



centre
for book
cultures &
publishing



People in Publishing: Diversity, Leadership and Publishing's Futures

Henley Business School

Whiteknights Campus

University of Reading

RG6 6UD

29th June 2026

10.00-17.00

People in Publishing Symposium

Information booklet

Contents:

- Welcome
- Essential information
- Programme
- Chairs & Presenters

Welcome

This symposium aims to critically examine the structural and cultural barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion within the publishing industry, while highlighting innovative strategies for nurturing and retaining diverse talent. Discussions will explore how inclusive editorial policies, equitable recruitment pathways, and culturally responsive publishing models can reshape the industry to better reflect the richness of contemporary society.

The event is organised by the [Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing \(CBCP\)](#) an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of Reading. The CBCP promotes global, multilingual, and cross-sectoral research into book cultures and publishing, drawing on the University's extensive Special Collections and archival holdings. The symposium is co-hosted with the [British Academy of Management](#)'s Creative Industries Special Interest Group and Human Resource Management Special Interest Group. These partnerships reflect the event's commitment to integrating historical, cultural, strategic, and people-management perspectives in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the publishing sector.

By bringing together scholars across arts, humanities and management, industry professionals, and cultural stakeholders, this symposium aims to generate dialogue and foster networking that encourages the development of interdisciplinary research.

Discussions will focus on how academic research can be translated into actionable strategies, frameworks, and recommendations that drive innovation in the publishing industry.

Thank you for joining us for what we are sure will be an engaging gathering!

Essential Information

The symposium will take place in the Henley Business School, Whiteknights Campus, University of Reading, RG6 6UD

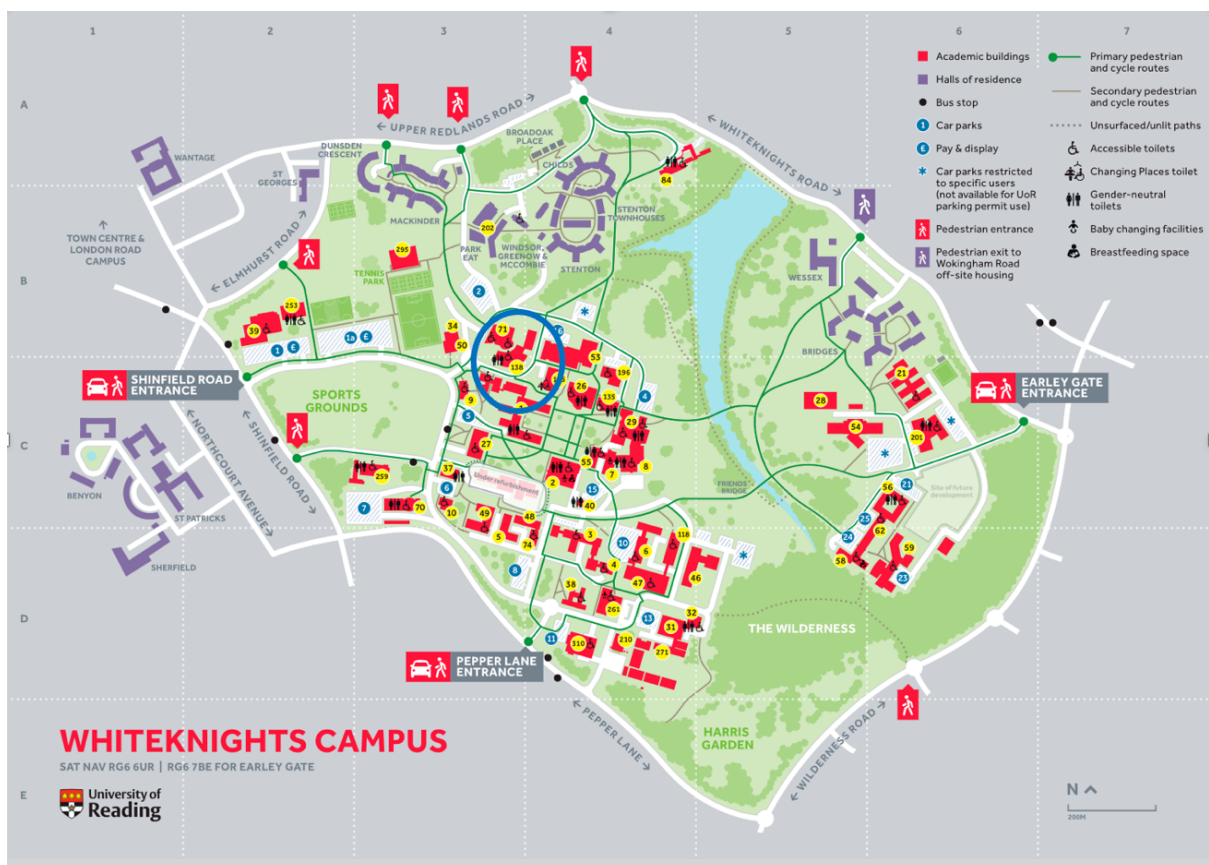
For options on how to get to the Whiteknights campus, go to this web page: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/about/visit-us>

