

# English Graduate Program Newsletter

## Welcome!

Welcome to the very first issue of the English Graduate Program Newsletter, which celebrates another very successful year for our student community! The newsletter is full of contributions from a wide variety of students, and I'm grateful for their time in sharing their updates and experiences. While this only represents a flavour of successes from the 2024/25 academic year, the news here is a tribute to the excellence, dedication, and community spirit of our program. Graduate students are absolutely vital to our department culture, not only as students but also as teaching and research colleagues. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the important contributions that you make to our life on campus.

- Alison Chapman (Graduate Program Advisor)

## TA Spotlight: Mahayla Galliford

Mahayla reflects of her TA experience:

"My experience as a TA for Dr. (Hey Stephen) Ross's ENSH 240: *Introduction to a Major Author - Taylor Swift* surpassed my 'Wildest Dreams.' The highlight was the opportunity to give a lecture for '1989 Week' focusing on persona in poetry and coming of age. I found crossover between ENSH 240 and my MA research through the exploration of girlhood (early modern and contemporary)."



©Mahayla Galliford

# Donor Awards

In 2024-25, our graduate students received over \$30,000 in donor awards combined. Congratulations to all recipients and thank you to all of our donors!

## **Ana and Peter Lowens Scholarship in Victorian Literature:**

Kalea Raposo

## **Pat Koster Scholarship in Early Women's Writing:**

Mahayla Galliford

Rebekah Stuive

## **Open Research Award:**

Maya Linsley

## **William and Doreen Kerby Scholarship in Medieval British Literature:**

Colin Keohane

## **Charles & Ruth Haywood Memorial Scholarship in English Literature:**

Madisen Bonthoux-Roberts

Maddie Bron

Kiera Clark

Emma Dove

Abby Flight

Mahayla Galliford

Hannah Henry

Braedon Lowey

Laura Oakley

Kate Robart

April Rogers

## **Mairi Riddel Memorial Prize:**

Joe Diemer

## **Dr. Shelley Anne Martin Memorial Scholarship:**

April Rogers



©Rebekah Stuive

## **Kelly Curtis Memorial Teaching Award:**

Jeremy Audet

Stephanie Erickson

## **William Benzie Scholarship:**

Samuel Adesubokan

Babak Ashrafkhani  
Limoudehi

Jonathan Nash

## **Sheila and John Hackett Research Travel Award:**

Mahayla Galliford

Mahayla will be travelling to the Kent History and Library Centre for archival research on Rachel Fane's *May Masque* (1627). In October, Mahayla also won first prize in the short presentation category at University of Victoria's 2nd Annual Excellence in Graduate Research Symposium for her presentation "Five Minutes on Rachel Fane's *May Masque* (1627)."

# Other Awards

**Richard and Margaret Beck  
Student Research Travel  
Award:**

Braedon Lowey

One award is given to an undergraduate or graduate student in Humanities, Social Sciences or Fine Arts to travel to Iceland for the purpose of research or course work related to Icelandic language and literature. Braedon’s project will be a documentary film researching relationships between literature, land, and identity in the face of climate change related solastalgia.

**Margot K. Louis Award:**

Mahayla Galliford



The CGS-M Program provides financial support to students who demonstrate a high standard of achievement in undergraduate and early graduate studies.

Emma Dove

Mahayla Galliford

Hannah Henry

Roxy Moldevanu

Jordan Price

**University of Lethbridge  
Bridge Prize:**

Jeremy Audet

The Bridge Prize is a biennial short story writing competition that intends to inspire and motivate the next generation of fiction writers in Canada. Jeremy’s short story, *The Lobster*, won first prize in the nationwide contest.

