

Uses of Literature

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1 Annual highlights

1.1 Two Associate Professors in Contemporary Anglophone Literatures at SDU appointed

In February 2020 Anita Wohlmann and Emily Hogg started work as Associate Professors of Contemporary Anglophone Literatures at the Department for the Study of Culture, SDU.

1.2 PhD defenses and Postdoc appointments



Johanne Gormsen Schmidt's PhD defense, February 2020. Photo: Peter Simonsen

In 2020 three UOL PhD students successfully defended their dissertations. Johanne Gormsen Schmidt in February, on SDU Campus, Marie-Elisabeth Lei Holm fully online in May, and Mathies Græsberg Aarhus in a hybrid format in August. Since their defenses, they have all continued in Postdoc appointments directly related to their work in the context of UOL. Schmidt in a Carlsberg Foundation sponsored project on reading habits during the COVID-19 pandemic at the University of Copenhagen, and Holm partly in a Velux Foundation sponsored project on dementia and the uses of literature, and partly in a SDU sponsored project on health effects of shared reading for men on retirement, both supervised by Prof. Peter Simonsen. Aarhus has continued in a Danish Institute for Advanced Study (D-IAS) (SDU) project on speculative fiction supervised by Assistant Prof. Bryan Yazell.

1.3 Grants from the Carlsberg Foundation

In December 2020 Associate Prof. Emily Hogg won one of the prestigious Carlsberg Foundation Young Researcher Fellowships on a project on feminized work in postwar Anglophone literatures, "Feminized: A New Literary History of Womens' Work", and enable her to hire one PhD student and one Postdoc researcher. Also Associate Prof. Anders Bo Rasmussen received a coveted Carlsberg Foundation grant, the Carlsberg Foundation Monograph Fellowship, to write a monograph on how socialism was attempted transplanted to, and challenged in, the United States, the project/monograph *Louis Pio's American Dream: Transplanting Socialism in the face of White Supremacy, 1875-1895*.

1.4 Niels Bohr. Prof. Rita Felski's publication *Hooked*

In November 2020 Niels Bohr Prof. Rita Felski's new book was published by Chicago University Press. *Hooked: Art and Attachment* develops new ways of thinking about the variety of aesthetic experiences and the many reasons we become "hooked" to works of art.

1.5 *Scandinavica* theme issue "Precarity in Scandinavian Literature"

The theme issue "Precarity in Scandinavian Literature" on the precariat which Prof. Peter Simonsen and Associate Prof. Jon Helt Haarder has edited with the University College London based journal, *Scandinavica* was published in 2020 (vol. 59, issue 2) and counts 5 articles by UOL members and affiliates as well as a co-authored introduction by Simonsen and Haarder.

1.6 Online series "Forms of Reading"

In fall 2020 Niels Bohr Prof. Rita Felski organized an online series "Forms of Reading" where two international researchers, Prof. James English (University of Pennsylvania) and Associate Prof. Elaine Auyoung (University of Minnesota) gave talks about the relations between literary studies and other disciplines. The speakers in the series reflected on the question of what it means to read now, focusing especially on the relations between academic and non-academic forms of reading, and what literary scholars might learn about reading from other fields such as sociology and psychology. These talks were very successful and drew a wide audience both inside and outside Denmark. The series "Forms of Reading" will continue in 2021.