

James Bernthal-Hooker

Publishing as J.C. Bernthal

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Research Interests

Crime and detective fiction
Agatha Christie
Twentieth century literature
Queer theory
LGBTQ+ literature and culture
Creative writing

Professional Membership

Modern Language Association
Crime Writers' Association
International Crime Fiction Association
Crime Studies Network
Middlebrow Network

Education

- 2011-2015 PhD English (AHRC-funded), **University of Exeter**. Thesis: 'A Queer Approach to Agatha Christie, 1920-1952.' Supervisors: Vike Plock, Lisa Downing [until 2012], Jana Funke [from 2012]
- 2010-2011 MA Creative Writing, **University of Exeter**
- 2007-2010 BA Creative Writing with Theology & Religious Studies, **University of Chester** (First Class Hons.)

Publications

Monographs

- Under Contract *Agatha Christie: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction*. Jefferson: McFarland. Expected submission in 2019.
- 2016 *Queering Agatha Christie: Revisiting Golden Age Detective Fiction*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. Shortlisted: CrimeFest H.R.F. Keating Award (2017)

Edited Volumes

- Under Contract With Rebecca Mills. *Agatha Christie Goes to War*. London, New York: Routledge. Expected Submission in 2019.
- In Progress With Fern Pullan. *Criminal Heritage: Crime, Fiction, and History*. Under consideration with Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2016 *The Ageless Agatha Christie: Essays on the Mysteries and Legacies*. Jefferson: McFarland.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2020 “‘There are Some Perversities that Cannot Stand’”: Nostalgia, Homosexuality, and the Continuation Novel.’ *Crime Fiction Studies* (1.1), forthcoming.
- 2019 ‘Killing Innocence: Obstructions of Justice in Late Interwar British Crime Writing.’ *Clues: A Journal of Detection*, forthcoming.
- 2018 ‘Taking Dorothy L. Sayers Seriously: New Books from the Archives.’ Review essay. *Clues: A Journal of Detection* (36.1), pp. 115-118.
- 2018 ‘Crime Fiction as World Literature’. Review essay. *English: The Journal of the English Association*.
- 2016 “‘And For the Knife We Shall Use the Great Sword’”: Uncanny Cutlery and its Absence in the fiction of Roald Dahl.’ *Feast* (1.1), article 8.
- 2015 “‘If Not Yourself, Who Would You Be?’” Writing the Female Body in Agatha Christie’s Second World War Detective Fiction.’ *Women: A Cultural Review*. Themed issue, ‘Women and Popular Culture’ (26.1-2), pp. 40-56.
- 2014 “‘Every Healthy Englishman Longed to Kick Him’”: Masculinity and Nationalism in Agatha Christie’s *Cards on the Table*.’ *Clues: A Journal of Detection*. Themed issue, ‘Global Crime Fiction, ed. by Stewart King and Stephen Knight (32.2), pp. 101-114.
- 2012 ‘Seventy Years of *The Body in the Library*.’ *CADS: Crime and Detective Stories* (61), pp. 19-24.

Chapters in Edited Collections

- 2020 ‘Self-Referentiality and Metafiction.’ In Janice Allen, Jesper Gulddal, Stewart King, and Andrew Pepper (ed.s), *The Routledge Companion to Crime Fiction*. London, New York: Routledge. Forthcoming.
- 2020 “‘A Look of Doglike Devotion’”: Hercule Poirot’s Stooges and Foils.’ In Lucy Andrew and Samuel Saunders (ed.s), *A Study in Sidekicks: The Detective’s Assistant in Crime Fiction*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. Forthcoming.
- 2019 “‘No Women, No Gay References’”: Crimes Against Masculinity in Anthony Horowitz’s *The House of Silk*.’ In J.C. Bernthal and Fern Pullan (ed.s), *Criminal Heritage: Crime, Fiction, and History in Victorian and Neo-Victorian Texts*. Publisher TBC. Forthcoming.
- 2019 “‘When She Eats She Will Die’”: Informal Meals and Social Change in *Sad Cypress* and *And Then There Were None*.’ J.C. Bernthal and Rebecca Mills (ed.s), *Agatha Christie Goes to War*. Publisher TBC. Forthcoming.
- 2019 “‘A Dangerous World’”: The Eschatology of Agatha Christie’s Later Novels.’ In Caroline Blythe (ed.), *Murderous Texts: The Bible and Crime Fiction*. London: Bloomsbury. Forthcoming.
- 2018 ‘Detective Fiction: Resolutions Without Solutions.’ In Dougal McNeill and Charles Ferrall (ed.s), *British Literature in Transition, 1900-2000*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.
- 2018 ‘Inspector Alan Grant – Josephine Tey.’ In Eric Sandberg (ed.), *Sleuths, Private Eyes, and Policemen: An International Compendium of the 100 Greatest Literary Detectives*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 69-70.