Read *The Lobster* here:

[https://www.ulethbridge.ca/sites/default/files/2024/09/the\\_lobster\\_final\\_2.pdf](https://www.ulethbridge.ca/sites/default/files/2024/09/the_lobster_final_2.pdf)

**Faculty of Humanities  
Research Grant:**

Mahayla Galliford

**Gold Medal for Outstanding  
Doctoral Dissertation in the  
Humanities:**

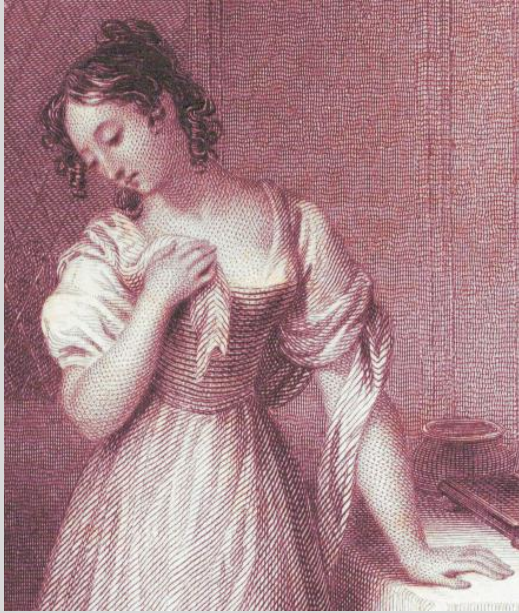
Dr. Julie Funk – Recent PhD graduate

This competitive, non-monetary award is intended to recognize a student from a doctoral program in the Faculty of Humanities who has written an outstanding dissertation and whose research has made (or is expected to make) a significant contribution to their field.

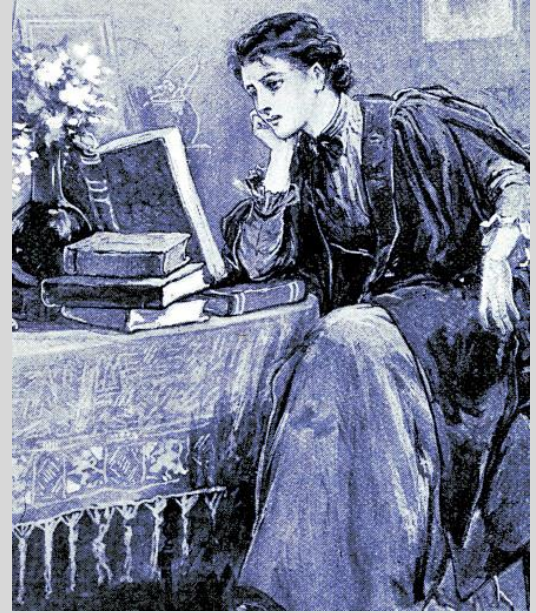




## RA Spotlight: Tessa Thevenot



MA student Tessa Thevenot shares her experience working as a research assistant for [\*Digital Victorian Periodical Poetry\*](#). Tessa's RAship was funded by the St Andrews and Caledonian Society Endowment and Scottish Studies donor award. Her anthology of Scottish Poetry will be published in early May.



I was beyond excited about the RA opportunity when it was first shared with me back in March of last year. Now that I am reaching the end of my contract (and that my mini-anthology of Scottish Poetry on *Digital Victorian Periodical Poetry* will be available soon), I would like to share that working as an RA for *DVPP* has been everything I hoped for - plus more! If any students are thinking about applying for an RA opportunity, I highly recommend it!

A favourite aspect of my work has been getting lost in person research, as I often found myself becoming personally invested in finding a poet in the records. Whenever I was able to find someone, it almost felt like I was looking into pieces of their lives - and it felt very special knowing I was contributing to documenting their literary life story. For this reason, I wanted to cater my anthology to non-canonical 19th-century poets.

The poetry in my anthology covers the range of experiences between different Scottish economic classes, including the poor, the working class, and the upper class. Additionally, the anthology encompasses a wide range of themes related to the Scottish experience, such as childhood and youth, death and mourning, nationalism and politics, and a close affinity with nature and place.

