

# Dr Christine Lehnen

Faculty of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences  
[christine.lehnen@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:christine.lehnen@uni-hamburg.de)

University of Hamburg  
[christinelehnen.eu](http://christinelehnen.eu)

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## APPOINTMENTS

Senior Lecturer in English and Creative Writing | University of Hamburg | from Oct 2025  
Lecturer in English and Creative Writing | University of Exeter | Jan 2024 to Dec 2025  
Associate Lecturer in English and Creative Writing | University of Bonn | Oct 2014 to Jan 2021  
Director of Novel Writing Workshop | University of Bonn | Oct 2014 to Jan 2021  
Trustee | Historical Fictions Research Network | since March 2021

## EDUCATION

PhD Creative Writing | University of Manchester | Jan 2021 to Dec 2023  
MA Political Sciences | University of Bonn, Nouvelle Sorbonne (Paris III) | 1st | March 2021  
MA English Literature | University of Bonn, Nouvelle Sorbonne (Paris III) | 1st | March 2018  
BA English Studies and Political Sciences | University of Bonn | 1st | March 2015

## CURRENT RESEARCH:

‘Artistic Intelligence: Rewriting European Futures in the Age of AI’ (Symposium, bid development, EU Starter Grant)  
‘Looking at the Stars: Retelling the Hunt for Earth-like Planets’ (interdisciplinary research project with Dr Raphaëlle Haywood, Astrophysics, Exeter, as part of the Terra Hunting Experiment, PI Prof Didier Queloz, Astrophysics, Cambridge; currently under consideration for funding by the Leverhulme Trust)  
‘Grievable Bodies and Marginalised Histories: The Historical Novel in the Twenty-First Century’ (monograph, edited collection under contract with Routledge)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Narrative Non-Fiction:

1. *Remembering Women: Lessons from the Ancient World*. London: Icon Books
2. “[Young women were the true originators of the Grimms’ Tales](#),” *Psyche*, New York, Melbourne, London, 2022.
3. “[Herodotus, Pirate Amazons, and How to Write About the Past](#),” *Antigone Journal*, 2022.
4. “[Tattoos and Trousers: Imagine Scythia's Fierce Warrior Women](#),” *Aeon*, 2022.
5. “[Remember Their Names: The Women Who Almost Saved Troy](#),” *Antigone Journal*, 2021.

### Academic Monographs:

6. Forthcoming: *Historical Fictions in the Twenty-First Century: Grievable Bodies and Marginalised Histories*. *Routledge Studies in Contemporary Literature*. London: Routledge, 2026.
7. *Remembering Women: Lessons from the Ancient World*. London: Icon Books, 2025
8. *Defining Dystopia: A Genre Between The Circle and The Hunger Games*. Nomos, Baden Baden, 2015.

### Edited collections:

9. Forthcoming: Lehnen, Christine (ed.) *Literature, Film and Popular Culture in the Study of History*. *Routledge Guides to Using Historical Sources*. London: Routledge, 2027.
10. Forthcoming: Lehnen, Christine and O'Connor, Siobhan (eds.): *Transnational and Postnational Historical Narratives: A New Perspective*. Amsterdam: Brill De Gruyter, 2026.

### Academic Articles:

11. "Time Becomes Memory, and Memory Becomes the Ditch in Which We Drown': Rethinking Modes of Knowing the Past in Ian McGuire's *The Abstainer* (2020)". *Textual Practice*. London: Taylor & Francis, 2024.
12. "The Dead Do Not Negotiate': Hilary Mantel, *The Mirror and the Light*, and Britain's Obsession with History". *Rethinking History*. London: Taylor & Francis, 2024.
13. "Post-National Literature, Post-National Authors? An Interview with David Szalay." *Alluvium*, 8.1, London, 2020.
14. "European Literature – Made in the UK?" *Alluvium* 7.2, London, 2019.
15. "Narratives' Powers of Emotional Persuasion through Character Involvement." *Journal of Literary Theory*, 10:2, Berlin, 2016.

### Chapters:

16. Forthcoming: "Life writing: the third way of doing history." In: Lehnen (2027).
17. Forthcoming: "Creating a Transnational Past in Contemporary Irish Fiction." In: Lehnen, O'Connor (2026).
18. Forthcoming: "Conservative Reparation? Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet* (2020) and the Ambivalence of Reparative History." In: De Groot, Jerome, O'Connor, Siobhan et al. (eds.): *Reparative Histories in Contemporary Historical Fiction*. Amsterdam: Brill De Gruyter, 2025.
19. "Where are the Amazons? Othering of feminine agency in the Trojan war." In: Sanchez Sanz, Arturo: *Amazons in contemporary media*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2025.

### Reviews (selection):

20. "Amazons in Epic: Susanne Borowski's *Amazonenepisoden als Bauform des Heldenepos* (Brill)." in: *The Classical Review*, 2023.
21. Houellebecq's 'Annihilate' to be his last novel, DW.com, 2022.

