

JORDAN OWEN McCULLOUGH

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EDUCATION

PhD French Studies, Queen's University Belfast (2023)

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK), through the Northern Bridge Consortium DTP. Thesis entitled 'Care and Connection in Contemporary, Parental *Récits de deuil*', examining the role of writing in creating a continuing bond between a bereaved parent, a deceased child and an imagined reader. Supervisors: Prof. Steven Wilson (QUB), Dr Rosalind Silvester (QUB) & Prof. Shirley Jordan (Newcastle).

MRes Arts and Humanities (French), Queen's University Belfast (2019)

Awarded with distinction (85%)

Literary dissertation addressing the role of religion and spirituality at the end of life, as presented in French autobiography and autofiction by terminally ill patients and their families.

BA French and Spanish, Queen's University Belfast (2018)

Awarded with first-class honours (82%)

Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE), Nivel C1, Instituto Cervantes (2016)

PRIZES, AWARDS AND FUNDING

- May 2025 **Runner-up, Malcolm Bowie Prize 2024.** Prize awarded by the Society for French Studies for the best article published in the preceding year by an early-career researcher in the broader discipline of French Studies.
- Sept 2023 **Virtual Visiting Research Fellowship, School of Modern Languages, Newcastle University:** Awarded for a project on cultural representations of disenfranchised grief, particularly in relation to dementia. **Value: £250.00**
- Jan 2023 **Glasgow Medical Humanities Network Early Career Foundation Award:** Awarded for a short-term project on experiences of paternal grief following abortion in France and Belgium. **Value: £1,200.00**
- Oct 2019 **Northern Bridge Consortium DTP (AHRC) PhD Studentship:** Awarded through a competitive selection process to 67 students from across the seven partner institutions. **Approx. value: £80,000.00**
- Mar 2019 **Society for French Studies Research Support Fund:** Funding for a research trip to Paris to access materials in the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* and to attend an international medical humanities conference. **Value: £402.22**
- Aug 2018 **Henry Hutchinson-Stewart Scholarship:** Awarded to the student(s) with the strongest academic profile undertaking MRes study in Modern Languages. **Value: £4,000.00**

- July 2018 **The Waterhouse Prize:** Awarded to the top final-year student studying two languages; **The Christopher Shorley Prize:** Awarded to the final-year student with the best performance in French language; **The Richard Bales Prize:** Awarded to the final-year student with the highest mark in a French optional module; **Certificates of Distinction in Spoken French and Spanish**
- Sept 2014 **Queen’s Scholar:** A full-fees scholarship for the duration of undergraduate study at the University. One of ten scholars for 2014 entry. **Approx. value: £12,000.00**

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Jordan Owen McCullough, *Care, Connection and Community in Contemporary, Parental* Récits de deuil (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2026) [under review]

Edited Volume

Jordan Owen McCullough, Anna Magdalena Elsner and Vanessa Rampton (eds), *Cultures of Disenfranchised Grief* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2026) [under contract]

Journal Articles

Jordan Owen McCullough ‘Doubly Disenfranchised: The Experience of Paternal Grief Following Medical Termination in Jérémie Szpirglas’ *Pater dolorosa*, *Modern and Contemporary France*, 33.1 (2025) 91–110.

Anna M. Elsner, Charlotte E. Frank, Marc Keller, Jordan O. McCullough and Vanessa Rampton, ‘Language Matters: The Semantics and Politics of “Assisted Dying”’, *The Hastings Center Report*, 54.5 (2024), 3–7

Jordan Owen McCullough, ‘A Practice of Literary Palliation: Philippe Forest’s *L’Enfant éternel*’, *Literature and Medicine*, 42.1 (2024), 174–96

Jordan Owen McCullough, ‘*Bien accompagner la fin de vie: Medical, Religious and Spiritual accompagnement* in Simone de Beauvoir’s *Une mort très douce*’, *Australian Journal of French Studies*, 57.3 (2020), 365–80

Jordan Owen McCullough, ‘3-D Relationality: Horizontal, Vertical and Textual Connectedness in Christiane Singer’s *Derniers fragments d’un long voyage*’, *Modern and Contemporary France*, 28.4 (2020), 411–25

Book Chapters

Jordan Owen McCullough, ‘*Retomber en enfance: The “Second Childhood” as a Positive Paradigm of Care in Sophie Fontanel’s Grandir*’, in *Women’s Narratives of Ageing and Care*, ed. by Emily Jeremiah and Shirley Jordan (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2025), pp. 159–77

