

Chelsea Haith

Curriculum Vitae

Personal and Contact Information

Dual Nationality: British and South African

Currently residing in Oxford, UK.

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Education

- 2018-present Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) candidate, Faculty of English, University of Oxford. My doctoral research is on contemporary speculative fiction and urban inequalities. Thesis titled: "Anxieties of Time: Urban Dystopia in Contemporary Speculative Fiction"
- 2017-2018 Master of Arts in Culture and Thought after 1945, University of York (first class) Specialised in the following: 'Debating Global Literary Culture 1800 – present'; 'Neoliberalism and its Discontents'; 'Women, Citizenship and Conflict'; and 'Framing the Contemporary'.
- 2017 Bachelor of Social Science Honours, University of Cape Town (with distinction)
- 2016 Bachelor of Arts Honours in English Literature, Rhodes University (with distinction)
- 2013-2015 Bachelor of Arts undergraduate majoring in English Literature, French Studies, and Journalism & Media Studies, Rhodes University (with distinction). Minors in Linguistics, Intro to Philosophy, Modern Fiction and isiXhosa for Journalism.

Experience relevant to the book trade

- During my doctorate at the University of Oxford I founded and ran a funded research network titled Futures Thinking for two years, January 2019-January 2021. This entailed managing budgets, running a three-day international conference, planning over a dozen speaker seminars, producing multimedia projects, and writing reports on the network's activities. Futures Thinking's activities culminated in November 2020 with my podcast Narrative Futures on which I interviewed authors Lauren Beukes, Mohale Mashigo, Sami Shah, Ken Liu, EJ Swift and Tade Thompson, and editors Jared Shurin and Mahvesh Murad.
- As Research & Development manager at the public engagement with research social enterprise Uncomfortable Oxford I worked with a team to make academic research comprehensible and accessible to a less expert audience and ran walking tours around Oxford discussing the city's alternative literary history. November 2018-February 2020.

- Nine-months at uHlanga Press, a small experimental poetry publisher, 2017. I contributed to the meteoric rise of South African poet Koleka Putuma and remain her go-to proofreader. In my dog's body role at uHlanga I initiated and managed the press' social media, liaised with authors, editors, distributors and venues. I facilitated events and managed our submissions periods, including commenting on manuscripts and completing other administrative tasks.
- I reworked the web design of *Africa in Dialogue* in 2017, volunteering as a Wordpress specialist.
- As an Associate Reviews Editor I commissioned, edited and published reviews at *Africa in Words* in 2018 and 2019, managing a publishing schedule, liaising with reviewers and publishers, editing, and publishing these on the website.
- One year as an editor and submissions manager at Type/Cast, a small literary magazine based in Cape Town, fostering voices from under-represented communities. 2016-2017.
- One-month paid internship at Penguin Random House in Johannesburg, 2015. During this month at PRH I worked on publicity, proofreading, marketing, liaised with authors and wrote website content.
- Before moving to the UK in 2017 I was a freelance arts and social justice journalist, covering the Rhodes Must Fall protests, gang violence in Johannesburg and the South African music scene. Prior to this I was the Online Editor of my alma mater's student newspaper, managing a team of junior writers, photographers and designers.

Professional Development and General Skills

- Intro to Web Programming course at the Oxford Foundry (February-March 2021)
- Developing Learning and Teaching (DLT) course completed at Oxford. This course has SEDA (Staff and Educational Development Association) accreditation mapped at UKPSF Descriptor 1 for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education in April 2020
- Mental Health First Aid Champion certificate (MHFAE accredited) in 2019
- OED Dataset in Humanities Research course certificate 2019.
- Podcasting for Public Engagement, Oxford, course certificate 2019.
- Delf Exams (French B2) certificates 2015.
- DBS certificate updated on 26 August 2020.
- I have a British Driver's License.
- Excellent at Microsoft suite programmes (Word, Excel, Database, Powerpoint).
- Excellent at Wordpress and Wix, and currently training in web programming.
- Excellent writer and editor, honed during my doctoral research and supervision of undergraduate's dissertations.
- Good audio-visual editing skills, honed during my production of the video series Will Machines Make Us Laugh? and my podcast Narrative Futures.
- Excellent public speaking skills.
- Languages:
 - English (mother-tongue, proficiency excellent)
 - French (2nd language, proficiency good)
 - Afrikaans (2nd language, proficiency good)

Written work: academic and otherwise

Forthcoming:

Journal: *Utopian Studies* 2021

Edited Darko Suvin's forthcoming journal introduction from his key note at the 2019 Utopian Studies Society Conference

Review of *How To Run a City Like Amazon and Other Stories*, edited by Mark Graham, Rob Kitchin, Shannon Mattern and Joe Shaw