Once you are on the campus, the Henley Business School is number 138 in the map below (circled in blue).

For a larger map, go to this web page: https://static.reading.ac.uk/content/PDFs/files/Maps/Whiteknights_campus_map.pdf

Morning & afternoon refreshments will be provided on the day of the symposium, as will a lunch with vegan & vegetarian options.

If you have any dietary or accessibility requirements, please email the Centre for Book Cultures & Publishing before 22 June 2026 at cbcp@reading.ac.uk.



Programme

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome & introductions (HBS G10)

Marrisa Joseph – Associate Professor of Organisation Studies and Business History at Henley Business School

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332458825986696?p=H8eGWRUp3fL88ACQy6>

10:05 – 10:35 Opening Address: “Building Diversity in the Media Industries” (HBS G10)

Joanna Abeyie MBE – Former Director of Creative Diversity BBC, Founder BlueMoon Consultancy (in person)

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332458825986696?p=H8eGWRUp3fL88ACQy6>

10:35 – 11:30 Panel: “Bridging the Gap: Academia and Industry in Dialogue on EDI in the Publishing Industry” (HBS G10)

Moderator: Fiona McLachlan, Business Relationship Manager, Knowledge Exchange & External Partnerships, University of Reading

Panel:

- **Melissa Carr** – Lecturer in International Human Resources Management & EDI Director at World of Work Institute, Henley Business School, University of Reading (in person)
- **Vaseem Khan** – Crime Fiction author (in person)
- **Emma Shercliff** – Laxfield Literary Associates (in person)
- **Aarti Kumari** – The Emma Press (in person)

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332458825986696?p=H8eGWRUp3fL88ACQy6>

11:30 – 11:45 Comfort break (HBS Foyer)

11:45 – 1:00 Research Papers: “Geo-politics and Global Structures” (HBS G10)

Chair: Jack Harrington – CEO, British Academy of Management

Panel:

- **Hyei Jin Kim** (University of Reading) – “Who Governs the Flow of Books?: The Legacy of the Traditional Market Agreement” (in person)
- **Karishma Koshal** (University of Exeter) – “The Foundations of the Anglophone Trade Publishing Industry in India” (in person)

- **Frances Weightman** (Leeds Centre for New Chinese Writing) – “Becoming a Reluctant Gatekeeper: A Case Study of the Leeds Centre for New Chinese Writing” (online)
- **Maria Belen Riveiro** (University of Buenos Aires/University of Newcastle) – “Rethinking Bibliodiversity: the Universal Put into Question” (in person)

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332458825986696?p=H8eGWRUp3fL88ACQy6>

1:00 – 1:45

Networking lunch (HBS Foyer)

1:45 – 3:15

Lightning Talks & Research Papers Parallel Session

Stream 1: “Commercial Approaches to Diversifying Publishing”

Chair: Sophie Heywood (University of Reading)

(HBS G10)

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332458825986696?p=H8eGWRUp3fL88ACQy6>

Stream 2: “Networks & Institutional Power”

Chair: Cristina De Luca (University of Reading)

(HBS G04)

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/395990410975532?p=U8iWezX7atpSozqYq1>

Speakers:

