

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Oliver Harris

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

1980-83 University of Oxford, BA (1<sup>st</sup>), English Language and Literature  
1984-88 University of Oxford, D.Phil.

## **OTHER AWARDS**

1995 University of Keele, Certificate in Higher Education Teaching  
(Level III / SEDA)

## **APPOINTMENTS HELD**

1993-2001 Lecturer in American Literature, Keele University  
2001-2005 Senior Lecturer in American Literature  
2005- Professor of American Literature

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

- (2010) **Editor, *Queer: 25<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary Edition* by William S. Burroughs. Penguin. 150 pp. Introduction: IX-XLV.**
- (2009) **Co-Editor, with Ian MacFadyen, *Naked Lunch@50: Anniversary Essays*. Southern Illinois University Press. 283 pp.**
- (2008) **Editor, *Everything Lost: The Latin American Notebook of William S. Burroughs*. Ohio State University Press. 217 pp. Introduction: IX-XXVIII.**
- (2006) **Editor, *The Yage Letters Redux* by William S. Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg. City Lights. 127 pp. Introduction: IX-XLVII.**
- (2003) ***William Burroughs and The Secret of Fascination*. Southern Illinois University Press. 287 pp.**
- (2003) **Editor, *Junky: the definitive text of "Junk"* by William S. Burroughs. Penguin. 166 pp. Introduction: IX-XXXIX.**
- (1993) **Editor, *The Letters of William S. Burroughs 1945-1959*. Viking. 472 pp. Introduction: XV-XL.**

## Articles and Essays

- (2010) "The Beat Hotel / Cut-Up Headquarters," *Fabrikzeitung* (Zurich), 264 (September 2010).
- (2010) "Cutting Up the Corpse," in Davis Schneiderman et al, *The Exquisite Corpse: Chance and Collaboration in Surrealism's Parlor Game* (Lincoln: U of Nebraska P): 82-103.
- (2009) "The Beginnings of 'Naked Lunch, an endless novel,'" in Harris and MacFadyen (Eds.) *Naked Lunch@50: Anniversary Essays* (Southern Illinois UP): 14-25.
- (2008) "Everything Lost: The Latin American Notebook of William S. Burroughs – The Inside Story," *Beat Scene*, 56: 38-45.
- (2007) "William Burroughs," entry in Kurt Hemmer (Ed.) *The Encyclopaedia of Beat Literature*. New York: Facts on File: 31-37. With Rob Johnson, "Queer" (267-70) and 'Yage Letters' (355-56).
- (2006) "Not Burroughs' Final Fix: Materializing *The Yage Letters*" *Postmodern Culture* 16.3 (January 2006).
- (2005) "Burroughs is a poet too, really': the Poetics of *Minutes to Go*." *Edinburgh Review* 114: 24-36.
- (2005) "William Burroughs," entry in William Lawlor (Ed.) *Beat Culture: Lifestyles, Icons, and Impact* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2005): 29-43.
- (2005) "Killing the Killers: Hemingway, Hollywood, and Death," in David Seed (Ed.) *Literature and the Visual Media* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer): 74-95.
- (2004) "'Virus X': Kerouac's Visions of Burroughs," in Jennie Skerl (Ed.) *Reconstructing the Beats* (New York: St. Martin's Press): 203-15.
- (2004) "Cutting Up Politics," in Davis Schneiderman and Philip Walsh (Eds.) *Retaking the Universe: William S. Burroughs in the Age of Globalisation* (London: Pluto): 175-200.
- (2003) "Junky at Fifty," *Beat Scene*, 43: 36-37.
- (2003) "Film Noir Fascination: Outside History but Historically So." *Cinema Journal* 41.3 (Fall): 3-24.
- (2002) "Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture by Siobhan B. Somerville." *Journal of American Studies*. 36, 3: 556-57.
- (2002) "Film Noir et la fascination nocturne," *Les Cahiers de CIRCAV* 13 (Film Theory Special Issue): 143-68.
- (2001) "Out of Epistolary Practice: Email from Emerson, Post-Cards to Pynchon," *American Literary History*, 13, 1: 158-68.

