

# Dr. Sofie Behluli (DPhil, Oxon) | Curriculum Vitae

## Personal Information

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Date of Birth:	26 January 1992	Affiliation:	University of Bern
Nationality:	Swiss	Position:	Postdoctoral Research Assistant
Address:	Weissensteinstrasse 35 CH-3007 Bern	E-mail:	sofie.behluli@ens.unibe.ch

## Qualifications

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Oct – Dec 2019	<b>Developing Learning and Teaching Program (DLT)</b> , University of Oxford
Jan – Mar 2019	<b>Teaching Mentoring Scheme</b> with Dr. Timothy Michael as Teaching Mentor, University of Oxford
<b>Sep 2017 – May 2021</b>	<b>DPhil in English at the University of Oxford</b> , supervised by Goldsmiths' Professor Laura Marcus; Doctoral Thesis Title: " <u>Women Writing Novels on Art: Ekphrasis in Twenty-First Century Fiction</u> "
Feb 2014 – Jan 2016	<b>Master of Arts in Languages and Literatures in English</b> with special qualification in Literary Studies; Minor in German Languages and Literatures, Grade 5.74 out of 6 / <i>insigni cum laude</i> , University of Bern
Sep 2010 – Dec 2013	<b>Bachelor of Arts in Languages and Literatures in English</b> ; Minor in German Languages and Literatures, Grade 5.49 out of 6 / <i>insigni cum laude</i> , University of Bern
Aug 2006 – Jun 2010	<b>Swiss Matura</b> passed with the grade 5.5 out of 6, Gymnasium of Interlaken

## Academic Employment

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<b>Jun 2021 – May 2023</b>	<b>Postdoctoral Research Assistant (Germ. <i>Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin</i>)</b> , (chair: Prof. Gabriele Rippl), University of Bern
Sep 2020 – May 2021	<b>Assistant to Chair of Literatures in English/North American Literature and Culture</b> (chair: Prof. Gabriele Rippl), University of Bern
Apr 2016 – Sep 2017	<b>Assistant to Chair of Literatures in English/North American Literature and Culture</b> (chair: Prof. Gabriele Rippl), University of Bern
Jan 2014 – Mar 2016	<b>Student Assistant to Chair of Literatures in English/North American Literature And Culture</b> (chair: Prof. Gabriele Rippl), University of Bern

## Fellowships, Stipends, Grants and Awards

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Dec 2020	<b>Continuation Charge Bursary by the Faculty of English Language and Literature</b> , University of Oxford, £ 508
Mar 2020	<b>Grant by the Swiss Friends of Oxford University, Switzerland</b> , for a research trip in Amsterdam, The Hague and Delft, CHF 570.-
Jul 2019	<b>Award of £1,000 by the Rothermere American Institute</b> , University of Oxford, to organize a workshop with the British author Amy Sackville
Dec 2018	<b>Grant by the Swiss Friends of Oxford University, Switzerland</b> , to attend the 8 <sup>th</sup> annual conference of the ESCL in Lille, France, CHF 500.-

- Nov 2018                   **Grant by the Vivian Green Student Assistance Fund** to visit the Museo del Prado in Madrid in April 2019, Lincoln College, University of Oxford, £ 350
- Grant by the Graduate Research Fund at Lincoln College, Oxford**, to attend the BAMS post-graduate conference at the University of Glasgow, £ 188.79
- Oct 2018                   **Full stipend by TORCH** to attend a graduate workshop “Literature and Transnational Citizenship”, 11-12 October 2018, as part of the Oxford-Berlin Literary Studies Network between the Centre for British Studies and the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities
- Sep 2017 – Aug 2020**   **Berrow Foundation Scholarship to support a DPhil in English at Lincoln College, University of Oxford, approx. CHF 100,000.-**
- Jan – Feb 2017           **Seed Money by the Faculty of Humanities** of the University of Bern, approx. CHF 6,000.-
- Jul – Dec 2016           **Fellowship by the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities (GSH)** at the University of Bern, approx. CHF 18,000.-
- Sep 2016                   **Full stipend by the Walter Benjamin Kolleg / the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities** to join the Transpositions Summer School on *Border Regimes: Confrontations, Configurations, Transpositions* in Kandersteg, Bern, for 6 days
- Jun 2016                   **Full stipend by the Bavarian American Academy** to join the International Summer Academy *American Studies in a Transatlantic Perspective: Material Cultures* in Miami, Florida, for 8 days
- Dec 2015 – Jan 2016   **Grant by the Dr. Joséphine de Kármán foundation** for talented students of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Bern, CHF 3,000.-

