay

June 2015: **Tutor** for University of Liverpool ‘Ways of Reading Masterclass’ two-hour sessions on open day for A-Level students interested in studying English at Liverpool

## **RESEARCH**

### **RESEARCH OUTPUTS**

#### THESIS

**‘The Scholar’s Copy Book’ and the ‘Blotting-Book Mind’: Stratigraphic Approaches to Interdisciplinary Reading and Writing in the Work of Vernon Lee**, approved January 2019.

#### ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS:

**‘On Links To Be: Exercises in Style #2’**, in *Proceedings of 2020 ACM HyperText (HT’20)*, 13-15 July, 2020, Orlando, Florida, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, XX pages. Co-authors Alessio Antonini, and Francesca Benatti. <https://doi.org/10.1145/>

**“‘Struggling with the tempter’”: Vernon Lee, Mary Robinson, and Amy Levy’s Queer Archival Spaces**’, for *Voluptè*, ed. Kirsten MacLeod. Article accepted for publication in 2020.

*The Ballet of the Nations*, edited publication to coincide with the first theatrical performance of Vernon Lee’s *The Ballet of the Nations* at Villa il Palmerino, Florence, May 2019.

**‘Vernon Lee: Excavating the Spirit of Rome’**, in *Excavating Modernity: Physical, Temporal and Psychological Strata in Literature, 1900-1930*, ed. Eleanor Dobson and Gemma Banks (New York and London: Routledge, 2019). Approx. 9,000 words. ISBN 978-1-138-31776-5

**‘Separate in Interest, Unequal in Power: Cosmopolitanism and Pacifism in the Works of Vernon Lee’**, in *Artisans de la paix et passeurs: Peacemakers and Bridgebuilders*, ed. Sophie Geoffroy (Paris: Editions Michel Houdiard, 2018). Approx 6,000 words. ISBN 978-2-356-92169-2

#### BOOK REVIEWS:

Sebastian Lecourt, *Cultivating Belief: Victorian Anthropology, Liberal Aesthetics, & the Secular Imagination*, BSLs (2019)

Alex Murray, *Landscapes of Decadence: Literature and Place at the Fin de Siècle*, BSLs (2017)

## **IMPACT/ KE ACTIVITY**

### **INVITATIONS TO SPEAK**

- Aug 2018: **Invited paper, Uppsala University, *Literary Paratexts***: ‘Paratexts and Paranormality in Vernon Lee’s *Hauntings*’
- Oct 2017: **Invited paper, Université de La Réunion, *Arisans de la paix et passeurs***; ‘Separate in Interest, Unequal in Power: Cosmopolitanism and Pacifism in the Works of Vernon Lee’
- Oct 2017: **Invited roundtable panellist, Université de La Réunion, *Du manuscrit à la base de données: Travailler sur des sources primaires***: ‘Lancement du project Vernon Lee Calendar’
- May 2017: **Invited lecture, Associazione Culturale Il Palmerino**: ‘Vernon Lee’s *The Spirit of Rome*: Stratigraphic Textualities and Transhistoric Objects’
- May 2016: **Invited lecture, The Bluecoat, Liverpool**: ‘An Introduction to Vernon Lee’

### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

- February 2020: *Gender and Otherness in the Humanities & Health and Wellbeing Networking Event*, ‘Anthropological Acts: Vernon Lee’s *The Ballet of the Nations*’
- July 2019: *Aesthetic Time, Decadent Archives*, British Association of Decadence Studies at Goldsmiths University, London: ‘Vernon Lee and Queer Archival Space’
- May 2019: *Vernon Lee 2019: An Anniversary Conference*, The British Institute of Florence: ‘From Crystal Palace to the Grand Guignol: Vernon Lee and the Performance of War’
- April 2019: *British Society of Literature and Science*, Royal Holloway: ‘*To overcome space and baffle time*: Vernon Lee’s Layered Images and Inherited Traits’
- May 2018: *Department of English Postgraduate Conference*, University of Liverpool: ‘Excavating *The Spirit of Rome*’
- April 2018: *Modernist Afterlives of Eighteenth Century Thought*, University of Liverpool: ‘Acquired Characteristics, Organic Memory and *Die Mneme*: Vernon Lee and the Living Bond Between Past and Present’
- March 2017: *North West Long Nineteenth Century Seminar*, Manchester Metropolitan University: ‘Mediating a Male Malady: Vernon Lee and Eugene Lee-Hamilton’