- 2017 “‘Less Beautiful in Daylight’”: Josephine Tey and the Anxiety of Gender.’ In Curtis Evans (ed.), *Murder in the Closet: Queer Clues in Crime Fiction Before Stonewall*. Jefferson: McFarland, pp. 93-105. Shortlisted: Edgar Award 2018.
- 2016 “‘The Sumptuous and the Alluring’”: Poirot’s Women, Dragged Up and Dressed Down.’ In J.C. Bernthal (ed.), *The Ageless Agatha Christie: Essays on the Mysteries and Legacy* Jefferson: McFarland, pp. 81-97.
- 2015 ‘Talent Enough in His Profession: The Maladroit Detective.’ In Barry Forshaw (ed.), *Crime Uncovered: Detective*. London: Intellect, pp. 200-210.

Creative Publications and Performances

Short stories and poetry published in: *The Dandy*, *Thirteen*, *ThrillerUK*, *Twisted Tongue*, *Pandora’s Box*, *Flash*, *Jeans for Genes* (magazines/journals). *Homage to Cheshire* (ed. W. Terry Fox, Cheshire County Council); *It’s About Time* (ed. Peter Blair, University of Chester); *Jessica Brick Investigates* (sole-authored volume); *Dead in the Water and Other Stories* (sole-authored volume).

Plays performed in workshop: ‘Cold Blood’ (Toronto Community Fringe Festival, 2004); ‘Sherlock Holmes and the Cursed Tiara’ (Dusmagrik Young People’s Theatre Company, 2005); ‘Clue-Don’t’ (Red Herring Theatre Company, 2019).

Awards & Funding

- 2017 CrimeFest HRF Keating Award for Best Biographical or Critical Book (for *Queering Agatha Christie*) - Shortlisted
- 2016 With Mia Dormer: University of Exeter Humanities Research Activity Award (£300)
- 2015 With Mia Dormer: University of Exeter Annual Fund award to assist with organizing an event (£1,220)
- With Mia Dormer: University of Exeter Researcher Development award for Researcher-Led Initiative (£500)
- With Mia Dormer: University of Exeter Humanities Research Activity Award (£300)
- 2014 AHRC Research Training Support Grant for research in Cleveland, Ohio (£1,366.89)
- University of Exeter Researcher Development award for Researcher-Led Initiative (£500)
- 2011-2014 AHRC PhD Studentship for Gender & Sexuality, University of Exeter (3 year funding award)
- 2010 Bible Society prize for South West essay in Biblical Studies (£300)
- 2007 Phyllis Brett Award for Further Study (£100); Norfolk County Scholar Prize for Academic Excellence

Teaching Experience

2018 - **University of Cambridge** (Institute of Continuing Education, tutor panel)

- Diploma - *Advanced Crime Writing* – Invited Guest Lecturer and Marker.

