

CV - Dr Simon Rennie

Senior Lecturer in Victorian Poetry, University of Exeter - s.rennie@exeter.ac.uk

My previous research project examined the poetry of the writer and Chartist, Ernest Charles Jones (1819-69), with attention paid to its historical, cultural, and political contexts. The research culminated in a monograph, two journal articles, and several conference papers.

I am currently Principal Investigator on a large-scale AHRC-funded research project examining issues of function and address in Lancashire Cotton Famine poetry. This project is recovering and critically evaluating of hundreds of poems, largely from local newspapers. All of the texts, with readings, maps, and musical performances, are being included on a publically accessible database developed by the University of Exeter Digital Humanities team. <http://cottonfaminepoetry.exeter.ac.uk/>

I am a Fellow of the HEA, and currently hold the position of Director of Impact for the English Department at the University of Exeter (UoA27 – July-December 2019). I have been active in Widening Participation initiatives at Departmental and College levels, including the conception and development of a proposed Humanities Foundation Year Programme. My AHRC-funded research into the poetry of the Lancashire Cotton Famine has resulted in considerable press exposure including extensive coverage by *The Sunday Times*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, and BBC Radio Four's *World at One* and *Feedback* programmes. In addition I recorded an edition of *The Essay* in 2017 on the subject of Anthony Burgess for BBC Radio Three. My database, *The Poetry of the Lancashire Cotton Famine (1861-65)* has been accessed in 59 countries by over 6000 users to date.

QUALIFICATIONS

2017: University of Exeter PCAP Teaching Qualification with Commendation

2010-13: University of Leeds

Awarded full AHRC funding for my PhD research thesis entitled 'The Poetry of Ernest Jones (1819-69): Myth, Song, and the 'Mighty Mind''.

PhD awarded with recognition for Research Excellence January 2014.

2009-10: University of Durham

MA with Distinction in Studies in Poetry.

2006-9: Manchester Metropolitan University

BA in English with First Class Honours (and recipient of the Duncan Prize for achievement in and all-round contribution to the degree).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

July 2011: Chartism Annual Conference, University of Leeds

'Ashes and Sparks': Shelley's Influence on Chartist Poetry'

Feb 2012: The Nineteenth-Century Memory: Approaches and Appropriations

Conference, Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, Leeds Trinity University College

'Radical Medieval Memory and Mythopoeia in the Poetry of Ernest Jones (1819-69)'

July 2013: Barbara Pym Centenary Conference, University of Central Lancashire

Panel Chair

Nov 2013: Northwest Long Nineteenth Century Seminar, Manchester Metropolitan University

'E. C. J. – Poetic Double Agent: Ernest Jones and the Whig Crisis 1851-2'

January 2015: Elizabeth Gaskell Society, Manchester

Lecture on social reform and literature at the Elizabeth Gaskell Society monthly lecture

June 2015: Chartism Annual Conference, University of Newcastle

‘Re-forming for Reform: political implications of revision, re-publication, and pseudonymity in the poetry of Ernest Jones’

April 2016: Cotton Famine Poetry Workshop, Chetham’s Library, Manchester

I organised this workshop and gave a paper entitled ‘Cotton Famine Poetry: the potential for research and impact’. The purpose of the workshop was to develop research and engagement ideas related to the study of Lancashire Cotton Famine poetry.

May 2016: Literary Form and Reform Conference, Shanghai Fudan University

‘From German Romanticism to British Radicalism: formal appropriation in the Chartist poetry of Ernest Jones’

July 2016: ESPRit Conference of the European Society for Periodical Research, Liverpool John Moores University

‘A Foot in Both Camps: radical-conservative periodical appropriations of Ernest Jones in the 1840s and 1850s’

August 2016: British Association for Victorian Studies Conference, Cardiff University

‘Lengthening leisure and the new alchemy: A Chartist post-industrial vision in Ernest Jones’s “The New World”’.

April 2017: Water Conference, Leeds Trinity University

‘From ‘sparkling rills’ to ‘ocean grave’: water imagery in the poetry of the Lancashire Cotton Famine, 1861-65’

April 2017: Elizabeth Gaskell Society, Unitarian Chapel Manchester

Invited Speaker at AGM – ‘The Poetry of the Lancashire Cotton Famine 1861-65’

June 2017: Nineteenth Century Studies Conference Plymouth University

‘This ‘Merikay War: Lancastrian Poetic Commentary on the American Civil War’

July 2017: Anthony Burgess Centenary Conference at the IABF in Manchester

‘Sick Doctors: the spin and drift of the linguistic picaresque’

July 2017: Dickens Universe pre-conference in Santa Cruz

‘“Tuned by the hand of circumstance”: shifting form in the Chartist poetry of Ernest Jones’

February 2018: Invited Speaker - Lincoln University

‘Lancashire Cotton Famine Poetry’

July 2018: Portico Library Manchester

Launch of Lancashire Cotton Famine Poetry Database

July 2018: International Digital Humanities Conference in Mexico City

A paper based on the development of the Lancashire Cotton famine poetry database with Dr Ruth Mather, delivered by Dr Gary Springer (Director of Exeter University Digital Humanities)

August 2018: BAVS Conference, University of Exeter

‘Configurations and Context: the Implications of Newspaper Digitisation’

September 2018: University of Southampton

‘Cotton Famine Poetry and Lancashire Regional Identity’

July 2019: SHARP Conference, Amherst, Massachusetts

‘A Lost Literature? Lancashire Cotton Famine Poetry and the Canon’

August 2019: BAVS Conference, Dundee University

‘Dialect and Bilingualism in the Cotton famine Poetry of ‘Williffe Cunliam’

EMPLOYMENT

I worked in factories and warehouses for many years before entering academia. I was an upholsterer, furniture restorer, and industrial manager. After working as an associate lecturer in universities across the north of England I took the post of Lecturer in Victorian Poetry at the University of Exeter in September 2015. In the summer of 2018 I was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

***Journal of Victorian Culture* 25:1, published Spring 2020**

‘This ’Merikay War’: Poetic Responses in Lancashire to the American Civil War’

Forthcoming chapter (2020) in *Spoken Word in the UK* (Routledge)

‘Poetic Orality in Working-Class Culture 1840-70’

***Journal of Victorian Culture* Roundtable: Born in 1819, published Spring 2019**

‘Ernest Jones: a Life of Adjacency’

In collaboration with traditional music group Faustus 2019

Liner notes booklet for *Cotton Lords: Five Songs of the Lancashire Cotton Famine*

Original poetry collection published 2019

Adverse Camber (Knives Forks and Spoons Press)

Database publication 2017

The Poetry of the Lancashire Cotton Famine (1861-65)

Radio Three Broadcast: *The Essay – Beyond Orange* 2017

‘Anthony Burgess: Populism and Class’

Monograph published in May 2016

The Poetry of Ernest Jones: Myth, Song, and the ‘Mighty Mind’ (MHRA-Routledge)

Journal article published in Spring 2015 volume of *Victorian Poetry*

‘The Poetic Negotiations of a Gentleman Radical: Ernest Jones and the ‘Mighty Mind’

Journal Article published in 2015 edition of *Identity Papers*

‘Myth, Land, and History in the Poetry of James Clarence Mangan and Ernest Jones’

Original poetry collection published 2011

Unless Otherwise Stated (Knives Forks and Spoons Press)

Original poetry collection published 2009

Little Machines (Knives Forks and Spoons Press)