I have also been working with Dr. Chapman and Martin Holmes to add music alongside *DVPP*'s collection of sheet music poetry. Periodical poetry on *DVPP* includes publications of poems with musical scores and, until recently, the team has not thought of adding an MP3 file of the score for listening alongside the poetry. The process of transcribing old sheet music and creating MP3 files has been exciting as I believe it will create more interest in *DVPP*'s collection of songs as poetry, because it will permit greater accessibility to a wider audience, especially academics who may not be familiar with reading sheet music. I hope this addition to the website opens more opportunities for future RA-ships, perhaps for English graduate students with a background in music like me.

# Publications

## MA student Keira Clark: “Beyond the Battlefield: The Social and Legal Status of Women in Sparta”

October 23, 2024

“In this article, I argue that, regardless of their increased social mobility, physical exercise, and the right to inherit property, Spartan women were still ultimately confined to their roles as wives and mothers, and their upbringing was influenced by the desire to produce strong children who would be trained as Spartan warriors.” – Keira’s article summary.

[Read Keira’s article in the \*Armstrong Undergraduate Journal of History\* here.](#)

## PhD alumni Kim Shortreed: “Ethical Reflections on Making the Untitled ȩȩĆES Map”

March 3, 2025

“TEMOSĖN (Charles ‘Chazz’ Elliott), a professional artist and carver working from a family studio in WĖOĖĖP (Tsartlip) First Nation, and Kim Shortreed, a settler immigrant artist and scholar, teamed up to challenge Western cartographic traditions through Untitled ȩȩĆES, the first prototype of a haptic map, an art/map concept created by Shortreed during his Ph.D. project. Having completed and shown the map at a local gallery, Kim now reflects on the ethics of creative and cultural ownership, toponymic justice, and cartographic colonization.” – *Ethical Reflections* abstract.

[Read Kim’s article in \*Cartographic Perspectives\* here.](#)

## PhD student Saba Pakdel featured on the Poetry in Canada website

“I’m an exophonic author writing poetry in two languages: one that I was born into, and the other that I migrated into. My work is a display of two languages, English and Persian, that are not semantically in conversation with each other. What happens to be in conversation, though, is the self-translation of experiences into concepts.” – from Saba’s Poetics Statement on Poetry in Canada.

[Read Saba’s poetry here.](#)

## PhD candidate Jonathan Nash: “Drawing Life in Limbo: Refugee Lifeworlds”

October 10, 2024

“I was really happy about [this chapter being published] because an earlier version of it was twice nominated for best student paper prize, one at the Canadian Associations for Postcolonial Studies and once at the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies conferences. It is also a chapter in expanded form in my dissertation.”

[Read Jonathan’s chapter in Kate Evans’ \*Threads: From the Refugee Crisis\* here.](#)

PhD student Kevin Tunnicliffe

**“Stigma, the Social Construction of (in)Sensitivity, and the Modernist Epiphany in Mulk Raj Anand’s *Untouchable*.”**

In *Watching Eyes: Literature, Religion, and Surveillance*. Edited by Nithin Verghese. Palgrave. Accepted.

**“‘The Body Intervenes’: Embodiment, the Senses, and Prehistory in Virginia Woolf’s *The Waves*.”**

In *The Sound of the Past: Modernist Echoes and Incantations*. Edited by Susan McCabe, Catherine Theis, and Steven Minas. Vernon Press. Forthcoming.

**“Randolph Bourne.”**

*Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*. Published December 2024.

[Read Kevin’s article “Randolph Bourne” here.](#)

## Fellowships & RAships

### Jonathan Nash

“Last year, I completed the Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Program, earning a certificate. At the same time, I finished a **President’s Fellowship in Research-Enriched Teaching**, teaching a course called ENSH 335: Refugee Narratives and Literatures. I met some of our outstanding undergraduate English students, and I was happy to check out some of their honours projects earlier this year and touch base with some of them.”

The President’s Fellowship in Research-Enriched Learning is awarded to sessional lecturers who demonstrate their ability to provide “research-enriched” teaching to an existing undergraduate course at UVic. Research-enriched teaching is defined as the inclusion of research experiences where students actively engage in the research process.