2016 -2018 **Middlesex University** (Hourly Paid Lecturer)

- Level 4 - *Literary Analysis* – Lead Tutor
- Level 4 - *Language, Literature, and Writing* – Lead Tutor
- Level 6 - *Genre Fiction*

2014-2015 **University of Bristol** (Invited Dissertation Supervisor and Moderator)

- Level 6 - *English Literature and Community Engagement*

2011-2015 **University of Exeter** (Graduate Teaching Assistant, LTHE Levels 1 & 2)

- Level 4 - *The Novel* – Lead Tutor
- Level 4 - *Beginnings: English Literature Before 1800*
- Level 6 - *Crime and Punishment: Detective Fiction from the Rue Morgue to the Millennium* – Invited Guest Lecturer
- Masters - *Modernism and Interwar Women Writers*

Invited Guest Speaking & Non-Academic Teaching

2019 Solent University, *Agatha Christie: Investigating the Queen of Crime* — ‘Agatha Christie Goes to War’ (keynote presentation with Rebecca Mills)

2019 University of Edinburgh, *Murderous Texts: Crime Fiction and the Bible* – ‘Agatha Christie, The Bible, and the End Times’

2018 University of Cambridge, *ICE Summer Festival* – ‘Thinking Like a Golden Age Crime Writer’

2018 Middlesex University, *LGBT+ First Wednesdays* – ‘The Case of the Queer Detectives’

2017 Co-Tutor, with Sophie Hannah, ‘How to Write a Golden Age Crime Novel’, a creative writing retreat at Hewenden Mill

2016 University of Buckingham, Humanities departmental seminar – ‘Bodies of Evidence: Agatha Christie and the Feminine Corpse in Wartime’

2014 Agatha Christie Limited, *International Agatha Christie Festival* – ‘Agatha Christie in the University’

- 2012 University of Warwick, *Queer Spaces, Queer Representations* – “‘Too Much of a Miss Nancy’: Agatha Christie and Sexology’ [event cancelled]
- 2010 Student Mentor, offering one-to-one extra support for GCSE students from disadvantaged backgrounds, trained and certified by AimHigher
- 2009 Summer School activity co-ordinator and teaching assistant at Birkenhead School

Long-Term Research Employment

- 2019- **4C Offshore Limited.** Market Researcher.
- 2015-2018 **Loose Ship Limited.** Private researcher and personal assistant to the internationally bestselling crime novelist and poet **Sophie Hannah.**

Consultancy & Editorial Positions

Some research and consultancy is confidential and cannot be mentioned here, but appropriate details are available on request.

- 2019-present Reviews Editor, UK & Europe, *Crime Fiction Studies*
- 2017-present Editorial board (invited), *Clues: A Journal of Detection*
- 2015-present Peer-reviewer (invited) for:
Crime Fiction Studies
International Crime Fiction Association
Journal of Popular Television
Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture
Clues: A Journal of Detection
Lambda Nordica
Journal of British Cinema and Television
Journal of Asia-Pacific Pop Culture
- 2015-2018 Researcher for Sophie Hannah (bestselling crime writer)
- 2016 Blogger in residence for *Noir*wich International Crime Festival (University of East Anglia and Writers’ Centre Norwich)
- 2015 Intensive interdisciplinary research with Dominique Jeannerod (Queens University Belfast) and Brett Jacob, commissioned by UKTV Drama and published in major news outlets worldwide.

Media Attention

Expert consultancy

- 04/2019 Expert guest on *All About Agatha*, 13 April.
- 11/2018 Expert guest on *Sarah Walker*, BBC Radio Berkshire, 28 November.
- 11/2018 Expert guest on *Shedunnit*, 'Queer Clues' (episode 3).
- 04/2018 Expert guest on *Good Morning Scotland*, BBC Radio Scotland, 10 April.
- 04/2018 Chris Hastings, 'Ordeal by Impertinence!', *Mail on Sunday*, 8 April, p. 27.
- 03/2018 Consulted for a BBC documentary on Agatha Christie, to air December 2018. Offered talking head status.
- 05/2017 Andrew Wilson, 'How Christie Got Cool', *The Sunday Times*, Culture, 7 May, pp. 8-9.
- 03/2017 Anna Russell, 'Goodnight, Miss Marple: Agatha Christie is Taking a Dark Turn', *Wall Street Journal*, 10 March.
- 12/2016 Chris Hastings, 'It's hardly Miss Marple: BBC adds f-words, rape and violence to Agatha Christie tale - and experts insist it's true to the original script', *Mail on Sunday*, 11 December, p. 3. Also published in Rachel Dale, 'Rude-Dunnit: BBC Set the Shock Viewers', *The Sun*, 12 December, and in print and online variations of these papers.
- 04/2016 Interviewed in *Galileu* and several Brazilian news outlets.
- 05/2015 Consulted for a BBC2 documentary on Agatha Christie.
- 01/2011 Expert guest on *Breakfast* (ABC Australia Radio).

