



PhD projects - ATTR Summer School 2018

Burnett, Julianne. University of Manchester

"Was Moses perceived as a magician? A socio-historical exploration of Moses' wonder-working in the narratives of the Pentateuch within the context of ancient Egyptian and Israelite Magic."

My project examines the portrayal of Moses as a wonder-worker and possible magician in the Pentateuch. A socio-historical methodology is used to explore the context of ancient Egyptian and Israelite magic and how this might shed new light on the Moses narratives.

Chahanovich, W. Sasson. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

"The Ottoman Apocalyptic Mentality and the Dark Side of Sufism (15th – 17th c.): Pseudo-Ibn al-‘Arabī’s *The Tree of Nu‘mān (al-Šagarah al-nu‘māniyyah)*, *The Cry of the Owl (Šayḥat al-būm)*, and the End of Time"

Sasson Chahanovich is a Ph.D. at Harvard University in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. There he is studying post-classical Islamic Intellectual History with Prof. Khaled el-Rouyaheb. For the purpose of his thesis, Sasson is investigating eschatological enthusiasm, apocalyptic prophecy, and mystical occultism and their collective function within, and service to, the Ottoman Empire. Sasson has identified a corpus of heretofore barely studied texts that vividly – both in language and in art – bring to life this trifecta of topics. Moreover, not only do Sasson’s manuscripts demonstrate central role of eschatology, apocalypse, and the occult in the Ottoman imperial imagination, but also how our own modern conceptions of Islamic orthodoxy, as embodied in the throne of the last great Sunni Caliphate, are complicated in light of this information.

Cobb, James. Department of English and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Black Realism: Beyond the Ontology of The Black Subject in Contemporary African-American Fiction"

My project is as an evaluation of contemporary realism, particularly the relationship between 21st Century Black Fiction and the lived experience of black life. Theories of black life and literature rely on a consideration of ontology: how does black life exist? Yet, this is not an ontological question; it is a consideration of hegemony. Contemporary Black Fiction illuminates the degree to which the racialization and objectification of the black subject is not fundamental to its identity, but reliant upon the context of political oppression. Contemporary black writers explore the possibilities of a black literature that thinks through black identity outside of an ontological (political) framework. I want to

understand why these theorists continue to turn to ontology, discover what work their writing actually does in relationship to contemporary realism and then detail the results and implications of the actual use of their theory.

Diesen, Rakel I. Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

"Conceptions of Nordic Childhood and Youth in Medieval Hagiography"

My project: "Conceptions of Nordic Childhood and Youth in Medieval Hagiography" looks at what Nordic vitae and miracle collections can reveal about the lives of children and the conception of childhood in the Nordic Middle Ages. The outlined project is designed as a text- and discourse analytical study.

Folkestad, Ragnhild Schiager. Department of Philosophy and Religious studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

"Musical understanding, meaning-relations and the grammar of aesthetical language games. – New perspectives on the later Wittgenstein and the relation of music and language."

My research project will look closely into some of the writings of Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951), with a main focus on his writings and remarks about music in relation to philosophy. In the vast commentary literature on Wittgenstein, commentators have barely started to pay attention to Wittgenstein combined enquiry of aesthetics and language. It is my aim to explore and to bring out this aspect of Wittgenstein's texts.

Garcia de Presno, Jostein. MF Norwegian School of Theology

"Et tempel av hjerter. Hans Nielsen Huges vennsamfunn og det nye Jerusalem." (Norwegian)

The project investigates the role that the hope of a new Jerusalem played for Hans Nielsen Hauge and the Haugean communities of friends. Hauge and his friends saw themselves as the true heirs to the new Jerusalem. The project seeks to investigate how this influenced their self-perception, their daily comings and goings and their relation to society and authorities. A main source for the project will be legal documents from the lawsuit against Hans Nielsen Hauge.

Gómez Baggethun, Cristina. Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages
Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo.