Bronwen Price (CEO Seren Books) – “Inclusive Commissioning: Dethroning the Gatekeepers” (online)

Nicola Daly (University of Waikato) – “Indigenous publishing in Aotearoa New Zealand: A Case Study” (in person)

Agata Mrva-Montoya (University of Sydney) – “Accessibility Champions as Diversity Leaders: Driving Publishing’s Inclusive Future” (in person)

Speakers:

Liciane Correa (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro) – “The Past and Present of Freelancer Work in Book Proofreading in Brazil” (online)

Amanda K. Allen (Eastern Michigan University) – “Visible Invisibility: Women’s Professional Autonomy and U.S. Children’s Publishing, 1919–1973” (in person)

Chrissy Taylor (University of Waikato) – “Gender and Sexual Identity in Aotearoa New Zealand: Library Acquisition Policies in Relation to LGBTQIA+”

Megan Farr (Bath Spa University) –
“Culturally Responsive Publishing
Models” (online)

Communities in New Zealand”
(online)

Kanupriya Dhingra (BML Munjal
University) – “Beyond the
Publisher: How Bookstores,
Bazaars, and Libraries Shape
Independent Publishing in Delhi”
(online)

3:15 – 3:30 **Coffee/tea break** (HBS Foyer)

3:30 – 4:30 **Roundtable:** “Digital Platforms and AI in the Future of Publishing”
(HBS G10)

Moderator: Dominic Lees, Associate Professor in Filmmaking, Convenor of
the Synthetic Media Research Network, University of Reading

Discussants:

- **Basak Bak** – Lecturer in Law, Copyright and AI, University of Reading
(in person)
- **Simon Rowberry** – Associate Professor of Publishing, UCL,
Academic Director of Education for the Department of Information
Studies (in person)
- **Julie Cohen** – Author, PhD Candidate, University of Reading (in
person)

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332458825986696?p=H8eGWRUp3fL88ACQy6>

4:30 – 5:00 **Keynote:** “Inclusive Talent Pipelines” (HBS G10)

Katy Shaw – Director of the UKRI/AHRC Creative Communities
Programme; Professor of Publishing & Writing Northumbria University
(online)

Introduced by **Nicola Wilson**, Professor of Book and Publishing Studies,
University of Reading

Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332458825986696?p=H8eGWRUp3fL88ACQy6>

5:00 – 6:00: **Wrap up followed by an informal social/drinks** (HBS G10)

Chairs & Presenters

Amanda K. Allen is a Professor of English at Eastern Michigan University, and Coordinator of the Undergraduate and Graduate Children's Literature Programs. Her research focuses on mid-20th-century American teen romance novels and the Children's Literature Network (CLN), the network of female editors, librarians, and reviewers who produced and distributed them. She has also published on girls' literature, fandom, archives, YA library spaces, game-based learning, and other related topics. She is the YA Editor of the Journal of Popular Romance Studies, and is happy to chat with anyone who may be interested in publishing with the journal.

Joanna Abeyie is a multi-award-winning entrepreneur, civic leader and thought leader specialising in board-level strategic advisory, People & Culture, EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility), strategy, organisational design, governance, and data. With over two decades of experience across financial and professional services, legal, creative industries, technology, charity, policing, higher education and the Civil Service, she is recognised for delivering systemic reform and embedding inclusion at scale. Joanna is the Founder and Managing Director of Blue Moon & Partners, a multi-award-winning people, culture and data consultancy that translates strategy into operational capability-aligning leadership, communication, culture and systems to deliver measurable, values-led change. The business focuses on closing the gap between intent and execution, equipping organisations with the practical frameworks, governance models, data insights, and implementation support required to deliver sustainable outcomes, particularly in complex, high-accountability environments. Joanna is the founder of Hyden (part of SThree) and Shine Media, and co-founder of the Elevation Networks Charitable Trust. Hyden was established to embed EDIA as a strategic and commercial driver within global talent systems, introducing inclusive recruitment and organisational design frameworks across international markets. Shine Media has supported large-scale talent development and access to the creative industries, helping thousands of individuals progress into employment. Her honours include an MBE for services to diversity and inclusion, the Freedom of the City of London, admission as a Livery Woman of the Haberdashers' Company, a Distinguished Graduate Award, an Honorary Doctorate, and multiple industry awards recognising her leadership and impact across sectors.

