

# DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES / STAFF

## French

### Tom Baldwin



Tom teaches modules on modern French literature and culture, as well as grammar and translation. His research interests lie in the fields of modern French literature, literary theory, philosophy and visual culture.

Tom is co-director of one of the School of European Culture and Languages' research centres: the Centre for Modern European Literature.

Before coming to Kent, Tom was a *maître de langue* at the École normale supérieure in Paris.

### Sara-Louise Cooper

Sara-Louise teaches French language and literature from the nineteenth century to the present day.

Her research looks at Caribbean literature in French, Russian *émigré* writing, conceptions of 'world literature' and literary expressions of memory and history. Her first book, *Memory Across Borders*, explores the role of migration and linguistic change in shaping 20th- and 21st-century approaches to memory.

Her second book, *Where Word Meets World*, will investigate what it means to read and write in a globalised world through an examination of Caribbean writing in French.



### Larry Duffy



Larry's undergraduate teaching is mostly centred on French literature and culture from the nineteenth century to the present; he also teaches language, grammar and translation.

Larry's research interests lie mainly in the interplay between literary, scientific, and medical discourses in nineteenth-century France. Recent publications include peer-reviewed journal articles on medical themes in the works of Gustave Flaubert, Émile Zola and Joris-Karl Huysmans, and on Michel Houellebecq's twentieth- and twenty-first-century articulation of nineteenth-century preoccupations.

### Fiona Symes

As an undergraduate, Fiona took Latin and ancient Greek as wild modules. As a linguist, she cannot recommend learning these languages highly enough; they are at the root of Western civilisation, and of course fascinating (and hugely helpful!) to those who love languages.

Fiona has taught French at Kent since 2004. She organises the Paris and Ile-de-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP) Business French exams and teaches modules on business French and translation.



### David Hornsby



David's research interests were triggered early in his undergraduate year in northern France. Confused by people who appeared to be saying *l'eau* when they meant *là*, and *terre* when they meant *tard*, he soon came to realise that the local variety of French was very different from what he'd learned at school and university. This experience sparked a lifelong passion for sociolinguistics, the study of language in society.

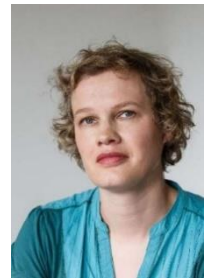
Both his French modules this year, 'Description of French and History of French start from a sociolinguistic perspective, i.e. one which doesn't assume that standard French is the only variety that matters. They explore differences between written and spoken French,

and regional and social differences between speakers. As David found out the hard way, it's worth finding out about these things *before* you spend a year in France....

### Lucy O'Meara

Lucy's teaching is centred on French literature and culture, and she also teaches language and grammar. She's excited about teaching a module on French and francophone musical culture (from opera to rap) for the first time in 2020-21. She studied and worked in Cork, Paris and Nottingham before coming to Canterbury.

Lucy has published on French and English literature and literary theory from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, focusing on authors including the literary theorist Roland Barthes. She's currently working on a book examining authors' attitudes towards encyclopaedic knowledge in European fiction and autobiography from the late 19th century to the present day. Lucy is a lockdown cliché: she got reasonably good at making sourdough bread in 2020.



### Mathilde Poizat-Amar



You will meet Mathilde during Welcome Week and you will see more of her during your second year at Kent.

Mathilde's research focuses on French and Francophone 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century literature, specifically on travel writing. Her current project investigates how the digital age is influencing contemporary French travel writing. When she is not travelling, reading or writing, Mathilde spends most of her time thinking about food.

## German

### Ian Cooper

Ian's main research interests lie in the intersection between literature in German and English (primarily poetry) and philosophy in the aftermath of German post-Kantian thought up to and including Heidegger.

Ian teaches German literature and culture from 1750 the present, as well as German language at all levels. He has also supervised doctoral work on nineteenth and twentieth-century German literature and philosophy.



### Tobias Heinrich

Tobias teaches modern German literature, culture and language. He has published on the history of biography, German literature from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and contemporary Austrian film.

Tobias is particularly interested in questions of life writing and is a member of the editorial board for the *European Journal of Life Writing*. His current research project is concerned with the cultural history of friendship in the German-speaking world.

### Ben Hutchinson

Ben teaches modern German literature and culture and has been Professor of European Literature at Kent since 2012. His research ranges across European - and especially German - literature including publications in numerous languages.