## **Publications**

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- “**Entangled Lives: The Use of Visual Art in Contemporary Life Narratives.**” *Life Writing, Creativity, and the Social*. Ed. Wilfried Raussert and Susana Rocha Teixeira. In writing.
- Review of Ulla Haselstein, Gertrude Steins Literarische Portraits.** In: *ZAA - Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik*. In writing.
- “**Contemporary Ekphrasis.**” Co-authored with Gabriele Rippl. *Routledge Companion to Literature and Art*. Eds. Cheryl Julia Lee, Neil Murphy and W. Michelle Wang. In writing.
- “**Ekphrasis in Contemporary Anglophone Literature.**” Co-authored with Gabriele Rippl. *Contemporary Literary Criticism* Series. Eds. Rose Dolbashian and Hollis Beach. In writing.
- “**Framing Lives as Paintings.**” *Women: A Cultural Review* 32.2 (2021): 119-139. Open Access Link: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09574042.2021.1914901>.
- “**Constellating a Work of Abundance.**” Review of Ronald Schleifer, *A Political Economy of Modernism: Literature, Post-Classical Economics, and the Lower Middle-Class*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2019. In: *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts* 62.2 (2020): 307-311.
- Review of Nassim Winnie Balestrini and Ina Bergmann, eds., Intermediality, Life Writing, and American Studies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives**, Anglia Book Series, vol. 61. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2018. In: *Amerikastudien / American Studies* 64.1 (2019): 145-148.
- Review of Timo Müller, ed., Handbook of the American Novel of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries**, Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2017. In: *Anglia, Journal of English Philology* 136.2 (2018): 378-381.

“**Bonding in Bonden: A Post-Postmodernist Female Community in Siri Hustvedt’s *The Summer Without Men*.**” *American Communities: Between the Popular and the Political*. SPELL 35. Ed. Julia Straub and Lukas Etter. Tübingen: Narr Verlag, 2017. 43-60.

“**Ekphrasis in the Digital Age.**” Co-authored with Gabriele Rippl. *Digitalität und literarische Netz-Werke. Antikanon 2*. Ed. Christina Hoffmann and Johanna Öttl. Wien: Turia + Kant, 2017. 131-176.

**Review of “American Communities: Between the Popular and the Political.”** *Swiss Association for North American Studies*. Conference, 4-5 November 2016, Bern. *BAAS: British Associations for American Studies*, U.S. Studies Online, 17 December 2016. Open Access Link: <https://usso.uk/sanas-communities/>.

## Teaching

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Spring Term 2022	<b>Core Curriculum / BA Lecture <i>Literary History</i></b> , University of Bern <b>BA Seminar <i>Mississippi Tales: American Literature on and around the Great River</i></b> , University of Bern <b>BA and MA Colloquia</b> , co-taught with Prof. Gabriele Rippl, University of Bern
Michaelmas Term 2021	<b>Tutorial Series <i>From Postmodernism to Post-Postmodernism</i></b> , Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford
Autumn Term 2021	<b>BA Seminar <i>The American Short Story in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century</i></b> , University of Bern <b>BA Workshop <i>Moby Dick – The White Whale in Different Media</i></b> , University of Bern <b>BA and MA Colloquia</b> , co-taught with PD Dr. Axel Stähler, University of Bern
Spring Term 2021	<b>BA and MA Colloquia</b> , co-taught with Prof. Gabriele Rippl, University of Bern
Autumn Term 2020	<b>BA Seminar <i>Reading Contemporary Anglophone Fictions</i></b> , University of Bern <b>BA Workshop <i>Theories of the Novel</i></b> , University of Bern <b>BA and MA Colloquia</b> , co-taught with Prof. Gabriele Rippl, University of Bern
Trinity Term 2020	<b>Tutorial Series <i>Contemporary Fiction</i></b> , Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford
Hilary Term 2020	<b>Tutorial Series <i>Postmodernism: Literature and Theory</i></b> , Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford
Michaelmas Term 2019	<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant for <i>Paper 6: Writing Lives</i></b> , conveners: Prof. Marion Turner and Dr. Sophie Ratcliffe, University of Oxford
Hilary Term 2019	<b>Tutorial Series <i>Contemporary Fiction</i></b> , St Peter’s College, University of Oxford <b>Class and Tutorials for the Prelims Paper 4: <i>Modern Literature (1910-present)</i></b> , convener: Dr. Timothy Michael, Lincoln College, University of Oxford
Spring Term 2017	<b>BA Seminar <i>Criminal Imagination: Crime Fiction in American Literature and Culture</i></b> , University of Bern
22 Nov 2016	<b>Lecture on <i>Auraticizing Ekphrasis</i></b> in the Undergraduate Lecture Series “Word-Image Configurations”, conveners: Prof. Rippl and Prof. Schneemann, University of Bern
Jul – Dec 2015	<b>Tutorial Series on <i>Literary Theory</i></b> , accompanying Prof. Thomas Claviez’s lectures, University of Bern
2013 – 2014	<b>English Classes and Preparatory Course for the CAE/CPE</b> at the Gstaad and Interlaken high schools