Jordan Owen McCullough and Anna Magdalena Elsner, ‘Humanities Collaborations in End of Life Care’, *Research Handbook on End of Life Care and Society*, ed. by David Clark and Annemarie Samuels (Camberley: Edward Elgar, 2025) [forthcoming]

Jordan Owen McCullough, ‘Rewriting the *ars moriendi* in Contemporary French Fiction on Assisted Dying: A New Form of Dying Manual for Today?’, *French Studies and the Medical Humanities: Critical Intersections*, ed. by Larry Duffy and Steven Wilson (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2026) [under review]

Book Reviews

Jordan Owen McCullough, 'La Littérature stethoscope, edited by Sylvie Brodziak and AMarie Petitjean', *Modern and Contemporary France*, 20 June 2025 [pre-print], <https://doi.org/10.1080/09639489.2025.2519086>.

Jordan Owen McCullough, 'Variations on the Ethics of Mourning in Modern Literature in French. Edited by Carole Bourne-Taylor and Sara-Louise Cooper. Preface by Dominique Rabaté', *French Studies*, 78.3 (2024), 552

Jordan McCullough, 'Review of *The Undying: A Meditation on Modern Illness* by Anne Boyer', *AC Review of Books*, 3 (2022), 7–9

Jordan Owen McCullough, 'The Language of Disease: Writing Syphilis in Nineteenth-Century France by Steven Wilson (review)', *Literature and Medicine*, 39.1 (2021), 180–84

Blog Posts

Jordan McCullough and Marc Keller, 'Creating a Living Archive of Assisted Dying', *The Polyphony*, 13 May 2024, <https://thepolyphony.org/2024/05/13/living-archive-assisted-dying>

Jordan McCullough, '#MultilingualMedHums: A Thematic Series for *The Polyphony*', *Reading Bodies*, 20 March 2024, <https://readingbodies.exeter.ac.uk/2024/03/20/multilingualmedhums-a-thematic-series-for-the-polyphony>

Public Engagement

Claire Fourcade and Jordan McCullough, 'Claire Fourcade sur les soins palliatifs et l'aide à mourir en France', *Assisted: The Podcast* [forthcoming]

Josefina Miró Quesada Gayoso and Jordan McCullough, 'Josefina Miró Quesada Gayoso on Assisted Dying in Latin America', *Assisted: The Podcast*, 22 November 2024, <https://assistedlab.ch/podcasts>

Anna Magdalena Elsner and Jordan Owen McCullough, 'The Assisted Dying Debate Is Really About How We Treat the Living', *Undark*, 1 June 2023, <https://undark.org/2023/06/01/the-assisted-dying-debate-is-really-about-how-we-treat-the-living>

SELECTED CONFERENCE / SEMINAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Invited Seminars

June 2025 'Stories in Law and Law in Stories: The Case of Assisted Dying', Southampton Centre for Medical and Health Humanities, University of Southampton [with Dr Marc Keller]

Feb 2025 'Assisted Lab's "Living Archive of Assisted Dying"', Transnational Popular Culture Research Cluster, Culture and Creativity Research Institute, Sheffield Hallam University

May 2024 'Losing Oneself: A Research Conversation on Literature, Neurodegeneration and Disenfranchised Grief', School of Modern Languages, Newcastle University [with Prof. Shirley Jordan]

Dec 2023 'Jérémie Szpirglas, Disenfranchised Grief and the Taboo of Medical Termination', Histories and Subjectivities Research Cluster, School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Glasgow

Invited Workshops

June 2025 'Palliative Care and Assisted Dying: Stories of the End of Life', Southampton Centre for Medical and Health Humanities, University of Southampton [with Dr Marc Keller]

Oct 2024 'End of Life Stories Matter', *Congrès International de Soins Palliatifs McGill / McGill International Palliative Care Congress 2024*, Palais des Congrès de Montréal [with Assisted Lab colleagues]