- (2000) "Beating the Academy," *College Literature* (West Chester, PA.), 27, 1: 195-212.
- (2000) "Cold War Correspondents: Ginsberg, Kerouac, Cassady and The Political Economy of Beat Letters," *Twentieth Century Literature*, 46, 2: 171-92.
- (1999) "Apocalypse-Burroughs-Cage-Dada-Encounter: A Cut-Up ABCDE," *Burroughs/Cage* (Lyme Regis): 9-16.
- (1999) "'Can You See A Virus?' The Queer Cold War of William Burroughs," *Journal of American Studies* (Cambridge), 33, 2: 243-66.
- (1999) "Queer Shoulders, Queer Wheel: Homosexuality and Beat Textual Politics," in C. Van Minnen et al (Eds.) *Beat Culture: The 1950s and Beyond* (Amsterdam: VU Press): 221-40.
- (1998) "In hope he is still alive," in *In Memoriam: William Burroughs* (Exeter: Stride Publications): 112.
- (1997) "Forwarding Address Unknown," *ROAM Magazine* (February/March): 28-29.
- (1997) "Naming Names: The Beat Hall of Fame," *Over Here: A European Journal of American Culture* (Nottingham), 17, 1: 218-25.
- (1996) "The Beat Generation," in *The Reader's Guide to Literature in English* (London: Fitzroy Dearbon): 59-60.
- (1996) "William Burroughs," in *The Reader's Guide to Literature in English* (London: Fitzroy Dearbon): 111-12.
- (1996/97) "It's no calligraphy for school children," *Connotations: A Journal for Critical Debate* (New York/Munster) 6 3: 337-53.
- (1991) "Cut-Up Closure: The Return to Narrative," in Jennie Skerl & Robin Lydenberg (Eds) *William S. Burroughs At the Front: Critical Reception 1959-1989* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press): 251-62.

#### **FORTHCOMING**

- (2010) "William Burroughs" entry in *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction*, ed. Patrick O'Donnell (Wiley-Blackwell).

#### **ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS**

- (2000-5) *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies*, Volume 317, "William Burroughs."
- (2000) *Reading The Beats* (Bloomsbury)

## CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PAPERS

- 2010 "Confusion's Masterpiece': Re-editing William Burroughs' First Trilogy," Book Colloquium, Columbia University, New York (16/9/10)
- 2010 "Sawing William Burroughs in Half: the Origins of *Naked Lunch*," Temple University, Philadelphia (14/9/10)
- 2010 "Double-Crossing Hemingway: The Iceberg Aesthetic as Red Herring," Dept. of English, University of York (3/3/10)
- 2009 "The Frisco Kid, He Never Returns: William Burroughs in San Francisco," San Francisco Art Institute (20/11/09)
- 2009 Keynote Address, "From Dr Mabuse to Doc Benway: The Myths and Manuscripts of *Naked Lunch*," William Burroughs Conference, Columbia University, New York (9/10/09)
- 2009 Organiser's Address to *Naked Lunch@50 Symposium*, University of London Institute in Paris (1/7/09)
- 2009 "Burroughs and Kerouac on the road to *Naked Lunch*," University of Sussex (24/2/09)
- 2008 "The Holy Shit of Burroughs and Kerouac," Plenary Address to "Kerouac's *On the Road*: The Beats and the Post-Beats," University of Birmingham (13/12/08)
- 2008 "The Inside Story on Covers: Confessions of a Burroughs Scholar," "Uncovering the Scholarly Edition" symposium, Keele (18/6/08)
- 2008 "Beating Scholarship: On the Unspoken Truth about Editing and Publishing," American Literature Association, San Francisco (5/08)
- 2007 "Cutting Up the Archive: William Burroughs and the Composite Text," Annual Symposium on Textual Studies, De Montfort University (25/5/07)
- 2007 "Cutting Up the Beat Hotel," British Association of American Studies Annual Conference, University of Leicester (4/07)
- 2003 Keynote Speaker, "Junky at Fifty," Columbia University (4/03)
- 2000 "Film Noir Fascination," *Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association*, New Orleans
- 1998 "Queer Shoulders, Queer Wheel," *Netherlands American Studies Association Conference*, Middelburg, Netherlands
- 1997 "The Beat Mythology," *North Eastern Modern Languages Association Conference*, Philadelphia
- 1996, 1997, 1999 Department of English, Université Charles de Gaule, Lille-3
- 1996 "I-con-oclast," Department of English, Glasgow University
- 1990 "The Ancient Mariner of Addiction," *Conference on Literature and Addiction*, Sheffield University