"Crisis and Utopia: Henrik Ibsen's plays in Spanish Theatres and Television during late Francoism and the Transition to Democracy (1962-1982) "

My research will offer a political interpretation of the production and reception of Ibsen's plays in the period of transformation of Spain from a dictatorship to a democracy (1962-1982). As this was a particularly politically charged period and as Ibsen is often related to socio-political questions, I believe this study case constitutes a privileged opportunity to reflect upon the relationship between theatre and politics.

Heesch, Jon Petter. The Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.

"Deconstructing die Sichtungszeit- understanding Zinzendorfs Blood and Wounds theology"

Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700-1760): founder of Herrnhut, visionary, "count without borders", world wide traveller, missionary and mystic. Die Sichtungszeit (the Sifting Period has, almost without exception, been interpreted as the period between 1743 and 1750, widely accepted since Hermann Plitts three volume work on the life of Zinzendorf (1871), and to this day. Why is one scientific interpretation regarded as normative for such a long time? My thesis is a reading of texts spanning the whole literary production of Zinzendorf. My aim is to convey that the key features of die Sichtungszeit are present throughout his works, also the ones preceding 1743. Furthermore, I will widen the scope by showing that his theology carries influences from a much wider Christian tradition. Constructing a certain timeframe has been a nice and tidy approach, but it is flawed.

Kibirige, Ronald. Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

"Reconciliation Ritual-dances and Social-cultural Reintegration in Post-war Communities of the Acholi Sub-region in Northern Uganda: Bodily Skills and Hidden Meanings in Indigenous Dance Practices"

The core purpose of this research is to uncover, make accessible (through education and other forms of knowledge dissemination) the potentials of embodied practices of indigenous music and dance in siting, and mitigating present-day community challenges of reconciliation and reintegration. The research will further investigate politically "formal" international interactive interventions with interdisciplinary humanistic disciplines of music and dance, through which communities embody and transcend beyond what is rather explicit.

Klawitter, Brandt. MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo.

"Did Luther Like Babies? — Luther, Procreation and the Theology of the Lutheran Confessions"

This project seeks to examine Luther's understanding of the nature, purpose, function, and significance of procreation as understood primarily through the lens of Luther's Genesis Lectures

(1535-1545) even as it addresses important contextual and textual issues surrounding the editing and publication of those lectures.

Lagset, Frode. The Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.

"Kirke i fredsnasjon" (Norwegian)

The project discusses the possibility of a common set of values in a pluralistic society through the example of Norwegian theologian Tor Aukrust's oeuvre. This has had considerable impact on political-ethical discourse in Norway.

Manga, Christian. Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bergen.

"Polyphony in the Cameroonian political discourse"

My work falls within the framework of discourse analysis. It moves from different observations made on the field of political discourse in general and that of Cameroon political context in particular. The latter is characterized by two realities. The first one is that of the lifelessness of a dispersed opposition and the second is the resulting overpower of the regime. This situation of serious disequilibrium in the political action appears through the speeches of the main leader. Very conscious of his supremacy, he makes speeches in which marks of the opposition and their actions scarcely appear. Therefore, his speeches are mid-way between self-reference and polyphony.

Mendoza, Lumberto Guce. Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, University of Bergen.

"On the possibility of resolute transcendentalism"

My research aims to articulate a framework for understanding Wittgenstein's intended philosophical procedure in his work *Philosophical Investigations* within the context of the emerging debate between the resolute readings and transcendental readings of the later Wittgenstein. I consider the possibility of a certain kind of "resolute transcendentalism" which draws from what Wittgenstein says in PI 116 that what philosophers do is to "bring words back from their metaphysical to everyday use."

Moe, Birgitte F. University of Oslo

(TBA)

Oldershaw, Myles. Duke University

"Varieties of Influence"

My (embryonic) dissertation examines the role of influence studies in literary criticism, and argues for their value. It begins by examining the downturn in influence studies in the last third of the twentieth

century, tracing the disciplinary shifts that saw influence become an outmoded critical term. It argues against these shifts, showing how the dismissal of influence was based on a narrow picture of what such studies must entail. It goes on to show how expansive the topic can be, and how well it serves to illuminate the discipline's objects of study. Two further potential chapters demonstrate how discussions prominent in literary studies today – literary networks and institutional studies – implicitly investigate influence, even if the critics involved in such discussions would disclaim the term.

