

Jessica Olley

PhD Researcher, School of English, University of Leeds

j.l.olley@leeds.ac.uk · [LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

PhD English, University of Leeds

2024–present

Thesis: “Autism and the Canon: Toward a Neurodivergent Theory of Reading”. Develops a neuroqueer reading methodology applied to canonical literature (Shakespeare, Dickinson, Henry James, John Williams). Supervisor: Dr Denis Flannery.

MA English Literature, University of Warwick

2022

Distinction. Dissertation: “You Are My Creation: Power Dynamics in Second-Person Narrative Fiction” (Hamid, Aliu, Calvino). Modules: Queer Theory and Praxis; Feminist Literary Theory; Fundamentals of World Literature; Modernism and Psychoanalysis.

BA (Hons) English and Comparative Literary Study with Intercalated Year, University of Warwick

2021

First Class. Dissertation on the autotelic value of the humanities in John Williams’s *Stoner*.

PUBLICATIONS AND EDITORIAL WORK

Co-editor, special issue of *Language and Intercultural Communication*

Forthcoming

Special issue developed from the *Listening Beyond Words* event (see Events Organised).

“To Fill a Gap: Neuroqueering Emily Dickinson’s Silences” (co-authored)

In preparation, for the above special issue.

“(Mis)interpretation and Performative Misfires: Autistic Communication in Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*”

Journal article, in preparation.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“(Mis)interpretation and Performativity in Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*”

Neuroqueering Aesthetics panel, Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Convention, Pittsburgh, March 2026.

“‘I Dwell in Possibility’: Emily Dickinson’s Affective Ecologies”

poetry@leeds, University of Leeds, June 2026.

“The Mechanics of Reading and Translating Gender in Second-Person Fiction”

International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR), 2020.

EVENTS ORGANISED

Organiser, *Listening Beyond Words*, University of Leeds

May 2026

Event on non-normative modes of communication; a forthcoming special issue of *Language and Intercultural Communication* develops from it.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, *Listening Beyond Words*, School of Education, University of Leeds

Sep 2025–Jun 2026

Project on non-normative modes of communication, treating neurodivergent communication as valid and developing interpretive tools to read it.

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme (URSS), University of Warwick

2020

Funded independent project, “The Mechanics of Reading and Translating Gender in Second-Person Fiction”, working with the Department of Modern Languages to bring feminist translation theory to second-person address.

TEACHING

- Postgraduate Teaching Assistant, School of English, University of Leeds** 2025–present
- Seminar teaching on Level One modules *Writing Matters* and *Drama: Text and Performance*.
 - Designed and delivered “Reading Between the Lines: An Introduction to Close Reading”.
- Writing Mentor, University of Leeds** Sep 2025–present
- One-to-one writing mentoring and Research and Write sessions for postgraduate researchers.
- Private English Tutor, MyTutor** 2019–present
- GCSE and A Level English Language and Literature across AQA, OCR, Edexcel and Cambridge, including coursework, exam technique and personal statements; one-to-one and small-group sessions.
- English Language Teaching, Department of English, University of Padova** Sep–Dec 2019
- Creative Writing Workshop Leader, National Centre for Writing, Norwich** Summer 2019
- Creative writing and poetry workshops for primary-age children.

EDITORIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Finelight Media (formerly Schofield Publishing)** May 2021–2025
- B2B publisher of titles including *Manufacturing Today*, *Construction & Civil Engineering* and *Modern Home Builders*.
- Feature Writer: interview-led company features for 2025 editions.
 - Staff Writer (Sep 2021–Aug 2022): researched, wrote, edited and proofread long-form features.
 - Editorial Assistant (May–Sep 2021): proofreading, interview transcription and editorial administration.
- Manuscript Reader, Rowanvale Books** Oct 2021–2022
- Critical reader’s reports on manuscripts of forthcoming novels.
- Digital Copywriter, Fixflo (Tactile Ltd)** Aug 2022–Oct 2023
- Freelance Blog Writer and Proofreader, Studioworx** Feb–Sep 2022
- Poetry Society, London** 2017–2019
- Curated poetry readings and author interviews.
- Library Assistant, University of Warwick** 2017–2022

AWARDS

- Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme grant, University of Warwick** 2020
- Norfolk Young Scholar Award for English Literature** 2017

SKILLS

Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator and Acrobat.