'Agatha Christie Formula' (project spokesperson for UKTV)

- 08/2015 Interviews for BBC World Service, LBC, UCB, Radio New Zealand, and 20+ regional BBC radio stations.
- 08/2015 Findings published in national newspapers: 'How to Find Out Whodunnit in an Agatha Christie Mystery', *The Times*, 3 August, p. 3; Victoria Ward, 'Whodunit in Agatha Christie? Look in the Car', *Daily Telegraph*, 3 August, pp. 1, 5; Katherine Rushton, 'Sorry Poirot, Now There's a Formula to Tell Us Whodunnit', *Daily Mail*, 3 August, p. 29; 'Boffins Solve Agatha Mystery', *Daily Express*, 3 August, p. 9; Haroon Siddique, 'Whodunnit? Academics Claim to Have Cracked Christie's Mysteries', *The Guardian*, 3 August, p. 9; 'Agatha's Plot Clue', *Sun*, 3 August, p. 8; 'Agatha Christie Hour', *Daily Star*, 3 August; online

editions of *The Independent*, *Los Angeles Times*. Also published in over 200 regional newspapers, online publications, and international newspapers. Discussed on national and international television and radio. The estimated initial readership in English was 514,114,960.

Archival research

- 04/2015 Findings and interview covered in *Daily Telegraph* (Anita Singh, 'Agatha Christie and the Book Cover Most Foul', *Daily Telegraph*, 14 April, p. 3) The story also appeared in *Exeter Express and Echo* and *Western Morning News*.

Events Organised

- 09/2019 *Agatha Christie: Investigating the Queen of Crime* (Solent University, co-organised with Mark Aldridge, Mia Dormer, and Sarah Martin). Keynote Speakers: J.C. Bernthal, Rebecca Mills
- 09/2017 *Criminal Heritage: Crime, Fiction, and History* (Leeds Beckett University, co-organised with Fern Pullan). Keynote Speakers: Frances Brody, Heather Shore
- 06/2017 *Agatha Christie: A Reappraisal* (University of Cambridge, co-organised with Mia Dormer and Sophie Hannah). Keynote speakers: Merja Makinen, Julius Green
- 06/2017 *A Daughter's A Daughter* (University of Cambridge, public engagement initiative, part of *Agatha Christie: A Reappraisal*). Arranged by Julius Green with members of the Agatha Christie Theatre Company (Bill Kenwright Ltd) and by permission of Agatha Christie Ltd.
- 06/2016 *The Ageless Agatha Christie: Adaptations and Afterlives* (University of Exeter, co-organised with Mia Dormer). Keynote speakers: Alison Joseph, Sophie Hannah, Mark Aldridge
- 04/2015 *Agatha Christie: Hidden Horizons* (University of Exeter, co-organised with Mia Dormer). Keynote speakers: Gill Plain, John Curran, Sophie Hannah
- 06/2014 *Queens of Crime* (University of London, co-organised with Brittain Bright). Keynote speakers: Val McDermid, Lee Horsley
- Queens of Crime: Authors' Panel* (Senate House, London, with Brittain Bright), public panel event with involvement from the Crime Writers' Association
- 04/2014 *Agatha Christie: Crime, Culture, Celebrity* (University of Exeter). I organised this pioneering international event independently, endorsed by the Crime Studies Network. Keynote speakers: Sarah Street, Merja Makinen
- Public engagement initiative: *Tom Adams' Agatha Christie Cover Story* (Art and Culture, University of Exeter), artistic exhibition co-curated with Christina Burke-Trees