## **KEELE ACADEMIC/CREATIVE EVENTS**

- 1994 Organised and contributed to the William Burroughs Symposium, a national event featuring leading academic and literary figures
- 1995 Organised readings at Keele by novelist Ron Sukenick and poet Robert Creeley
- 1997 Organised readings at Keele by poets David Meltzer and Jack Hirschman
- 1998 Co-organised and contributed to "A Chance Encounter: Burroughs/Cage Day of Events," a multi-media academic/creative event at Keele featuring keynote critical and creative figures
- 2000 Co-organised and contributed to "2000 Children Dreaming," a Keele community exhibition of collaborative artwork
- 2005 "A Flash of Vision," illustrated lecture for the William Burroughs exhibition at the Riflemaker Gallery, London
- 2008 Co-organised and contributed to "Uncovering the Scholarly Edition" symposium, Keele
- 2009 Co-organised "Naked Lunch@50" 3-day Symposium and Events. University of London Institute in Paris
- 2009 "A Fifty Year Lunch," illustrated talk at The Cube Cinema, Bristol

## **CONSULTANCIES AND MEDIA**

- Research consultant for BBC drama-documentary 'Einstein's Brain' (1998)
- BBC Radio Stoke, 1998, interviewed on Burroughs/Cage Symposium
- Radio National (Australia), William Burroughs obituary interview (Sept. 1997)
- Interviewed for *Times Higher Educational Supplement*, 1999 (Issue 1401)
- Research consultant for Courtney Love's film on the Beat Generation, *Beat* (2000)
- Interviewed for *Beat Scene* magazine, 2003 (issue 43)
- Interviewed for the website *Realitystudio.org* (2005)
- Discussion of collage on "The Verb" (Radio 3, October 2005)
- Interviewed about Burroughs' literary archive for *New York Times* (March 2006)
- Interviewed about Burroughs for Mexico City newspaper *Reforma* (Sept. 2006)
- Interviewed about *Naked Lunch* for Agence-France-Presse (July 2009)

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Reviewed for (among others): *The New Statesman*, *PN Review*, *Harpers & Queen*, *City Limits*, *City Lights*, *Journal of American Studies*, *SCOPE: An On-Line Journal of Film Studies*.

## **REFEREEING**

Reader for Southern Illinois University Press, St. Martin's Press (Palgrave), Vanderbilt University Press.

*Twentieth Century Literature*; *Mosaic*; *Cinema Journal*; *College Literature*; *Culture, Theory, and Critique*; *Philament*.

## **GRANTS RECEIVED FOR RESEARCH**

1997	British Academy, Overseas Travel Grant (£1,000)
2004	AHRB, 4-month Research Leave Scheme Award (£15,000)
2007	British Academy, Small Grant (£5,609)
2009	British Academy, Small Grant (£1,750)

## **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Literature Association  
Beat Studies Association  
Society of Cinema Studies  
Popular Culture Association  
British Association of American Studies  
European Beat Studies Network (founding President)