Conference Papers

- May 2025 'The Role of Narratives in European Law-Making Processes Surrounding Assisted Dying', *Granada Conference on End-of-Life: Evidence-Based Ethics and Policy Making*, University of Granada
- Apr 2025 "“Au-delà de toute souffrance que je connais déjà”": Existential Suffering and the Desire to Die in Sophie Jomain's *Quand la nuit devient jour* (2016)", *Endings and Meanings: Existential Suffering in the 21st Century*, Collegium Helveticum, Zurich
- Sept 2024 'Francophone Advocacy for Medical Assistance in Dying: The Role of Stories', *French Studies and the Medical Humanities: Critical Intersectionalities*, Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of London
- July 2024 'If “there is nothing holy about agony,” what is the place of religion in contemporary, francophone narratives of assisted dying?', *Society for French Studies 65th Annual Conference*, University of Stirling
- June 2023 'Tri-directional Care in the Writing of Bereaved Parents', *Society for French Studies 64th Annual Conference*, Newcastle University
- Mar 2022 '«Tu trouves pas quand même absolument fabuleux d'en connaître un peu moins?»': Dementia and the “Second Childhood” as Shared Learning in Sophie Fontanel's *Grandir*', *Women's Narratives of Ageing and Care*, Centre for Contemporary Women's Writing, Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London [online]
- June 2021 "“Le deuil oblige à dire”": Philippe Forest's Journey Through Grief 1997-2007', *Society for French Studies 62nd Annual Conference* [online]
- Oct 2020 'Parenting the Deceased Child in Sophie Daull's *Camille, mon envolée*', *Women's Writing and the Medical Humanities*, Centre for Contemporary Women's Writing, Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London [online]
- Nov 2019 'Supporting the Family through Terminal Illness in Philippe Forest's *L'Enfant éternel*', *European Cultures of Palliative Care*, University of Zurich
- June 2019 'The Secular Frontier: French Literary Perspectives on the Palliative Care System', *CHCI Medical Humanities Summer Institute: Health Beyond Borders*, Columbia Global Centres, Paris

TEACHING

Undergraduate Language, Queen's University Belfast

- 2021–24 Beginners' French Studies (*ab initio* language course), principal tutor
- 2022 French 2 (second-year core language module), tutor
- 2020–21 French 1 (first-year core language module), tutor

Undergraduate Cultural Studies, Queen's University Belfast

- 2020–23 Ideologies of Death in Modern Literature in French (final-year optional module), guest lecturer
- 2021 Understanding Now (first-year core Liberal Arts module), session lead

Undergraduate Cultural Studies, University of St Gallen

2024–25 Grief and Mourning? Let's Talk About Something Else (BA optional module), convenor

Postgraduate Taught, Queen's University Belfast

2023 Research Methods in Modern Languages (MRes Arts and Humanities core module), session co-lead

Postgraduate Taught, University of St Gallen

2023 Where Does It Hurt? (MA optional module), guest lecturer

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Assisted Lab, University of St Gallen, Switzerland

March 2023–Present

As a postdoctoral researcher on the European Research Council-funded project 'Assisted Dying in European Writing and Visual Culture: Reciprocal Interactions between Law, Medicine, and the Arts since 2000', I am responsible for the sub-project focused on France, Belgium and francophone Switzerland. Over the course of the project, I will complete six work packages, which will address factors contributing to, attitudes towards and representations of assisted dying in contemporary cultural production in French, and communicate my findings via scholarly and general-audience publications. I am also jointly responsible for the project's social media presence and regularly contribute to our 'Living Archive of Assisted Dying', an archive that traces the relationships between various forms of cultural production and law-making on assisted dying, across Europe and beyond.

Associate Editor, *The Polyphony*

January 2023–Present

Working with the other members of the editorial team, I am responsible for commissioning, editing and publishing articles on *The Polyphony*, a public-facing platform for research in the medical humanities. I work collaboratively with authors to develop their writing, offering feedback on content, style and accessibility for a non-specialist audience. I also design thematic series and organise publication schedules to suit the requirements of each series. This role involves a significant element of networking and attendance at conferences, thereby ensuring I maintain strong connections with other scholars in the field and a broad knowledge of developments across the medical humanities. In addition to my general editorial duties, I am the lead editor for *The Polyphony*'s 'Multilingual MedHums' project, which seeks to introduce readers to medical humanities research developing beyond the Anglosphere and encourage reflection on the challenges and opportunities this multilingual and multicultural work might offer the wider field.

Associate Lecturer, Contextual Studies Programme, University of St Gallen, Switzerland

September 2024–January 2025

In this role, I designed, delivered and assessed an undergraduate optional module based on my area of research specialism. The module focused on cultural representations of death, grief and mourning in contemporary France, particularly in literature and film. The course introduced students to the role of cultural production in articulating experiences of grief and mourning, and considered how autobiographical and fictional texts and films might bring grief and mourning into the public eye, thereby sparking discussion on the complex socio-historical, cultural, moral and ethical issues associated with grieving. Drawing from the fields of art, history, life writing, sociology, philosophy and medical humanities, this interdisciplinary module sought to equip students with a more robust understanding of grief, and of the importance of socio-cultural factors in determining its outworking and representation. Students were assessed through group presentations and a final essay, both graded in line with established criteria. Student satisfaction was 100%.