- May 2017: *North American Victorian Studies Association*, NYU – La Pietra, Florence: ‘Vernon Lee’s *The Spirit of Rome*: Stratigraphic Textualities and Transhistoric Objects’
- Aug 2016: *British Association of Victorian Studies*, University of Cardiff: ‘French Men and the French Method: Vernon Lee’s Approach to Birth Control’
- May 2016: *Department of English Postgraduate Conference*, University of Liverpool: ‘Late-Victorian Vivisection in Literature’
- April 2016: *British Society for Literature and Science*, University of Birmingham: ‘Vernon Lee and Vivisection: A Mutilation of Morality’
- March 2016: *Cosmopolis and Beyond*, Trinity College, Oxford: ‘“Too Subtle and Too Cosmopolitan”: Vernon Lee’s Complex Relationship with Evolutionary Ethics’
- Feb 2016: *Becoming Animal*, Université Diderot, Paris: ‘Vernon Lee and Vivisection: A Mutilation of Morality’
- May 2015: *Department of English Postgraduate Conference*, University of Liverpool: ‘Vernon Lee’s Evolution and Ethics’
- Feb 2015: *Gladstone’s Library Postgraduate Colloquium*: Gladstone’s Library, Hawarden: ‘Excavating *The Spirit of Rome*” Vernon Lee’s Creative Approach to the Earth Sciences’

## **OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES**

- July 2020: **Facilitator** for the *British Colonial Periodicals Online Workshop* (July 2-3) and *Decolonisation Online* conference (July 9-10). Hosted and recorded both sessions on MS Teams.
- June 2020: **Chair of Impact Roundtable** for *DREAMing Romantic Europe: Romantic Media* online conference.
- June 2019: **Exhibition Co-curator of *Vernon Lee e il Teatro delle Passioni: Firenze, Arte e Politica*** at the Accademia delle Arte e del Disegno, Florence.
- Aug 2018-present: **Associate Producer and Researcher** for *The Ballet of Nations: A Project* – a production of Vernon Lee’s pacifist play. The performance is designed by Art Director and Writer Angeliki Papoulia (the *blitz theatre group*) and Production Co-ordinator and Choreographer Federica Parretti. The performance will run for three nights at Villa il Palmerino in May 2019. An educational programme will run alongside the performances, with funding being sourced for a European tour.

- Aug 2018-present: **Exhibition Co-curator** at the British Institute of Florence for exhibition to coincide with the Vernon Lee 2019: An Anniversary Conference.
- May 2018-present: **Co-organiser** (with Professor Patricia Pulham, Dr. Stefano Evangelista, and Dr. Elisa Bizzotto) of *Vernon Lee 2019: An Anniversary Conference* - an international three-day conference and symposium situated at the British Institute of Florence and Associazione Culturale Il Palmerino.
- Nov 2018: **Cataloguer** for the Vernon Lee collection at Associazione Culturale Il Palmerino.
- Oct 2017: **Interviewee** on documentary *À la découverte de Vernon Lee*, filmed for the IVLS. Appearances on episodes entitled: ‘Vernon Lee, and Eugene Lee-Hamilton’s Malady’, ‘Experiencing Vernon Lee’, and ‘Interview with Jacqueline Bayard-Pierlot’.
- May 2016: **Co-organiser and Curator** of *Hauntings* at The Bluecoat, Liverpool. Raised funding, developed and curated event which included the commission and performance of responses to the supernatural works of Vernon Lee by Nathan Jones and Maria Fusco. Directed short pieces from Lee’s work, performed by actor Craig Whittaker. Provided a short lecture on Lee for this event, and also took part in roundtable panel with academic Sondeep Kandola, and Bluecoat Head of Programme Marie-Anne McQuay.
- Feb 2016: **Reading Group Leader** for the *Useful Knowledge Reading Group* at the Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool.
- Nov 2015: **Participant** for AHRC funded *Cosmopolitan Theory and Practice Workshop* at Birkbeck University, selected by Dr. Stefano Evangelista and Dr. Ana Parejo Vadillo.

## **FUNDING**

- Sept 2014-Aug 2017: Statham Graduate Teacher Assistantship, value £14,000.
- Nov 2018: Travel costs and Expenses to Florence, Italy, for *The Ballet of Nations: A Project*, value £829.
- Aug 2018: Travel, expenses and honorarium from Uppsala University for *Literary Paratexts* event, value £684.
- Aug 2018: Travel costs and Expenses to Florence, Italy, for *The Ballet of Nations: A Project*, value £600.
- Oct 2017: Travel and expenses from Université de La Réunion for *Arisans de la paix et passeurs* conference.

- May 2017: NAVSA Travel Bursary for NYU La Pietra conference, value £50.
- March 2016: Travel bursary for *Cosmopolis and Beyond* at Trinity College, Oxford, Value £94.10.
- Jan 2016: BAVS Research Grant award, value £295.
- Jan 2016 University of Liverpool Research Support Fund award for *Becoming Animal* conference, value £125.60.
- Nov 2015: Travel bursary for *Cosmopolitan Theory and Practice* workshop, value £60.
- July 2015: LiNK KE Fund, with Bluecoat partner for *Hauntings*, value £1,900.
- July 2015: LiNK Placement bursary, value £500.