

# GAŠPER JAKOVAC

*Cultural and literary historian of the early modern period, specializing in drama, performance, and Catholic Reformation in England.*

## EDUCATION

- 2014–2018     **PhD in English Literature (Durham University, UK)**  
Thesis title: 'Theatre, Catholic Communities, and Popular Entertainment in England's North-East, c. 1600–1625'. External examiner Prof. Alison Shell (UCL). Viva voce: 18 April 2018.
- 2012–2013     **Interdiscip. MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (Durham University, UK)**  
Dissertation title: 'Transmitting Nobody: The Nobody in the 1608 German Adaptation of *Nobody and Somebody*'. Degree awarded on 16 January 2014 with distinction.
- 2005–2011     **MA in History and Comparative Literature (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)**  
Dissertation title: 'Ideologija absolutizma v zgodovinski trilogiji *Henrik VI.* Williama Shakespeara' [Ideology of Absolutism in William Shakespeare's Trilogy *Henry VI*]. Viva voce: 8 March 2012.

## ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- Nov. 2024–     **Honorary Research Fellow**  
Department of English Language and Literature (UCL)
- Oct. 2024–     **Research assistant**  
Institute of Slovenian Literature and Literary Studies, ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana  
Main responsibilities: research project **"Catholic Performance Culture in Early Modern England"**
- March 2022–  
Aug. 2024     **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow**  
Department of English Language and Literature (UCL); Department of History (University of Toronto)  
Main responsibilities: research project **"Catholic Performance Culture in Early Modern England"**; managing a **large research grant**; lecturing and teaching seminars on **'Global Reformations'** (third-year module), **'Shakespeare'** (third-year module), **'Seventeenth Century'** (second- and third-year module); offering academic support to students.
- Sept. 2021–  
Dec. 2021     **Lecturer in Renaissance Literature**  
Department of English and Related Literature, University of York (UK)  
Main responsibilities: **convening, lecturing, and teaching seminars on 'The Renaissance'** (second-year module); lecturing and teaching seminars on undergraduate **'A World of Literature 1: Classics and Cultural Translations'** (first-year module) and **MA module 'Shakespeare'**; marking undergraduate assessment and MA dissertations; offering pastoral and academic support to undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Jan. 2021–  
July 2021     **Associate Lecturer**  
School of Arts and Creative Industries, Edinburgh Napier University (UK)  
Main responsibilities: lecturing and teaching seminars on **'Shakespeare and the Renaissance'** (second-year module); marking undergraduate assessment, including dissertations; offering academic support to students.
- Aug. 2020–  
May 2021     **Susan Manning Postdoctoral Fellow**  
Institute for Advanced Studies in The Humanities (University of Edinburgh)  
Main responsibilities: academic research and professional development.
- 2019–2020     **Max Weber Fellow**  
Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute (Florence, Italy)

Main responsibilities: academic research and professional development; co-convening two sessions for the **‘Core seminar’** and **‘Intellectual and cultural history seminar’** (doctoral seminars); mentoring doctoral students.

2014–2019

**Teaching Assistant**

Department of English Studies, Durham University (UK)

Main responsibilities: teaching on **‘Classical and Biblical Backgrounds to English Literature’** (first-year module) and **‘Shakespeare’** (second-year module); leading tutorial groups and delivering one-to-one supervisions; marking formative essays and exam papers; offering pastoral and academic support.

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

Jan. 2018–  
Dec. 2019

**Columnist**

*Delo*, the largest Slovenian daily newspaper (<https://www.delo.si/>)

Main responsibilities: writing a monthly column on society, politics, and culture.

July 2016

**Conference assistant**

Joint *REED North-East* and *Société Internationale pour l'étude du Théâtre Médiéval* international conference and theatre festival, Durham University

Main responsibilities: facilitating the smooth running of the daily conference programme; acting as a main port of call for both the conference delegates and the theatre festival performers; addressing any difficulties regarding the schedule, IT facilities, transport, and accommodation.

July 2015

**Conference assistant**

Seventeenth-Century Studies Conference ‘Cities and Citizens’, Durham University

Main responsibilities: welcome and registration of delegates; addressing any emergent issues and queries relating to the conference schedule, accommodation, and the venue itself.

Oct. 2014–  
Sept. 2015

**Treasurer**

Medieval and Early Modern Student Association (MEMSA), Durham University

Main responsibilities: member of the executive committee; budgeting and managing the association’s finances by keeping simple accounts; meeting regularly with the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies administrative team; co-organized fortnightly MEMSA seminars, introducing speakers, and chairing Q&As.