### Fiction:

22. Submitted: *Solo Sex. A novella*. Represented by [Thérèse Coen](#), director of [Susanna Lea Associates London](#).
23. *Die Schneekönigin. An adult fairy-tale retelling*. Penguin Random House, Munich.
24. *The Woman at No. 13. A suspense novel*. Harper Collins, London, 2021.
25. *Der Klang des Feuers. A novel*. Penguin Random House, Munich. **Longlisted** for the Lovelybooks Reader Award, 2021.
26. *Das Flüstern des Zwielfchts. A novel*. Penguin Random House, Munich. **Longlisted** for the Lovelybooks Reader Award, 2021.
27. *Das Lied der Nacht. A novel*. Penguin Random House, Munich. **Shortlisted** for the Lovelybooks Reader Award.
28. "Johanna": Script, Episode 2, *Think Big!* Directed by Wolfgang Groos. Broadcaster: Sat1. **Nominated** for Best Comedy at Venice TV Awards and German Television Awards.
29. *Flowers for the Dead. A suspense novel*. Harper Collins, London, 2020.
30. *Palace of Blood. A young adult novel*. Penguin Random House, Munich. **Longlisted** for the Lovelybooks Reader Award, 2019.
31. *Palace of Fire. A young adult novel*. Penguin Random House, Munich. **Longlisted** for the Lovelybooks Reader Award, 2018.
32. *Palace of Silk. A young adult novel*. Penguin Random House, Munich. **Longlisted** for the Lovelybooks Reader Award, 2018.
33. *Palace of Glass. A young adult novel*. Penguin Random House, Munich. **Shortlisted** for the Lovelybooks Reader Award, 2018.
34. "Zeus/Europa". A short story. In *Young Academy Magazine*, Berlin. **Winner** of the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of the 2016 Prize Question of the Young Academies of Europe, 2016.

### Poetry:

35. "Destination: Two Poems." *Enigma*, 7/2/2025.

## **FUNDING**

### Under consideration:

1. Leverhulme Project Grant: *APP56779: Looking at the Stars: Retelling the Hunt for Earth-like Planets*, developing a sustainable narrative for space exploration with Times Media Fellow Dr Raphaëlle Haywood (Astrophysics), £487,566, submitted on 02/09/2025.

### Submitted:

2. AHRC Catalyst, Round six: *APP56778: Can These Bones Live? Unlocking Our Bioarchaeological History with Semiscent Narration in the Historical Novel*, £299,876, 22/1/2025. Developing an interdisciplinary creative bioarcheology with SHArD 3D Lab.
3. British Academy Leverhulme Small Research Grant (resubmission on invitation), 'We must live in the future we hope to make': Professionalising practice-based research in historical archives, £9,678, 01/12/2024

4. British Academy Leverhulme Small Research Grant, 'We must live in the future we hope to make': Professionalising practice-based research in historical archives, £9,678, 12/11 2024

Acquired:

5. Societies and Cultures Institute, University of Exeter, Seed-Corn-Funding: Creative-Critical Research in Historical Archives and the Archaeological Field, £1,495, 2024

6. Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Exeter, Monograph Fund: Proof-of-Concept, Speculative Narration in Collections and the Field, £1,001, 2024

7. Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bonn: Internal funding for three associate lecturers for the Novel Writing Workshop, from 2016-present, c. 150,000 €.

## **TEACHING & SUPERVISION**

University of Exeter: *Undergraduate*, prose fiction, Fiction Matters (EAS3501)

University of Exeter, *Undergraduate*, poetry, prose, scriptwriting, Imagine This (EAS1044)

University of Exeter, *Undergraduate*, narrative non-fiction, The Essay: Form and Content (EAS1045)

University of Exeter, *Undergraduate*, prose, poetry, script, life writing, English and Creative Writing Dissertation (EAS3122)

University of Exeter, *Postgraduate*, prose, poetry, script, life writing, English and Creative Writing Dissertation (EASM123)

University of Exeter, *Undergraduate*, prose, poetry, script, Write After Reading (EAS3121)

University of Exeter, *Postgraduate*, prose fiction, Structures of Realism (EASM133)

University of Bonn, *Undergraduate and Postgraduate*, prose, script, The Novel Writing Workshop

## **PAPERS, TALKS, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS (selection)**

Keynote speaker: "A third way of doing history? The historian, the historical novelist and the historical life writer", Historical Fictions Research Network Conference, University of Nuremberg-Erlangen, 17/02/2026

Invited speaker: "Sustainable Space Exploration? What We Risk When We Mine the Moon", Leverhulme Centre for the Study of Risk, University of Cambridge, 29/10/2025

Invited speaker: "Le Londres Transnational de Thomas Cromwell - la capitale anglaise comme lieu de memoire cosmopolitain dans les romans historiques de Hilary Mantel", Université Gustave-Eiffel, Marne-la-Vallée, Paris, 29/4/2025

Invited speaker: "Morning Stars: Why Humanity Is Looking at the Skies", Research seminar, University of Cambridge, Annual Meeting of the Terra Hunting Experiment, 9/4/2025

Invited speaker: "Sustainable Space Race? Haley's Comet, the Climate Crisis, and Object Fabulation," Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter, 5/3/2025

"Transnational Historical Fiction? The Cosmopolitan Capital in Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall trilogy", Historical Fictions Research Annual Conference, Manchester, 13/02/2025

Invited speaker: "Looking at the Stars: Retelling the Hunt for Earth-like Planets", University of Cambridge, Annual Meeting of the Terra Hunting Experiment, 22/10/2024.

Workshop: "Critical Fabulation or Fabulating Critically? The Role of Historical Novelists in Telling Marginalised Histories", Royal Holloway University of London, co-organised with Dr Nat Reeve, 2024, funded by the Societies and Cultures Institute, 13/06/2024

Workshop: "Creative-critical challenges to violence: What role do the (digital) arts play in creating a fair society?", University of Exeter, funded by the Justice and Violence Network, 14/03/2024

"The Transhistorical Body: British Historical Fictions after Postmodernism", Historical Fictions Research Annual Conference, 2024, Malmö

"Conservative Reparation? Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet* (2020) and the Ambivalence of Reparative History", 2023, Online, Historical Fictions Research Network

"We're going to survive - our songs, our stories': Conservatism in Contemporary Feminist Historical Fiction", Historical Fictions Research Annual Conference, 2023, online

"Towards a Feminist Mnemonics Aesthetics? Contemporary British Fiction", Memory Studies Association Nordic Conference, 2022, Reykjavik