### Mahayla Galliford

“Dr. Janelle Jenstad, her Linked Early Modern Drama Online (LEMDO) project, and my position as assistant project manager for LEMDO has been an invaluable part of my degree. My RA work focuses on encoding, remediating, and editing – all skills that I put towards my thesis project in collaboration with LEMDO that will be the first scholarly, digital, modern edition of Rachel Fane’s *May Masque* (1627).”

### Lucie Kotesovska

Lucie interviewed Nora Krug, an internationally acclaimed artist and illustrator and author of several book-length visual narratives. This interview was part of Lucie’s RAship with Dr. Schallie’s Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives (SCVN) project.

Read their interview here:

<https://visualnarratives.org/into-the-fortunoff-video-archives-with-nora-krug/>



# Lectures, Presentations, & Conferences

**Keira Clark: "'I've got no place for you:' The Physical and Emotional Landscape of Portia in The Death of the Heart"**

April 4, 2025

York University English  
Graduate Student Association  
Toronto, Ontario

York University EGSA  
Colloquium: Land and/as Body

**Keira Clark: "'Something wicked this way comes:' Witchcraft and the Subversion of Female Power in Macbeth"**

April 15, 2025

Gender and Otherness in the  
Humanities (GOTH), The Open  
University

Milton Keynes, England  
GOTH Annual Symposium

**Keira Clark: "'Thornfield Hall was a dreary ruin:' The Extreme Consequences of Female Oppression in Jane Eyre"**

June 15, 2025

Victorian Popular Fiction  
Association  
Birmingham, England & Online

17th Annual Victorian Popular  
Fiction Association Conference

**April Rogers: "Reading Video Games: The Last of Us' Blend of Gameplay and Narrative"**

February 19, 2025

Southwest American/ Popular Culture Association (SWPACA)  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Southwest Popular/ American Culture Association 45th Annual  
Conference

"I attended the SWPACA conference with Maya, where I presented  
on a science fiction panel."

**Maya Wei Yan Linsley: "Life After Canon: Dramione Fanfiction's Literary Reconstruction in Harry Potter Fandom"**

February 22, 2025

Southwest American/ Popular Culture Association (SWPACA)  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Southwest Popular/ American Culture Association 45th Annual  
Conference



Maya and April at the Southwest Popular/  
American Culture Association 45th Annual  
Conference

©Maya Wei Yan Linsley

**April Rogers: "Genre Play and Saga"**

April 2, 2025

University of Victoria

ENSH 324 Comics and Graphic Novels

"I had the opportunity to teach a session on genre  
conventions and their evolving perceptions ... The  
session went exceptionally well, and this summer, I'll  
be collaborating with the professor to publish a  
paper on my research!"

**Maya Wei Yan Linsley: "Choose Your  
Feeling: Affect Tags and Radical  
Vocabulary on the Archive of Our Own"**

June 25, 2025

University of Hawaii

Information, Media and Society: Twenty-Third  
International Conference on Publishing Studies.  
Oceanic Journeys: Multicultural Approaches in  
Publishing Practices.

# Student Spotlight: Lucie Kotesovska



I had the pleasure of speaking with PhD candidate Lucie Kotesovska before her upcoming dissertation defense. In our interview, Lucie shared some of the highlights of her time at UVic, advice for new PhD students, and a few book recommendations for your summer reading list!

- Sam Capps, Communications Assistant work study

## Life in Victoria

Lucie's first time visiting North America was in 2002 as a Charles E. Merrill scholarship recipient to spend a year at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Originally from the Czech Republic, Lucie did not know at the time that one day she would move to Victoria with her family to study Irish poetry.

On why she chose UVic, Lucie told us there were several reasons: "Some of them conscious, some of them less conscious. I think I might have realized some of [the reasons] during the program – 'Oh! That is what motivated me to come here!' – it was almost like acting on an impulse that wasn't quite conscious or articulated. Among the more obvious reasons, was the fact that I felt that I had really thrived in the North American academic context both as a BA and MA student enjoying its supportive and discussion friendly environment. And I wanted to go back for my PhD after the 'gap years' of my maternity leave."