## Supervision of BA and MA Theses

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Autumn 2022	Angela Nina Liechti (BA), Moira Morena Stevenson (BA), Julia von Bergen (BA)
Spring 2022	Yi Mei Lam (MA), Linda Paulina Pfanner (BA)

- Autumn 2021 - Joelle Quadri, BA Thesis: “Magic Realism in Salman Rushdie’s *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*”  
 - Annick Müller, BA Thesis: “The Depiction of Violence in Richard Wright’s *Native Son*”

## Talks

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- 7 Oct 2021 **“Entangled Lives: The Use of Visual Art in Contemporary Life Narratives.”**  
 Guest Lecture in the Lecture Series *Text and Image in Modern English Literature* by Prof. Julia Straub, University of Fribourg
- 16 Sep 2021 **“Framing a Life as a Painting: Sackville’s *Painter to the King* (2018) and Cumming’s *The Vanishing Man* (2016).”** *Biofiction as World Literature Conference*, 15-18 September 2021, Leuven, Belgium (*postponed from 2020*)
- 14 May 2021 **“A Difficult Intercultural Encounter: Installation Art in Claire Messud’s *The Woman Upstairs* (2013).”** SAUTE Conference *Migrations and Contacts*, 14-15 May 2021, University of Zurich
- 26 Jun 2020 **Flash Talk on “Visual Art and Fiction.”** Interdisciplinary Conference *English: Shared Futures*, 26-28 June 2020, Manchester/Salford, UK (*Conference Postponed*)
- 3 Apr 2020 **“Emulating the Frame: Ekphrasis as a Discursive *Parergon*.”** Biennial Society for Novel Studies Conference, *The Novel’s New Worlds*, 2-4 April 2020, Oxford, UK (*Conference Postponed*)
- 26 Aug 2019 **“The Work of Art and Appropriation.”** 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Society of Comparative Literature, *Literature, Cultural Exchanges and Transmission: Knowledge and Creation Between Past and Future*, 26-30 August 2019, Lille, France
- 26-29 Jun 2019 **“Ekphrasis and Aura: The Value of the Work of Art in *The Goldfinch* and *Headlong*.”** Biannual Conference of the International Walter Benjamin Society, *Walter Benjamin’s Beginnings / Commencements*, 26-29 June 2019, University of Bern
- 4 Jun 2019 **“Painting With Words: How We See in Literature.”** Lord Florey Lecture Series, Trinity Term 2019, Lincoln College, University of Oxford
- 1 Dec 2018 **“The Figure of the Artist in Contemporary Anglo-American Fiction: Chevalier, Messud, Tartt.”** 8<sup>th</sup> Annual British Association for Modernist Studies (BAMS) Postgraduate Conference, *New Work in Modernist Studies*, University of Glasgow
- 1 Nov 2018 **Promotional Talk for the Berrow Foundation Scholarship** at the University of Bern
- 26 Feb 2018 **“Ekphrastic Practices in Contemporary US-American Novels: Hanya Yanagihara.”** School of American Visual Art and Text (SAVAnT) Workshop, British Library, London
- 22 Nov 2016 **“Word and Image Configurations in Donna Tartt’s *The Goldfinch*.”** Guest Lecture in the Lecture Series *Word and Image Configurations – Modes of Production and Reception* by Prof. Gabriel Rippl and Prof. Peter Schneemann, University of Bern
- 5 Nov 2016 **“Transgenerational Female Communities in Siri Hustvedt’s *The Summer Without Men*.”** SANAS Conference *American Communities: Between the Popular and the Political*, 4-5 November 2016, University of Bern
- 5 Sep 2016 **“When Words Border on Images.”** Transpositions Summer School *Border Regimes: Confrontations, Configurations, Transpositions*, 4-9 September 2016, Kandersteg, Bern
- 7 Jun 2016 **“Evocation of Material Objects in Contemporary American Novels.”** International Summer Academy *American Studies in a Transatlantic Perspective: Material Cultures*, 4-11 June 2016, Miami, FL