May 2010–  
Dec. 2012

**Book reviews editor**

Beletrina publishing house, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Main responsibilities: commissioning, editing, and publishing articles for the online cultural portal *AirBeletrina* ([www.airbeletrina.si](http://www.airbeletrina.si)); writing book reviews, columns, and interviews.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Books

1. *Kar bog zahteva to naj kralj ukrene. Ideologija absolutizma v Shakespeareovi trilogiji Henrik VI.* [*What God Will, That Let Your King Perform: Ideology of Absolutism in Shakespeare’s Trilogy Henry VI*] (Ljubljana: LUD Literatura, 2015).

Quotations from reviews (translated from Slovenian):

‘Gašper Jakovac’s study *Kar Bog zahteva, to naj kralj ukrene. Ideologija absolutizma v Shakespeareovi trilogiji Henrik VI.* (2015) is incredibly valuable because hardly any original monographs on Elizabethan and Jacobean literature exist in Slovenian [...] His book has a considerably greater scholarly value [than previous studies on Henry VI. in Slovenian] because he discusses Shakespeare’s Henry VI. plays in minute detail and, therefore, with greater cogency and in a more stimulating manner.’ (Andrej Zavrl in *Amfiteater*, 4/2 (2016))

‘The monograph *Kar Bog zahteva, to naj kralj ukrene* does not only represent an indispensable piece in the mosaic of Slovenian literary criticism, but also offers a welcome challenge to all the readers and listeners of the discourses of power. It reminds us that a reader or a spectator of Shakespeare is always also a reader and a

spectator of a society which he or she can only shape with an active and responsible gaze. Before history can become the teacher of life, we must learn how to read it.' (Tadeja Spruk in *Literatura*, 303-304 (2016))

#### Peer-reviewed journal articles

1. Co-authored with Mark Chambers, 'Welcoming James VI & I in the North-East: Civic Performance and Conflict in Durham and Newcastle', *Medieval English Theatre*, vol. 41 (2020), 84–133.
2. 'A Dancer Made a Recusant: Dance and Evangelization in the Jacobean North East of England', *British Catholic History*, 34/2 (2018), 273–303.
3. 'Dismembered Sejanus: Ben Jonson's Representational Ethics of a Mutilated Body', *KUD Logos* (April 2015), <http://kud-logos.si/2015/dismembered-sejanus/>.
4. 'Ojdip mora umreti, da se klas rodi: razmišljanja ob drami Iva Svetine' [Oedipus Must Die for the Ear to Sprout: Thinking with Ivo Svetina's drama], *Dialogi*, vol. 44, no. 3/4 (2008), 33–46.

#### Essays in edited collections

1. 'Performance Culture at the English College, Rome, c. 1579–1660', in Matteo Binasco (ed.), *The English Community of Rome, 1500–1829* (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming in 2025). A chapter of 23,000 words.
2. 'Northern Catholics, Equestrian Sports, and the Gunpowder Plot', John McKinnell and Diana Wyatt (eds.), *Early Performers and Performance in the North East of England* (ARC Humanities Press, 2021), 63–75.
3. 'The Catholic Country House in Early Modern England: Motion, Piety and Hospitality, c.1580–1640', in Kimberley Skelton (ed.), *Early Modern Spaces in Motion: Design, Experience and Rhetoric* (Amsterdam University Press, 2020), 81–110.

#### Academic book reviews

1. 'Catholic Record Society', in *Early Modern Digital Review*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2023); *Renaissance and Reformation/Renaissance et Réforme*, vol. 46, no. 1 (2023): 226–30.
2. Irena R. Makaryk and Marissa McHugh (eds.), *Shakespeare and the Second World War: Memory, Culture, Identity* (Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2012), in *Critical Survey*, vol. 30, no. 1 (2018): 154–57.
3. P. Bourdieu, R. Chartier and C. Ginzburg, *Sociologija, zgodovina, književnost* [Sociology, History, Literature] (Ljubljana: Studia Humanitatis, 2011), in *Primerjalna književnost*, vol. 35, no. 1 (2012): 248–55.

#### Work in progress

1. Robert Owen, *The History of Purgatory*, a scholarly edition. Under contract with Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (University of Toronto Press); first draft to be completed by December 2024.
2. 'Campianus: Staging Edmund Campion at the English College, Rome', a journal article to be submitted to *English Literary Renaissance* (University of Chicago Press) by March 2025.
3. 'Religious Polemic on the English Catholic Stage', a journal article in preparation for the "Rethinking Recusancy" special issue of *Reformation* (Taylor & Francis). To be submitted by September 2025.
4. *English Catholics and Cultures of Performance, 1558–1660*, a monograph to be completed by the end of 2026.