Ben is currently writing a book about literature and middle age, provisionally entitled *The Midlife Mind*. Amongst other activities Ben writes for the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Observer*, and the *Literary Review*.



## Hispanic Studies

### Antonio Lázaro-Reboll



Antonio teaches many different areas of Modern Spanish Studies (art, literature, history and culture). Cultural and visual theory are central to much of his research, and give scope for a number of modules and dissertation projects across art, film, history and cultural theory.

Antonio's research interests are in Spanish cultural studies and film studies, especially Spanish popular film, the development of film cultures in Spain (reception, consumption and fandom), and the cross-cultural dialogue between Spain and other world cinemas.

### Núria Triana Toribio

Núria teaches modules on Spanish history, language, popular culture and cinema. Her main research is in the fields of popular culture and subculture (Spanish Punk) and film cultures.

These two interests are linked by Núria's longstanding interest in inclusions and exclusions in histories of cinema and popular culture more broadly. This has taken her to areas such as national cinemas, popular genres and auteurism; the study of film festivals; contemporary Hispanic film cultures; film criticism and popular music.



### Rebecca Ogden



Rebecca will be on maternity leave when you begin your studies. Otherwise you would have met her in Introduction to Hispanic Studies – in which she teaches the Latin American half. The module is an essential foundation for your degree because it will help you understand the broad political, economic and cultural conditions that have shaped Latin America, from pre-colonial civilisations, to colonialism, to independence and revolution. We cover 600 years of history in the Latin American half of the module!

When it comes to culture, Rebecca is a staunch defender of 'guilty' pleasures. She researches and teaches popular culture like Mexican *telenovelas*, music videos and Instagram. She has lived in Mexico, Argentina and Cuba, and once met Che Guevara's daughter.

### William Rowlandson

William teaches aspects of Latin American cultural history, the prose and poetry of Borges, Cuban literature and film of the revolutionary era.

He has published on various areas of Latin American studies, including the history of Guantánamo Bay and Gitmo detention centre; rendition; torture; and Cuba during the War on Terror. William has also published studies of Borges, Lezama Lima, Cabrera Infante and Rulfo.



### Natalia Sobrevilla Perea



Natalia teaches Latin American history and politics, and her research interests include state formation and political culture in the Andes from the end of the colonial period throughout the nineteenth century, as well as issues of identity, race and ethnicity, and military culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in South America.

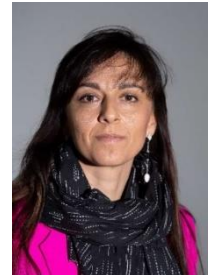
She has published on a wide range of issues, from economic to social history, and has a special interest in intellectual history and constitutionalism.

## Italian

### Wissia Fiorucci

Wissia teaches the Italian language and she has published articles on 20th century Italian literature. Her current research focuses on language teaching and learning. In 2019, she was awarded a Humanities Faculty Teaching Prize in recognition of her work supporting language learning at Kent.

In 2014 Wissia was awarded a PhD in Italian, with a thesis titled *Italian Elements of Magic(al) Realism. Deledda, Bontempelli, Banti*. Her research identifies elements of magical realism in the works of the authors Grazia Deledda, Massimo Bontempelli and Anna Banti within different socio-historical contexts.



### Alvise Sforza Tarabochia



Alvise is the Head of Modern Languages. He teaches Italian visual culture, cinema, music and language. The thing he loves the most about Italy are the mountains (which he climbs in his free time), and dialects (which are surprisingly more difficult to master than the mountains).

Alvise has wide research interests in Italian philosophy, medicine and visual culture. He has studied the internationally-acclaimed Italian reform of psychiatric health care, which makes Italy the only country in the world without public inpatient structures for psychiatry. He is now carrying out a research project on the visual representation of mental disorders, a journey that is taking him from dusty libraries looking at pictures in medieval manuscripts, to contemporary PET and fMRI facilities for brain imaging.

### Alex Marlow-Mann

Alex teaches modules on Italian cinema, modern Italian culture and Italian language, with a particular emphasis on translation.

Alex's research interests include: Italian cinema, European genre, cinema (particularly musicals, horror films, thrillers), political cinema, regional cinemas, film festivals and film archiving. He has worked for both the National Film and Television Archive and the Filmographic Department of the British Film Institute and spent several years living and working in Italy.

