DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

What Snuck about Hopewell and Other Places and Outside the ‘imaginative estate’
Canon, Dialect and Aesthetics in Northern Irish Poetry

McKendry, Scott

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Scott McKendry

wmckendry01@qub.ac.uk
+447716282661

**Current Projects**

I’m a writer and academic working on my first full collection of poems, titled *Hammer & Environments*, and a monograph on contemporary Irish poetry. I recently completed a PhD project at Queen’s University Belfast which comprised a critical component, titled Outside the ‘imaginative estate’: Canon, Dialect and Aesthetics in Northern Irish Poetry, and a creative component, *What Snuck about Hopewell and Other Places*. As well as dialect and canon in Irish poetry, research interests include depictions of the working-class in literature, postcolonialism, the politics of taste and academic/intellectual engagements with the ‘local’.

**Education**

- Bachelor of Arts, Queen’s University Belfast, 2012–2015: First class honours (78%) in English
- Master of Arts, Queen’s University Belfast, 2015–2016: Distinction (83%) in Poetry
- PhD, Queen’s University Belfast, 2016–2019
- French at Intermediate Level, Queen’s University Belfast, 2014: Pass at Level 2
- Certificate in Foundation Studies, Belfast Metropolitan College, 2012: High Commendation (70%)
- NVQ Level 3, Belfast Metropolitan College, 2008: City & Guilds completed in Electrical Installation

**Papers Given**

- ‘Mary Ann McCracken as Poetic Subject’ – Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Queen’s University, Belfast (15 April 2016)
- ‘Geese, Guns and ‘Slum Clearances’ – Charting the Cultural History of Belfast’s Hammer District’ at the 17th International AEDEI Conference (‘Eco-Fictions Irish Studies’), Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (31 May 2018)
- ‘“When are yez go’n to git | married?” – Northern Irish Poetry and Unorthography’, AEL Research Seminar, Queen’s University, Belfast (24 October 2018)
- ‘Geese in the Hammer’ – New Gate Fringe Festival 2019, Derry (4 August 2019)
- ‘Me, newly cubbed in language’: Seamus Heaney’s Poetry after St Thomas’s Secondary School, Whiterock Road – Féile An Earraigh, Gael-Ionad Mhic Goill (5 March 2020)

**Poetry Published**

- *Curfuffle* (Lifeboat, 2019)
- *Public Illumination Magazine* 61 (Winter 2017)
- ‘Oblivion’ – *Cyphers* 85 (Spring 2018)
- ‘Greaspaint’ – *Poetry Ireland Review* 125 (Summer 2018)
- ‘Helen of Foreman Street’ – *The Children of the Nation: An Anthology of Working People’s Poetry from Contemporary Ireland* (Culture Matters, 2019)
‘Tombs in the Sky’ *Poetry London* 96 (Spring/Summer 2020)

‘Ladybird’ – *Dawntreader*, tba

‘Scotch Bill’ – *The French Literary Review*, tba

‘Nex d’Or’ – *The Frogmore Papers*, tba

**Reviews & Journal Articles**


**Significant Readings**

Slake Your Thirst, Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin (11 November 2016)

Bunting Miscellany, an ekphrastic collaboration with fiddle-plater Conor Caldwell, prompted by the work of Edward ‘Atty’ Bunting, 1773–1843, Queen’s University Belfast (10 May 2017)

Re-imagining Bunting: Belfast’s Lost Sounds, collaboration with fiddle-plater Conor Caldwell, Society for Musicology in Ireland Annual Plenary Conference, Queen’s University Belfast (17 May 2017)


Matthew Rice, Shannon Kelly, Scott McKendry and Caitlin Newby, Seamus Heaney HomePlace (16 February 2019)

Fifty, Reading by Scott McKendry, The Duncairn Arts Centre, Belfast (12 April 2019)

The Lifeboat Pamphlet Launch with Caitlin Newby & Scott McKendry (11 June 2019)

The Lifeboat Pamphlet Launch with Paul Muldoon (3 September 2019)

The Lifeboat Presents Nick Laird and Supriya Dhalwal, Ulster Sports Club, Belfast (1 July 2019).


Curfuffle, New Gate Fringe Festival, Derry (4 August 2019)

Virtual Cabaret, the Duncairn (18 April 2020)

**Lecturing**

‘QUB, ENG3064: ‘Representing the Working Class’ (October – November 2017)

**Teaching**

QUB, ENG3064: ‘Representing the Working Class’ (October – December 2016)

QUB, ENG1090: ‘Introduction to Creative Writing’ (January 2018 – April 2018)

QUB, ENG1002: ‘English in Context’ (January 2020 – April 2020)

**Employment History**

Electrician Installation Engineer / Contracts Assistant, Vaughan Engineering Services (2004 – 2011)

Student Assistant, Queen’s University Student Guidance Centre (August 2014 – February 2015)

Customer Assistant, Checkout, Tesco, Lisburn Road, Belfast (September 2015 – January 2017)

Teaching Assistant and Lecturing, Queen’s University (2016 – present)

**Roles**

Representative on the QUB School of English Student Staff Consultancy Committee, 2013 – 14

Peer Mentor in the QUB School of English Peer Mentoring Programme, 2014 – 15

Member of *Queen’s Political Review*, 2013 – 14

Editor, *The Open Ear* literary journal, 2016 – present
Scott McKendry
wmckendry01@qub.ac.uk
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AWARDS AND PRIZES
- Esther Ballantine Prize 2015 (for best final year student)
- Henry Hutchinson Stewart Literary Scholarship 2015 (for best student enrolling in postgraduate study)
- School of English Mature Student Prize 2015 (for mature student attaining the highest marks at undergraduate level)
- Miss Margaret Cuthbert Frazer Research Bursary 2019 (for student researching dialect)
- The Patrick Kavanagh Award 2019