"How many times in your life do you get this chance where you can rebuild everything?" said Lucie while reflecting on the five years she has spent in Victoria, "I brought over my whole family – my husband and my three children - and I sort of live through them, and lately I've noticed how they got so integrated in this place and in the community. We have great community in the family housing on campus, also in the church community."

"Overall, this is such a nice campus. It's the most beautiful campus I've been to, and I've studied at five universities. People are so respectful; I don't feel like a stranger or an outsider."

## Adapting to Change

Lucie's time at UVic has been shaped by her willingness to explore new interests and her ability to find opportunities in challenging moments. Her original dissertation topic was modernist novels, but through her studies she uncovered a love of Irish poetry.

"The plan was to focus on the modernist epiphany in novels by Joyce and Woolf but before I started studying for the second candidacy exam, which was to refine and deepen this intention, I had my own epiphany. I decided to change the focus a bit and turn to poetry as it felt especially fresh to me at that time. I'm so happy I did that because I realized that I really do have passion for poetry. For me, it's more intuitive to work with poetry than with a novel."



## Research

One of the most interesting breakthroughs Lucie made during her research was the close relationship between mathematics and poetic form.

"Seamus Heaney wrote this sequence titled *Squarings* that consists of four sections, each consisting of twelve, twelve-line poems. He felt like this form was delivered to him [while] he was sitting in a library, working on a monograph on Yeats," said Lucie, "I got to the same issue with Paula Mehan – she wrote the sequence again, which consists of 81 poems, each has nine lines, and every line has nine syllables. So again, you think, 'What's behind this? What's really behind this?'"

"I feel sometimes when I speak about structure, I lack words. So when I was putting together the proposal for my dissertation, I remember putting down that I would like to work on structural terms for my methodology, and I just wasn't able to really explain that. And it makes me think now, this might really be a good thing, right? The feeling of anxiety - 'Oh I don't know how to articulate this,' but this is great because it means that you're really getting at something which probably needs to be articulated, which is somehow there just on the brink of being explained."

## Teaching

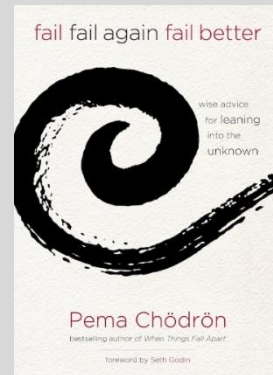
In 2023-24, Lucie received the Andy Farquharson Teaching Excellence Award, an award that celebrates teaching excellence among UVic graduate student teaching assistants.

"I think the most valuable experience from the program, besides research, would be meeting people, mentoring people, sharing what I know and what I came to realize. I had the opportunity to design and teach two courses last year, and I thought that was the most rewarding year in the program. I absolutely loved that. I loved that experience. I loved the teaching part."

Lucie has been a Teaching Assistant Consultant for the English Department, a graduate fellow in the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, and also received the President's Fellowship for Research-Enriched Teaching. She has been a TA in several English and Religious Studies courses. The absolute highlight of her TA career has been assisting in Rebecca Gagan's "Literature and Psychology" class this spring.



## Lucie's Must-Reads:



### ***Fail, Fail Again, Fail Better* by Pema Chödrön**

Advice on how to face the unknown and find new opportunities in failure



### ***100 Poems* by Seamus Heaney**

An introduction to Heaney's poetry, this collection was selected by his wife and children



### ***When Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chödrön**

Drawing from Buddhist wisdom, Chödrön teaches us to lean into and grow from painful situations

## Interdisciplinary Courses

Lucie told me how working with other departments was one of the highlights of her time at UVic.

"With both of these fellowships I got to talk to professors and graduate students from various fields and departments. In the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, there were people from the Arts department, from the Law Department, from History, Astronomy. That was fascinating. The experience of getting my little voice heard in that community was very valuable and validating."