Basak Bak has been a Law Lecturer at the University of Reading since 2020, where she has a track record of publications in IP law, AI and data protection as well as global civil law topics. Currently, she is publishing more widely on the aspects of data protection law and is open to collaboration opportunities in GenAI, intellectual property, and data privacy. She previously worked as a Lecturer in Law at Ankara University, and as an associate professor of law at Izmir University of Economics. Before this, she was a solicitor in a top-tier international law firm in Istanbul. She is also a qualified barrister, registered with

the Istanbul Bar Association. Başak practices as a legal consultant specialising in intellectual property law (IP) and data protection and privacy law. She holds two separate PhD degrees in these fields, respectively.

Melissa Carr is a Lecturer in International Human Resource Management at Henley Business School and Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the World of Work Institute at the University of Reading. Her research is situated within feminist organisation studies and critically examines gender, power, and subjectivity in contemporary work. She focuses on precarious forms of labour, particularly within the gig economy and the cultural and creative industries, exploring how affect, discourse, and identity shape the production and experience of inequality in organisational life. Her work has been published in journals including *Human Relations*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Leadership*, and *Gender, Work & Organization*. Beyond academia, Melissa frequently contributes to media discussions on EDI, offering insights into workplace equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Julie Cohen is the author of thirty published novels and an experienced teacher of creative writing. She gained her BA with Honours in English Literature at Brown University and Cambridge University. Her MPhil thesis in English Literature (University of Reading) was entitled “‘There are fairies at the bottom of our garden!’: Fairies and the Ideal British Child, 1869-1923.’ She is currently undertaking a PhD by Published Works in Creative Writing at the University of Reading. She will be submitting her 2017 novel *TOGETHER*, a commercial/literary crossover relationship novel, and examining how differing understandings of genre, the market and female readers affected the composition and themes of the novel, two publishers’ receptions to it, and its publishing journey within the context of ‘women’s fiction’ being published at the same time.

Liciane Correa is a PhD candidate in Communication at PUC-Rio (CAPES scholarship grantee). She also holds a Master’s degree in English Language Literatures from the State University of Rio de Janeiro/UERJ (2023), and a Bachelor’s degree in Social Communication/Publishing from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro/ECO-UFRJ (2005). She is Professor in the English-Portuguese Translation graduate program at PUC-Rio and various other courses and workshops on book publishing; Professor at the School of Communication/UFRJ (2024-2025). She has been a book editor since 2002, has worked for some of the largest publishing houses in Brazil, both as a staff employee and as a freelancer. She also coordinates book production at Ecoar Edições, the publishing laboratory at ECO/UFRJ. In 2015, she was selected by the Frankfurt Book Fair to participate in the Fellowship Programme. Associate researcher at Intercom GP Produção Editorial (Research Group on Publishing).

Nicola Daly is a sociolinguist and Professor in the Division of Education, University of Waikato, where she teaches children's literature. She is the principal investigator of a three-year Marsden funded project working with Huia Publishers and other colleagues to explore Indigenous voices in picturebooks. She leads the Postgraduate Certificate in Children's and Young Adult Literature and co-directs the Waikato Picturebook Research Unit. She was a Fulbright New Zealand Scholar at the University of Arizona, USA in 2019/2020.

Cristina De Luca is an AHRC SWW DTP PhD student at the University of Reading and Bristol, and she is also a PGR Representative for the Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing at the University of Reading. Her PhD project aims to analyse the role of literary agents connecting Italian and British publishers in the Second Post War Era. She is particularly interested in independent literary agents and female literary agents who represented Italian publishing firms. Prior to undertaking her PhD, she earned a BA in languages, with major in translation, and a MA in Modern Philology, with major in publishing, at the University for Foreigners in Siena. She has also worked for the Digital Sales department of Mondadori and is currently the Production Manager of the Postgraduate interdisciplinary journal *Question – A Journal for the Humanities*.