Prelock, Aaron. VID Specialised University

"John Owen's Pastoral Theology and Methodology"

I am analysing Owen's sermons, writings to pastors and congregations, ecclesiastical records, and his broader theological writings in order to answer the question: how did John Owen function as a local church minister in relation to his own defined theology? Understanding his practice in relation to his theology will shed greater light on a neglected aspect of this important figure.

Reinertsen, Ellen Aasland. The Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.

"Lost in reception? Paradox and potential in text and reception of parables with intersecting female characters."

In this historical-literary New Testament PhD-project, I will explore the much-neglected female characters in parables attributed to Jesus. I will do so by exegete parables in the synoptic gospels, the gospel of Thomas and the Shepherd of Hermas. I will also study how these intersecting female characters have been interpreted in the reception history. Are the parables with intersecting female characters lost in reception?

Rodenbiker, Kelsie. Durham University.

"The Role of the Catholic Epistles in the Formation of the New Testament Canon"

This project is focused on the role of the Catholic Epistles in the formation of the NT canon as evidenced by third- and fourth-century papyri, codices, canon lists, Patristic usage, and (para)biblical intertexts and narrative exemplars. It emphasizes the contingent canonicity of early Christian literature as shaped through a process simultaneously historical, theological, and practical. Neither arbitrary nor inevitable, the CE collection illuminates the intentionality and non-linearity of NT canon history.

Shah, Farhan. The Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.

"Islam reconstructed. God, dynamism and khalifa. Muhammad Iqbal`s philosophical ideas and their implications."

In my doctoral project, I propose to analyse the Muslim philosopher Muhammad Iqbal`s reconstructed concept of Islam, related especially to his philosophical reflections on Khalifa as God`s co-worker and their (possible) implications. In addition to analysing and examining Iqbal`s ideas, this PhD dissertation seeks to delve into intra-Islamic and interreligious discourse on human dignity, human rights and ecological consciousness.

Tillema, Aron. Religious Studies, University of California Davis.

"Dialogism, Intention, and Truth in the Book of Jonah"

The biblical book of Jonah, where a prophet complains that God is too merciful and is eaten and spat out by a giant fish, is widely considered a parody, in everything from scholarly commentaries to children`s books. But was the book of Jonah intended to be humorous, and Jonah a parody figure? Earlier religious traditions throughout history from Judaism to Islam have variously characterized Jonah as an honest prophet, a prophet whose anger was ultimately his downfall, and the prophet who would usher in the eschaton when he would catch Leviathan and create a banquet hall from the monstrous sea-beast. What might account for such a shift in interpretation and what does this tell us about modern historical-critical hermeneutics? I engage with the history of interpretation of Jonah as well as the book of Jonah itself to imagine under what hermeneutical conditions Jonah was taken seriously – as a text grappling with divine justice, what it means to be a prophet, and other themes in the book of Jonah. The goal, then, is twofold: To demonstrate the historical contingency of the modern, monologic interpretation of the book of Jonah and to consider how contemporary interpreters constructs Jonah and its author to fit their own ends.

This is a case study for my larger interests related to my dissertation. While I have not yet determined what I will precisely write about, I am interested in the contingency of modern historical scholarship on the Bible – much of it relating to authorship and intention. Because historical-critical scholarship places a large emphasis on contexts, authorship becomes a major factor in driving interpretation.

Vikan, Cornelia. Faculty of Humanities, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

"Military power and ethics in the grey area of war - Afghanistan. A critical ethical-philosophical analysis of the core values of the Norwegian Armed Forces: Respect, Responsibility and Courage."

The project is a critical ethical-philosophical analysis of the core values of the Norwegian Armed Forces: respect, responsibility and courage, and aims to contribute to the discussion about ethics in war along with Just War thinking. The core values are essential in Norwegian military ethics, but it is not clear what they mean in a modern war context with a multitude of moral stakes. Focus – ISAF in Afghanistan.