## Organizational Experience

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Nov 2023	<b>SANAS Symposium “Reading Reading: Contemporary Literary Practices”</b> , co-organized with Malaika Sutter, University of Bern
Summer 2022	<b>SAUTE Event “Anglophone Encounters with Switzerland: James Baldwin and Teju Cole”</b> , co-organized with the American Section at the University of Bern
28 May 2021	<b>RAI Workshop “Literature and Visual Art; with a Reading by Amy Sackville”</b> , an event with the author of <i>Painter to the King</i> and six academic panelists at the Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford
15 Jun 2019	<b>Curation of the Exhibition Space of TORCH and the Centre for British Studies at the Long Night of Sciences / Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften</b> at the Humboldt University in Berlin, as part of the Oxford-Berlin Literary Studies Network between the Centre for British Studies and the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities
25 Oct 2018	<b>Drinks Reception and Dinner for the Swiss President, Alain Berset</b> , and the Members of the Oxford University Swiss Society at Lincoln College, Oxford
15-16 Sep 2017	<b>CUSO Workshop “The Materialities of American Cultures”</b> , co-organized with Prof. Gabriele Rippl and PD Dr. Julia Straub, University of Bern
15 Dec 2016	<b>Workshop “Original – Kopie: Techniken und Ästhetiken der Reproduzierbarkeit”</b> , organized by Prof. Christine Göttler, Prof. Gabriele Rippl, Prof. Peter Schneemann and Prof. Michael Stolz, University of Bern
10-12 Nov 2016	<b>Workshop “Cultural Dimensions of Sustainability”</b> , organized by Prof. Gabriele Rippl and Prof. Torsten Meireis, University of Bern

## Other Practical Experience and Administrative Tasks

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2017 – present	<b>Counseling</b> prospective applicants to the Berrow Foundation Scholarship
Oct 2018 – Sep 2020	<b>Secretary</b> of the Oxford University Swiss Society
Sep 2018 – Aug 2019	<b>Mentor</b> for young female academics at the University of Bern and for incoming English graduates at the University of Oxford
Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	<b>Charities Representative</b> in the MCR of Lincoln College, Oxford Total money raised through organized fundraisers: £ 5,000
Nov 2018	<b>Chair of Panel</b> “A3: Transgressions in Genre” at the SANAS Biennial Conference <i>The Genres of Genre</i> , 2-3 November 2018, University of Lausanne
2018 – 2019	<b>Exam Invigilation</b> for Lincoln College, Oxford
2016 – 2017	<b>Doctoral Representative</b> in the CUSO Committee, Switzerland.
2014 – 2016	<b>Secretarial Work at the Collegium generale</b> , University of Bern
Dec 2014	<b>Student representative</b> at the selection committee for a lectureship in “American Studies”, University of Bern

## Networks and Memberships

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Alumni at the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities (GSAH) at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg (WBK)  
Berrow Society (Former Recipients of the Berrow Foundation Scholarship)  
British Association for Contemporary Literary Studies (BACLS)  
Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale (CUSO)  
German Association for American Studies (GAAS)

International Association of Word and Image Studies (IAWIS)  
International Walter Benjamin Society (IWBS)  
Lincoln Society (Alumni of Lincoln College, Oxford)  
Modern Language Association (MLA)  
Oxford Union, University of Oxford  
Oxford University Swiss Society (OUSS)  
Swiss Association for North American Studies (SANAS)  
Swiss Association of University Teachers of English (SAUTE)

## Languages

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**German** native speaker  
**Albanian** native speaker  
**English** near native / CPE, grade A  
**French** good command  
**Latin** basic proficiency

## References

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**Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rippl** gabriele.rippel@ens.unibe.ch  
University of Bern, CH

**Prof. Dr. Julia Straub** julia.straub@unifr.ch  
University of Fribourg, CH

**Prof. Dr. Laura Marcus, FBA** Unfortunately, Laura Marcus passed away in September 2021.  
University of Oxford, UK