

I am an early career academic recently appointed as Lecturer in Nineteenth-Century English Literature at the University of Surrey. Prior to this I worked as Teaching Fellow in the School of English at Newcastle University (2015-16), and Research Fellow at the University of Warwick (2012-15), where I completed my PhD in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies in 2011. My work is grounded in feminist approaches to travel and mobility in Victorian literature and culture, with publications including *Mobility in the Victorian Novel: Placing the Nation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). Alongside teaching and research I have substantial experience in supporting early career researchers, which has given me a strong working knowledge of the wider context of contemporary higher education in which the Feminist and Women's Studies Association operates. As an FWSA member since 2007 and having served on the Executive Committee since 2014 as Essay Competition Officer, I would be delighted to develop my longstanding connection with the Association in the position of Chair. I am strongly committed to the mission and ethos of the FWSA, and through my experience of working on the Executive Committee I have gained a detailed understanding of the key priorities which will inform my vision and strategy as Chair.

My primary mission will be to strengthen connections within and beyond the FWSA to ensure a strong, sustainable future for the Association. I will advance this by:

- **Developing relationships with institutional centres and related associations in order to more firmly embed our position within the UK Higher Education landscape.** The FWSA benefits from a wide network of contacts across the UK and I will seek to further consolidate this through more concrete collaborations with feminist centres, associations and journals; I have approached the editorial board of *Feminist Theory*, for example, to discuss collaborating on future lectures and workshops. I will make it a key priority to identify and pursue opportunities for financial support to sustain and grow the FWSA's work.
- **Strengthening cross-generational links within the Association to support scholars at all career stages.** Our work in supporting early career academics is of paramount importance to the FWSA and I would like to supplement this by developing greater provision for feminist academics as they progress in their careers, particularly through schemes that facilitate network-building and resource-sharing among our membership. To this end I propose to establish an FWSA mentoring network which will enable academics at all career stages to benefit from the knowledge and experience of those more senior to them, while fostering a supportive cross-generational community of feminist academics within the FWSA.

My second priority as Chair will be to balance our provision for research and teaching activities. At present the FWSA's focus is largely directed towards research-support initiatives, and I would like to complement this with greater attention to feminist teaching in UK higher education. I propose:

- **To develop our support for excellence in feminist teaching.** Building on the success of our research schemes I propose to launch an annual FWSA Teaching Award to reward and encourage excellence in feminist teaching. I will also develop resources enabling the sharing of best practice among feminist academics, for example through creating a more prominent "Feminism in the Classroom" strand on the FWSA blog.
- **To promote the involvement of undergraduate students in FWSA activities.** The FWSA already supports undergraduates through the annual essay prize, and I will build on this with schemes that encourage more active participation from students, such as introducing a dedicated panel for undergraduate and masters students to present at the FWSA conference.

Overall, my objective as Chair will be to develop the FWSA in ways that make best use of its greatest asset – a dynamic and diverse community of feminist academics – while ensuring that we are proactive in addressing challenges ahead in order to secure and advance the ongoing success of the FWSA as a key component of the UK feminist landscape.