Review of *The Future*, by Nick Montfort

Journal: *Extrapolation* 2021

Review of *The Contemporary Post-Apocalyptic Novel*, by Diletta de Cristofaro

Review of *AI Narratives: A History of Imaginative Thinking about Intelligent Machines*, edited by Steven Cave, Kanta Dihal and Sarah Dillon

Special issue of *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies* on 'New Approaches to Literary Activism in the 21st Century' 2021: Position piece on Africa in Dialogue

Published

The Conversation, 'Sea Level Rise: Writers Have Been Imagining Drowned Worlds for Decades,' published on 28 January 2021, accessed at: <https://theconversation.com/sea-level-rise-writers-imagined-drowned-worlds-for-centuries-what-they-tell-us-about-the-future-151804>. This piece has been translated into Italian and Arabic for other publications.

The Conversation, 'Pandemics from Homer to Stephen King: What We Can Learn From Pandemic Literature,' published on 16 March 2020, accessed at <https://theconversation.com/pandemics-from-homer-to-stephen-king-what-we-can-learn-from-literary-history-133572>

This piece was translated into Japanese and reproduced in *Newsweek Tokyo* in March 2020. I was also interviewed on the television programme *TRT World Showcase* and on the radio on *ABC National Radio Australia* with Jules Morrow.

Writers Make Worlds – project in The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), commissioned by PI Professor Elleke Boehmer and Dr Erica Lombard. October 2017-present.

Entries on Abdulrazak Gurnah, Warsan Shire, Kazuo Ishiguro, Gautam Malkani, Kayo Chingonyi, Vahni Capildeo, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Diran Adebayo, Malorie Blackman, Kei Miller, Patience Agbabi, Inua Ellams and more.

Short critical essays included in some cases.

- <https://writersmakeworlds.com/essay-capildeo-fire-and-darkness/>
- <https://writersmakeworlds.com/essay-shire-home/>

"Femininities and Feminisms: Tensions in (Neo)-burlesque" for the Autumn 2018 edition of *Track Changes*, themed 'Sex, gender and sexuality'.

"Collective Amnesia and uHlanga Press: Publishing in Cape Town" in 'Issue 10: Peripheries' of *Moveable Type*, 2018.

"Interview with Gaamangwe Mogami, Founder of Africa in Dialogue," African Street Literatures Special Issue, *English Studies in Africa*, Autumn 2018.

"The Complexities of Silence in Buhle Ngaba's *The Girl without a Sound* in the Context of Contemporary South African Tertiary Education Protest". – *Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa*. September 2017.

Other professional experience

- PI of *The Sound of Contagion*, a creative-academic collaboration using AI, music composition and narratology, working with colleagues at Universität der Künste Berlin and The Royal Northern College of Music.
- PI, Founder and co-convenor of *Futures Thinking*, an interdisciplinary research network funded by TORCH (January 2019-present).
- Research and Development Manager, Uncomfortable Oxford (2018/2019).
- Data collector, *No Offence* exhibition, Ashmolean Museum (November 2018).
- Social media manager of Postcolonial Writing and Theory Seminar at the University of Oxford October 2018 to present.
- Research Assistant on the Prismatic Translation project which is part of the larger Creative Multilingualism grant (January to April 2019).
- Communications Officer and CFP Drafter, Oxford Graduate Conference (January to June 2019).
- Communications Officer, English Graduates of Oxford (EGO) (2018/2019)
- Editor, WRoCAH Journal, a postgraduate journal for the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (2017/2018)
- Nine months at uHlanga Press, an independent poetry publisher based in Cape Town, working with Nick Mulgrew (2017).
- MA Overseas Course Representative, University of York (2017/2018)
- Associate Reviews Editor, *Africa in Words* (2017/2018)
- Fundraiser and Pub Quiz Writer, University of York Graduate Students Association (2017-2018)
- WordPress Specialist and Developer, *Africa in Dialogue* (2017).
- Narrator, South African Library for the Blind (2014-2016).
- Marshall, Silent Protest against gender based violence at Rhodes University (2013, 2014, 2016)
- Media Officer, Gender Action Project (2016).
- Submissions Manager, *Type/Cast* literary magazine (2016/2017)
- Student Representative, Sexual Violence Task Team (2016)
- Paid-internship at Penguin Random House South Africa, (January 2015)
- Online Editor and Mentor, *The Oppidan Press* student newspaper at Rhodes University (June 2013 to December 2014)
- Freelance Journalist, published in *The Star*, *Grocott's Mail*, *The Journalist*, *Africa is a Country*, *SA Music Scene*, *Rhodes University Communications Division* outputs (2014-2016).

References on request