## **Major University Roles and Responsibilities**

Member of Court (2003-present)  
Member of Learning and Teaching Committee (1999-2001)  
Chair/Member, Humanities Learning and Teaching sub-committee (1999-2000)  
Chair/Member, Humanities Course Development Committee (1997-2000)  
Chair/Member, Library Users Group (1999-2005)  
Member, Staff Student Liaison Committee (1999-2005)  
Chair and Founder, Director of Undergraduate Studies Forum (1998-2000)  
Member, "Review of Student Support" working party (1999)  
Member, "Continuation Audit" focus group (1999)

## **Major School Roles and Responsibilities**

Programme Director, BA in *English & American Literatures* Single Honours (2003-10)  
Programme Director, BA in *American Studies*, Single & Dual Honours (2006-10)  
Exam Secretary, *American Studies, English & American Literatures* (2009-present)  
Study Abroad Officer, *American Studies, English and American Literatures* (2009-10)  
Director, MA in *American Literature and Culture* (1994-98)  
Director of Undergraduate Studies (1997-2000, 2005-06)  
IT and Study Skills Tutor (1996-98)  
Chair / Member, Learning and Teaching Committee (1999-present)  
Member, TQA Steering Committee (1997-98)  
Careers Liaison Officer (1997-99)  
Library Liaison Officer (1994-1996)  
Chair/Member, Staff-Student Liaison Committee (1995-present)  
Chair, Post-graduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee (1997-98)  
CPE Subject Convenor (2000-01)  
Member, Departmental Management Group (1994-2000)  
Member, David Bruce Centre Committee (1994-1998; 2006-present)

## PHD SUPERVISION

- 1994-1998 Jim Hall, *The Failure of the Individual in Tom Wolfe's Bonfire of the Vanities*. (Part-time, transferred to University of Exeter)
- 1995-1998 John Watters, *The Magical Universe of William S. Burroughs*. (Joint Award with Lille-III, France)
- 1998-2002 Mark Forshaw, *Outer Space, Inner Space, Cyber Space: The Shifting Ontological Territories of William S. Burroughs, James G. Ballard, and William Gibson*. (AHRB Award 1999-2000)
- 2003- Alberto D'Elia, Keele University (co-supervision, part-time)
- 2007- Jon Weinel, Keele University (co-supervision)
- 2010- Tomasz Stompór (co-mentoring) Freie Universität, Berlin

## PHD EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

- 1996 James Drever, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. *William S. Burroughs and the American Frontier*.
- 2000 Jamie Russell, University of London, Queen Mary and Westfield College *Bodies of Light: Homosexuality, Masculinity, and Asceticism in the Novels of William S. Burroughs*.
- 2001 Brendon Nicholls, University of Essex, *Languages of the Body and the Body of Language: A Comparative Study of Two Beat writers*.
- 2006 Catherine Nash, University of Nottingham, *Technology in the Work of Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs*.
- 2007 Barbara Pitter, Kings College, London, *Fruit Rat: A Consideration of Gender and Sexuality in the Work of William S. Burroughs*.
- 2010 Joanna Harrop, Queen Mary, University of London, *The Yagé Aesthetic of William Burroughs: The Publication and Development of his Work, 1953-1965*.

## Recent Teaching Activity

*Starting Out: An Introduction to American Literature*  
*Comparative Perspectives on 20<sup>th</sup> Century English and American Literatures*  
*The Unreliable Truth: Studies in 20<sup>th</sup> Century English and American Literatures*  
*Post-war Counter/Culture: Texts of the 50s and 60s*  
*Literature and Social Criticism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*  
*Hooray for Hollywood? Approaches to American Film*  
*Alfred Hitchcock's America*  
*Method in the Madness: Texts and Contexts of The Beat Generation*  
*Issues in American Society and Culture*  
*Avatars of the Detective*  
*Film Noir: Death and Desire*  
*Methods in Cultural Analysis (MA)*  
*American Noir (MA)*  
*Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Alfred Hitchcock (MA)*

## EXTERNAL EXAMINING

- 2003-06 BA *Film and American Culture*, University College Winchester
- 2005-07 BA *Film Studies*, University College, Winchester