Selected Conference Presentations

- 09/2018 ‘“A Matter of Attitudes”: Dismantling the Marriage Myth in Three Highsmith Novels.’ *Queen of Suspense: A Patricia Highsmith Symposium* (University of Chester)
- 06/2018 ‘“Just Like Poor Annabella”: Incest in Twentieth Century Crime Fiction.’ *Captivating Criminality 5: Insiders and Outsiders* (International Crime Fiction Association conference, Bath Spa University)
- 04/2018 ‘“No Women, No Gay References”: Crimes Against Masculinity in Anthony Horowitz’s *The House of Silk*.’ *Crime Fiction(s): Victorian and Neo-Victorian Narratives of Crime and Punishment* (Edinburgh Napier University)
- 06/2017 ‘Detecting Queerness in Continuation Novels.’ *Captivating Criminality 4* (International Crime Fiction Association conference, Bath Spa University)
- 06/2016 Paper presented with Michelle M. Kazmer: ‘“What About Emma?”: Liminal Women Take the 4.50 From Paddington.’ *Agatha Christie: Adaptations and Afterlives* (University of Exeter)
- 06/2016 ‘Preservation and Survival: Making a Meal in *And Then There Were None*.’ *Agatha Christie: Adaptations and Afterlives* (University of Exeter)
- 06/2016 ‘“A Pulp Mess”: Eating and Adolescence in Roald Dahl’s Fiction for Children and Adults.’ *Roald Dahl Centenary Cardiff Conference* (Cardiff University)
- 04/2015 ‘Crooked Mousetrap: The Queerness of Children Who Kill.’ *Agatha Christie: Hidden Horizons* (University of Exeter)
- 11/2014 ‘“A Great Big Daisy Chain”: Homophobia and Erotic Camouflage in Gay Tributes to the Country House Mystery.’ *The Marginalised Mainstream: Disguise* (University of London)
- 07/2014 ‘“I’m Not a Policeman”: Villainy, Imposterism, and the Queer Child in Agatha Christie, 1949-1954.’ *Evil Incarnate: Manifestations of Villains and Villainy* (Crime Studies Network conference, Case Western Reserve University)
- 04/2014 ‘Queer Bodies of Evidence: The Feminine Corpse and the Middlebrow Corpus in *Evil Under the Sun*.’ *Agatha Christie: Crime, Culture, Celebrity* (University of Exeter)
- 03/2014 ‘Body of Evidence: The Feminine Corpse and the Middlebrow Corpus in Agatha Christie’s *Evil Under the Sun*’ *Literary Dolls: The Female Textual Body from the 19th Century to Now* (Durham University)
- 09/2013 ‘The Labours of Hercule: Adapting Sexuality in *Agatha Christie’s Poirot*.’ *Retold, Resold, Transformed: Crime Fiction in the Modern Era* (Crime Studies Network conference, University of Leeds)
- 09/2013 ‘“His Wish that he had Married”: Closeting, Outing, and Creating the Homosexual Man in *Agatha Christie’s Poirot*.’ *The Marginalised Mainstream: Fading and Emerging* (University of London)
- 07/2013 ‘“He Doesn’t Look a Sherlock”: Victorians and their Detectives, According to Agatha Christie.’ *Neo-Victorian Cultures: The Victorians Today* (Liverpool John Moores University)
- 03/2013 Paper presented with Alan Hooker: ‘The Living Dead Guy: Erotic Bodies and Souls That Matter in *Pushing Daisies* and *Dead Like Me*.’ *Talking Bodies: Identity, Sexuality, Representation* (University of Chester)
- 11/2012 ‘Reading Agatha Christie, Cover to Cover.’ *The Marginalised Mainstream: Literature, Culture, Popularity* (University of London)
- 04/2012 ‘Bodies of Evidence: Agatha Christie’s Dressed-Up Corpses.’ *The Popular and the Middlebrow: Women’s Writing, 1880-1940* (Newcastle University)
- 07/2011 ‘Money and the Missing Class.’ *Spectres of Class: Representing Social Class from the French Revolution to the Present* (University of Chester)

References

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