### Caffeine Free PhD

I had to ask Lucie what campus coffee shop got her through her dissertation, but she managed to give up coffee about halfway through the writing process!

*"I just had to stop drinking it, my body was totally buzzing. Now I always stop for a hot chocolate at [Port Café] in the Cove. And if I feel like going off campus, I go to Moka House."*

### Next Steps

After completing her defense, Lucie is planning on returning to the Czech Republic with her family.

"We'll see what's there and explore our options, and I hope it will be a continuation of what I'm doing. I'll probably look for some opportunities in the UK, in Ireland – I'm also thinking about Germany or the Netherlands if we decide to stay in Europe."

### Recent Publication

**"The Regional Impersonal as a Mode of Dwelling: Structures of Embodiment in David Jones's 'The Anathémata' and Basil Bunting's 'Briggflatts'"**

November 2024

[Read Lucie's article in \*Text Matters: A Journal of Literature, Theory and Culture\* here.](#)

### Advice for New PhD Students

To her earlier self and to students just getting started in their PhD, Lucie says:

"Be open. Be open to anything really that might be brought your way. Just do not think that changing your focus or specialty, or being rejected by conferences or journals, is the end of the world. It's not, because when I failed (or what I thought was failing at that time), it made me look for other ways and other opportunities that might have been even more rewarding in the end. Change those failures into opportunity."

"Getting your PhD is a long process, so give yourself a lot of grace and self-compassion. Sometimes you forget the reason you entered the program. It happens, and then you need to somehow re-evaluate, and maybe update your reason for doing it. Which is okay. That's fine. It's really a very long process and we change and we grow and things change in our lives. The dissertation journey is not just a research journey, or writing journey, or communication journey. It's also a self-developmental, or spiritual journey as well."

For her final thoughts, Lucie expressed her gratitude for completing her program at UVic.

"I am immensely grateful that I have been given this opportunity to come here. This experience has changed me in ways which I could not foresee and that I still need to grow a bit more to fully appreciate. Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone I met in this program. It has been a joy and a gift."

**Thank you for sharing your story with us Lucie,  
and good luck in all your future endeavors!**

# Spotlight on EGSS

Maya Linsley (EGSS Vice President and MA representative) shares some highlights from the spring semester.



Maya and Rebekah Stuive (EGSS Vice President and PhD representative) at EGSS's Blind Date With A Book fundraiser.

©Maya Wei Yan Linsley

In January, we started restocking the English grad lounge and launched the term with a fun coffee social. Highlights included new coffee gear and a big bag of beans, a tea and snacks restock, colouring books, and a printer (which is an ongoing project). Our summer goals (aside from resolving printer problems) include building a "care drawer" in the lounge that might contain such necessities as first aid stuff, painkillers, menstrual products, etc. The EGSS is currently wide open to suggestions about what folks would like to have in the lounge--reach out to us anytime!

In February, we held our Blind Date With A Book fundraiser and raised a whopping \$236 in funds. Thank you to everyone for making that event such a huge success! These funds have been channelled into the programming pot to support our annual Colloquium and other future events.

Currently, we are gearing up for our English Graduate Research Colloquium on April 17th (noon to 5pm, Grad House Side Project). The Colloquium is stacked to the brim with four grad student research panels, a professional development panel featuring Drs. Janelle Jenstad and Adrienne Williams Boyarin, and a social hour in the Grad House. Be there or be square!!

Thank you to everyone who submitted their good news and photos!

Thanks to Sarah Hostettler (Graduate Secretary) and Dailyn Ramirez (Senior Admin Officer) for all their support of the Graduate Program. A special thank you to Katie Croudy (Assistant to the Chair) for all her help in the launch of this newsletter.

This newsletter was created by undergraduate student Sam Capps as part of a work study position for Dr. Alison Chapman.

**Have something to share in our next newsletter? Fill out our submission form [here](#).**

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