Kanupriya Dhingra is a book historian, writer, and literary translator. Her work centres on the social life of books and the cultures of reading they sustain. She is the author of *The Sunday Book Bazaar: Daryaganj and the Making of a Reading Public in Delhi* (Speaking Tiger, 2026) and *Old Delhi's Parallel Book Bazaar* (Cambridge Elements, Cambridge University Press, 2024). Kanupriya holds a PhD from SOAS, University of London, where she was a Felix Scholar, and has held postdoctoral fellowships at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, and ICAS:MP, Delhi. She is also the founder of *The Delhi Library Project*, an independent research initiative on the history of libraries in Delhi since 1947. Kanupriya teaches literature and cultural studies at the School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University, Gurugram, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP). A recipient of the Charles Wallace India Trust Grant for literary translation in 2023, she translates between Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, and English. Her writings have appeared in *The Caravan*, *Scroll*, *Seminar*, *Usawa Literary Review*, and *Himal Southasian*.

Megan Farr is a Senior Lecturer in Publishing at Bath Spa University and Business Development Manager at the Books Council of Wales. With 25 years' experience in publishing marketing and publicity, she specialises in children's and YA publishing, Welsh-language and bilingual publishing, and international market development. Her PhD research - *Putting Cymru on the Map: Internationalising Children's Publishing from Wales* - explores sustainable international engagement for small-nation publishers, drawing on comparative analysis with Catalonia, Ireland, Scotland, and New Zealand. She is passionate

about championing diverse, inclusive publishing voices across UK and international markets.

Jack Harrington is the CEO of the British Academy of Management, a position he has held since 2024. He joined BAM from Chatham House: The Royal Institute of International Affairs, where he led research partnerships. Jack brings experience of working with boards to implement strategy, including as a trustee. He has experience of higher education and social science research gained across the UK and internationally as a funder, policy manager and researcher at including at the Wellcome Trust, the London School of Economics, the University of Surrey and the Open University. He served as assistant editor of *Citizenship Studies* (2014-2019) and has published two monographs and several articles on historical legacies of colonialism in citizenship rights in contemporary Britain and France.

Sophie Heywood is Associate Professor in French and a founding co-director of the Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing at the University of Reading. She specializes in the history of comparative children's literature and publishing. Her most recent publication, *Children's Publishing in Cold War France: Hachette in the Age of Surveillance and Control* (Bloomsbury, 2025), explores the history of Cold War censorship legislation and its impact on the French publishing industry for children. Her first monograph was a literary and publishing history of iconic French children's author, the Comtesse de Ségur (Manchester University Press, 2011), and between 2016 and 2018 she led an international research network on the impact of the '68 years on cultures of childhood, [The Children's '68](#), funded by the STUDIUM/Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellowship programme.

Lawrence Jones is a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing at the University of Reading, where he is researching the publishing activities of E. M. Forster (1879-1970) in the US in the 1920s. He recently completed his PhD at the University of Reading. For his project, he conducted a genetic analysis of selected novels by Forster and Virginia Woolf to investigate how they revised and adapted the portraits of their lower-middle-class characters, and how these changes reflected the authors' concerns about class and social identity.

Marrisa Joseph is an Associate Professor of Organisation Studies and Business History at Henley Business School. A historian of the British publishing industry, her teaching focuses on management in the creative industries. Her research explores the formation of business practices in the Victorian publishing industry, examining why socio-cultural influences govern how individuals made strategic decisions. Her research interests centre on business history and she is interested in the management of creative industry organisations due to her experience of working in rights management in the publishing industry. Linked to her research and industry experience,

Marrisa has delivered workshops on publishing research monographs. She has designed professional development courses to commercialise ideas based on intellectual property. She sits on the management board of the Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing at the University of Reading and is a member of the Senate. Externally, she is on the Chartered Management Institute's Regulation and Compliance Committee. In 2017, she was the recipient of the Journal of Management History Award for Best International Paper at the Academy of Management Annual Meeting. Her first book, *Victorian Literary Businesses*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2019 and her first co-edited book, *The Edinburgh Companion to Women in Publishing 1900-2020* (Edinburgh University Press), was published in 2024.

Hyei Jin Kim is a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at Henley Business School. She studies how international organisations and book trade associations shaped the trade of English-language books throughout the 20th century. Her current project investigates the Traditional Market Agreement, a British publishing monopoly that carved up the world book markets between British and American publishers from 1947 to 1976.

