

Mark Taylor

Assistant Professor in English Literature with the School of Philology of the National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow

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Research Interests:

My main research interests lie in exploring the interaction between literature and the environment. In particular, I consider the relationship between humankind and wider nature in British literature of the early and mid-twentieth century. I am especially interested in this regard in the work of D.H. Lawrence, Aldous Huxley, Olaf Stapledon and Doris Lessing.

Education:

2010-2014 **DPhil English Literature**

Linacre College, University of Oxford, Faculty of English Language and Literature

Thesis title: Evolutionism and the Novels of D.H. Lawrence

Supervisor: Dr. Michael Whitworth, Merton College

- Undertook the first overarching consideration of evolutionism in Lawrence's novels.
- Found powerful evidence that an evolutionary structure can be seen in Lawrence's novels from throughout his career.
- Discovered strong evidence that Lawrence's familiarity with the ideas of Henri Bergson was significantly deeper than had been believed, and that this knowledge is reflected in his fiction.

2008-2009 **MA European Studies, Distinction**

Cardiff University, School of European Studies

Dissertation title: *Only Biology Can Make Sense of the Soul: Nature and the Films of Julio Medem*

Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Prout

- Demonstrated that biological theory can provide a valuable model through which to understand the prominence of non-human nature in the director's work.

2000-2003 **BA English and Philosophy, Upper Second Class Honours**
University of Sheffield

Employment History:

- 2016 – Present **Assistant Professor in English Literature**
(Post-Doctoral Researcher in English Literature up to August 2017)
National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow
- Research British literature and its representation of relationship between humankind and non-human nature.
 - Devise, teach and assess courses on Modernism, and Science and English Literature.
 - Delivered public lectures at the university’s Day of British Culture (2016), and twice at its main open day, HSE Day (2017 and 2018).
- 2014 – 2016 **Teacher of English as a Foreign Language**
Kensington Academy of English, London
- Prepared, taught and assessed classes in English as a Foreign Language for learners of a variety of ages and abilities.
- 2011 – 2014 **Tutor in English Literature and Comparative Literature**
St Peter’s College, Oxford; Worcester College, Oxford; the Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies; the Washington International Studies Council.
- Devised, taught and assessed credit-bearing tutorial courses for Oxford undergraduates and visiting American undergraduates. Courses included Utopian and Dystopian Literature, an Introduction to Literary Studies, Jane Austen, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and British Children’s Fantasy Literature.
- 2005 – 2008,
2009 – 2010 **Teacher of English as a Foreign Language,**
Senior Teacher of English as a Foreign Language
BKC-International House, Moscow, Russia
- Provided tuition in English as Foreign Language specializing in exam preparation courses, which entailed developing the essay writing and wider academic skills of students.
 - As Senior Teacher, oversaw academic matters in four branch schools across Moscow, mentoring and monitoring newly recruited teachers in these locations. Also organized and delivered workshops on teaching theory and practice.
- 2005 **Teacher of English as a Foreign Language**
International House, Bydgoszcz, Poland

- Taught English as a Foreign Language to groups of adults as part of an EU funded scheme.

2003 – 2004

Teacher of English as a Foreign Language

Language Link, Moscow Russia

- Provided tuition in English as a Foreign Language to groups of a variety of ages and abilities.
- Tutored in-company with a number of major corporate clients.

Publications:

“The Strange Stimulus of the Forest:” Bergsonism and Plant-Like Posthumanism in D.H. Lawrence’s *Aaron’s Rod*,’ *MFS – Modern Fiction Studies* (publication pending, 2019)

‘Aldous Huxley’s Late Turn to Bergson, and *Island* as Bergsonian Utopia,’ *Utopian Studies*, 29.3 (2018)

‘Henri Bergson’s Creative Evolution and the Interaction between Humankind and the Environment in D.H. Lawrence’s Australian Fiction,’ *D.H. Lawrence Review*, 41.1 (2016), pp. 89-107,

Selected Presentations:

November 2018

‘Merely Parts of the General Observer:’ The Space Fiction of Olaf Stapledon, and J.W. Dunne’s *Experiment with Time*

At the *Messengers from the Stars* conference, University of Lisbon

June 2018

Evolution and Degeneration in the Popular Science of H.G. Wells and the Science Fiction of Doris Lessing

At the British Society for Literature and Science annual conference, Oxford Brookes University

July 2017

Aldous Huxley’s *Island* and Bergsonism as a Way of Life

At the British Association for Modernist Studies Annual Conference, University of Birmingham

June 2017

Making a Scandal of Soil Degredation: Aldous Huxley’s *Ape and Essence* and Early Discourses of Sustainability

- At the *Literature and the Environment* conference, University of Graz
- July 2013 'Evolution through Rebirth: D.H. Lawrence and the Occult Review.'
- At the *Maverick Voices and Modernity* conference, St. John's College, Durham University. Participation funded by the Linacre House Trust.
- May 2012 'Evolutionism and the Imaginary Geology of D.H. Lawrence's Australian Novels, *Kangaroo* and *The Boy in the Bush*.'
- At the *Two Cultures or Co-Evolution? Science and Literature 1800-Present* interdisciplinary conference, Keele University.
- April 2012 'Growth Unbound and Fatal Instinct: Non-Darwinian Evolutionism in D.H. Lawrence's Transitional Novels, *The Lost Girl* and *Aaron's Rod*.'
- At the British Society for Literature and Science Annual Conference, University of Oxford.

Languages:

English – Native Speaker; Russian – Upper-Intermediate (B2).