Teaching Assistant, School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University Belfast

September 2020–June 2024

During my four years as a teaching assistant, I regularly contributed to a final year, medical humanities-focused module entitled 'Ideologies of Death in Modern French Literature'. My contribution centred on Simone de Beauvoir's *A Very Easy Death* and the dynamics of care therein, focussing particularly on the development of palliative care in France and the place of *accompagnement* in the text. I also contributed to a first-year Liberal Arts module entitled 'Understanding Now'. My contribution was a session on Albert Camus's *La Peste*. With this text, I engaged students in conversations about the role of literature in times of pandemic and about the parallels between Camus's text and our recent lived experience. I also contributed to a Master of Research (MRes) research methods module, where I delivered a session on critical methodologies in the medical humanities. In addition to my research-focused teaching, I have taught on several language modules, including the first- and second-year core French language modules, where I taught French grammar, translation into English and into French, comprehension and summary writing in French, and the *ab initio* French course, for which I was the principal tutor for three years. As principal tutor on this module, I had responsibility for aspects of course design and worked collaboratively with the module convenor to design assessments and grade student work, in line with the established criteria.

Early Career Researcher, Modern Languages Outreach and Engagement (MLOE) Project (funded by the British Academy), April 2020–March 2021

As one of eight early career researchers selected to work on the MLOE Project, I organised events and produced resources to help students 're-think languages'. Given my research specialism, many of these had a medical humanities focus. For example, with Key Stage 3 pupils in mind, I co-designed a language competition based around their recent lived experience of COVID-19 and, for A-level pupils, I produced a series of self-study materials based on texts of interest to the medical humanities. I also organised an online outreach event, bringing together multidisciplinary and multilingual perspectives, and co-produced a handbook for researchers in modern languages interested in delivering outreach and engagement activities.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Schools' Liaison and Outreach Officer, Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France, 2022–Present

Peer Reviewer, *Francosphères*, Liverpool University Press, 2022–Present

Internal Reviewer, Advance HE Accreditation, Queen's University Belfast, 2022–2024

Founding Chair, Student Research Network, School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University Belfast, 2021–2022

PGR Representative, School Research Committee, School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University Belfast, 2021–2022

Professional Associate, Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research, 2019–2023

Postgraduate Representative, *Association des études françaises et francophones d'Irlande*, 2019–2022

MEMBERSHIP OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

Executive Member of the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (ASMCF)

Member of *L'Association des études françaises et francophones d'Irlande* (ADEFI)

Member of the Society for French Studies (SFS)

Member of the Association for Medical and Healthcare Humanities (AMHH)

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Research

Interviews as a Research Method, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 23 November 2022

Introducing Interdisciplinary Research, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University, Northern Bridge and NINE DTPs, 21 November 2022

Working with Non-Academic Partners, Institute for Medical Humanities, Durham University [as part of Northern Bridge DTP Autumn School], 26 October 2021

Leading Interdisciplinary Research, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University [as part of Northern Bridge DTP Autumn School], 27 October 2021

Parliament for PhD Students: How to Engage with the UK Parliament, Knowledge Exchange Unit, UK Parliament, 9 December 2020

How to Peer Review, The Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast, 2 December 2020

Writing Effective Funding Proposals, The Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast, 10 November 2020

Introduction to REF for PGRs, University of York, 28 July 2020

Dissemination

Creating and Presenting an Academic Poster, The Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast, 13 April 2021

Writing Articles for Peer-Reviewed Journals in the Arts and Humanities, Lucian Consulting, 29 June–1 July 2020

Telling Your Research Story at Conferences, The Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast, 18 February 2020

Effectively Communicating Your Research, The Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast, 29 January 2020

Maximising Your Research Profile, The Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast, 12 November 2019

Pedagogy

Fellowship of Advance HE (FHEA), awarded 9 December 2021

Assessment and Feedback: Show and Tell, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Queen's University Belfast, 10 August 2022

ADEFFI-ASMCF Teaching and Learning Series, Queen's University Belfast and University of Warwick (online), 15 June–1 July 2022 – co-organiser

What is Involved in Being a Research Supervisor?, Northern Bridge DTP, 17 February 2021

Connected Learning Training Series, Centre for Educational Development, Queen's University Belfast, 24 June–22 July 2020

Outreach and Recruitment

UCAS Offer Holder Day, Queen's University Belfast, 23 March 2024 – taster session lead

NICILT Language Ambassadors Programme, Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research / Queen's University Belfast, 2021–2022 – resource lead and trainer

Languages Unlocked, Queen's University Belfast, 10 February 2021 – organiser and taster session lead

AS-level French Study Day, Queen's University Belfast, 25 January 2019 – co-organiser and facilitator

REFEREES

Assoc. Prof. Anna Magdalena Elsner
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and Medical Humanities
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