Vaseem Khan is the author of two award-winning crime series set in India, and the Q Mysteries, beginning with *Quantum of Menace*, the first in a murder mystery series featuring Q from the James Bond franchise. His debut, *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra*, was selected by the Sunday Times as one of the 40 best crime novels published 2015-2020. In 2021, *Midnight at Malabar House*, the first in the *Malabar House* novels set in 1950s Bombay, won the CWA Historical Dagger. Vaseem was born in England, but spent a decade working in India. Between 2023-2025, Vaseem served as the Chair of the UK Crime Writers' Association. In 2025, his first psychological thriller, *The Girl in Cell A*, was published, set in small town America.

Karishma Koshal (she/her) is an AHRC-funded PhD researcher at the University of Exeter. She examines independent and multinational trade publishing practices in South Asia and aims to provide a novel analysis of the uneven literary market in the region. She is supervised by Prof Amina Yaqin at the University of Exeter and by Dr Florian Stadler at the University of Bristol. Prior to this, Karishma was part of India's publishing ecosystem and has worked as an editor with Aleph Book Company, *The Caravan*, and the Museum of Art & Photography's Impart.

Aarti Kumari founded the Women Who Redefine Colour Bookclub in Birmingham, offering a welcoming environment where women from diverse backgrounds come together to explore a wide range of literature. The book club was established to provide a safe space for members to share their experiences and learn from one another, fostering meaningful connections and open dialogue. Aarti is deeply committed to the idea that broadening the scope of

literature we read can nurture empathy and promote greater understanding and tolerance within our communities.

Dominic Lees is Associate Professor in Filmmaking at the University of Reading. He leads the Synthetic Media Research Network, a group of creative innovators, AI developers, stakeholders and academic researchers who explore the potential of Generative AI in film and media. He is co-editor of the book series, 'AI in Film and Media' (Routledge) has published articles in *Critical Studies in Television*, *The Journal of Media Practice*, *Studies in Documentary Film*, *Media Practice and Education*, and *Convergence*. His 2019 experimental research with deepfakes and film drama was groundbreaking and he speaks on the impact of AI on the creative industries across a wide range of international media. Lees is lead writer on AI for the British Film Institute's *Sight and Sound* magazine. He has worked as a Specialist Advisor for the UK Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee and has a background as an award-winning film and television drama director.

Fiona McLachlan is a Business Relationship Manager at the University of Reading, where she specialises in building strategic partnerships and fostering high-value collaborations between academia, industry, and external stakeholders. A PhD-qualified chemist, Fiona began her career conducting radioactive research within the nuclear industry but a common theme even at this early point was collaborations including working with many different types of organisations across the world. Over the course of a varied career Fiona has developed a reputation for connecting people, ideas, and organisations to deliver meaningful outcomes and has a focus on establishing trusted partnerships to achieve real-world impact. Fiona firmly believes in the need to have diverse voices in every environment to deliver the best outcomes and ensure inclusivity is built into our future world.

Agata Mrva-Montoya is Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney. Her research examines the ways technological innovation and power structures shape the publishing industry, focusing specifically on their impact on equitable access to literature and knowledge. She is author of *Inclusive publishing and the quest for reading equity* (2025) and co-author of *Books without barriers: a practical guide to inclusive publishing* (2026).

Bronwen Price is the strategic and business lead at Seren Books, with more hands-on oversight of editorial, production and operations. She has spent her time at the company building a new approach to publishing in Wales, innovating processes, systems and policies to support the business' future success. Bronwen has a PhD in Archaeology and 20 years of experience in arts management in Wales, having previously been Deputy CEO at both Llenyddiaeth Cymru / Literature Wales and National Theatre Wales.

Maria Belen Riveiro holds a degree in Sociology and a PhD in Social Sciences (Universidad de Buenos Aires), and she is an Assistant Researcher at Conicet. Currently she is working at the School of Modern Languages of Newcastle University as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow. She is a Professor at UBA, a member of the Sociology of Literature Research Group, and one of the editors of the journal *7 ensayos. Revista Latinoamericana de Sociología, Política y Cultura* (Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani-UBA).

Simon Rowberry is Associate Professor in Publishing at University College London. His research focuses on the intersection of the histories of computing and publishing. He is the author of two books: *Four Shades of Gray: The Amazon Kindle Platform* (MIT Press: 2022) and *The Development of Project Gutenberg c. 1970-2000* (Cambridge Elements in Publishing & Book Cultures: 2023).

Katy Shaw is Director of the UKRI/AHRC Creative Communities programme and Professor of writing and publishing. Her research interests include devolution and culture, diversity and inclusion in the creative industries (the subject of her 2022 TED talk) and cultural policy making. She is the author of the APPG Inquiry report 'The Case for Culture' that set out policy recommendations, many of which have since been adopted by UK government, on how to rebuild, rebalance and recover cultural production post-covid. She sat as a commissioner on the LGA Culture Commission and the Gordon Brown Union Commission. Her policy consultancy focuses on the role of culture-led R&D, innovation and the role of HEIs and further education in cultural partnership working. As Professor and journalist she is the author of five monographs, four edited collections as well as journal articles and essays on contemporary British literature and is the author of the British Council 'Write Now: Teaching 21st-century Literature Globally' report. She regularly writes for the New Statesman. She can be found on Twitter @profkatyshaw.

Emma Shercliff is a literary agent with over 20 years of experience in the publishing industry. In 2020, she founded Laxfield Literary Associates as a response to the lack of literary agents outside London. Awards won by her clients include the Caine Prize for African Writing, the Whiting Award for Fiction, The Orwell Prize, an Academy Award, a BAFTA and a Pulitzer Prize. She was shortlisted for Literary Agent of the Year at the British Book Awards in 2024 and 2026. Emma has worked for publishing companies including Macmillan, Hachette and Cassava Republic Press in Paris, Melbourne, Abuja and London, and for the British Council in Nigeria and Iran. Her publishing consultancy work includes a review of the publishing sector in Ukraine for the British Council and the development of an author diversity toolkit for the UK Publishers Association. Emma holds an MA in Modern Languages from Cambridge University and an MA in Education & International Development. She is a doctoral candidate at the UCL Institute of Education; her research focuses on women within the African publishing industry. She has written for industry publications including

The Bookseller, Publishing Perspectives, Wasafiri and LOGOS, and contributed a book chapter on Black British Publishing to *The Edinburgh Companion to Women in Publishing*.

Chrissy Taylor is a final-year PhD student at the University of Waikato in New Zealand. Her doctoral research investigates library acquisition policies across New Zealand library systems with a particular focus on how these policies support LGBTQIA+ communities. She holds a Bachelor of Teaching and a Master of Education with honours from the University of Waikato. Her research journey began with her Master's dissertation, which examined the representation of gender and sexual diversity in award-winning and finalist New Zealand children's and young adult literature.

Frances Weightman is a Professor of Chinese Literature at the University of Leeds, Director of the Leeds Centre for New Chinese Writing, and editor of *Writing Chinese: A Journal of Contemporary Sinophone Literature*. Her research interests centre on Chinese authors and fiction of all periods. She has a forthcoming monograph on Chinese children's authors (*Marketing Chinese Children's Books: Paratext and the Politics of Authorship*, Bloomsbury Perspectives on Children's Literature, 2026).

Nicola Wilson is Professor of Book and Publishing Studies at the University of Reading, co-director of the Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing, and a founding director of the [Modernist Archives Publishing Project](#). Her research is in the history of reading, book history, and working-class writing. Her most recent book is *Recommended! The influencers who changed how we read* (Holland House Books, 2025). Her first book was *Home in British Working-Class Fiction* (Routledge, 2015) – reviewed in the *TLS* as an important contribution to the study of working-class writing – and she is co-author of *Scholarly Adventures in the Digital Humanities* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). She has edited three academic books including, most recently, *The Edinburgh Companion to Women in Publishing, 1900-2020* (2024), edits an Elements strand for Cambridge University Press on 'Women, Publishing, and Book Cultures'. Over many years, Nicola has worked to get the writings of Lancashire mill-woman Ethel Carnie Holdsworth back into print.