### **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES**

2022–2024	<b>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Postdoctoral Fellowship (UCL; University of Toronto)</b> <u>Grant value: €235,490.40</u>
2020–2021	<b>Susan Manning Postdoctoral Fellowship (Institute for Advanced Studies in The Humanities, University of Edinburgh)</b> <u>Grant value: £15,000.00</u>
2020	<b>The COVID-Related Research Grant 2020 (European University Institute, Florence)</b> For the <i>Experiencing Epidemics</i> project ( <a href="https://experiencing-epidemics.org/">https://experiencing-epidemics.org/</a> ). A public history podcast dedicated to sharing historical research on past epidemics.

Grant value: €2,792.70

- 2019–2020 **Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Department of History and Civilization (European University Institute, Florence)**  
Grant value: €35,000.00
- 2019–2020 **David Walker Memorial Fellowship in Early Modern History (Bodleian Library, Oxford) including membership of Lincoln College SCR**  
Grant value: £3,600.00
- 2019 **IMEMS Library Fellowship (Durham University, UK)**  
Grant value: £1,500.00
- 2019 **Society for Theatre Research award**  
Towards archival research at Shropshire Archives and Staffordshire Record Office.  
Grant value: £600.00
- 2017 **Research and travel grants towards Toronto REED research trip**  
Research travel grant (Records of Early English Drama North-East Project), award value: £1,000.00; Postgraduate research support grant (Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Durham University), award value: £310.00; Travel scholarship (University College, Durham University), award value: £300.00  
In total: £1,610.00
- 2014–2017 **Scholarships and grants towards doctoral studies**  
Doctoral scholarship (Gerda Henkel Foundation), award value: €33,600.00; Research travel grant (Gerda Henkel Foundation), award value: €2,260.00; doctoral studentship grant (Arts and Humanities Research Council), award value: £12,225.00; Doctoral studentship grant (The City of Ljubljana), award value: €15,000.00  
In total: €50,860.00; £12,225.00
- 2012 **‘Prešeren prize’ for the best undergraduate dissertation**  
A competitive prize awarded by the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana  
Award value: €500.00
- 2012–2013 **Scholarships towards MA studies**  
AHRC MA Scholarship 2012 (Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Durham University)  
Award value: £5,100.00  
Ad Futura Scholarship (Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia)  
Award value: €12,000.00

#### **RECENT TALKS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS**

- July 2023 ‘The English Mission and Performance at the Venerable English College, Rome’.  
Early Modern British and Irish Catholicism Conference, Durham.
- Nov. 2022 ‘Charity in the English Catholic Community’.  
EMIGF (The Early Modern Interdisciplinary Graduate Forum) seminar at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto.
- April 2022 ‘Derivative Writing and the Catholic Self in *The History of Purgatory*’, as part of the panel ‘Catholic Writing in Protestant England: Poetry, Drama, Historiography’, organized by me.  
Renaissance Society of America, Dublin.
- April 2021 ‘Charity and Catholic Identity in *The History of Purgatory*’.  
Renaissance Society of America, virtual meeting.
- June 2020 ‘Catholic Horse Racing and Protestant Anxieties in Early Stuart England’  
14<sup>th</sup> Max Weber Fellows’ June Conference ‘A Time for Anxiety?’. EUI, Florence.

- Nov. 2019 “‘What huntines & matches have beene of late appointed:” Northern Catholics, Equestrian Sports, and the Gunpowder Plot’  
Presentation of a working paper in ‘Ideas, Concepts, Theory’ research group’, EUI, Florence.
- Oct. 2019 ‘Northern Catholics and Equestrian Sports in Early Stuart England’.  
Research paper at the department of History and Civilization, EUI, Florence.
- Sept. 2019 ‘Entertainment and Performance in the English Catholic Community, 1558–1660’  
Max Weber Programme presentation of my research agenda, EUI, Florence.
- May 2019 ‘Poems, Songs and Ballads in the Hunter Manuscripts’  
IMEMS work-in-progress meeting, Durham University.
- Jul. 2018 ‘The Choice of Hercules in *The Lovesick King*’  
Society for Renaissance Studies biennial conference 2018, University of Sheffield.
- Mar. 2018 ‘Newcastle Civic Drama and *The Lovesick King*’  
METH (Medieval English Theatre Meeting) 2018, University of Sheffield.
- Sept. 2017 ‘Reconciling Virtue with Pleasure: Catholic Loyalism in *The Lovesick King*’  
EMIGF at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto.

#### Invited talks

- June 2024 ‘Recusant Drama: Truth and Affect in *The History of Purgatory*’.  
Rethinking Recusancy workshop, Early Modern Exchanges, UCL.
- May 2024 ‘Authorship and Derivative Writing in *The History of Purgatory*’  
Departmental research seminar, Department of English Language and Literature, UCL.
- June 2023 ‘*The History of Purgatory* and Catholic Devotional Space in Protestant England’  
*Places and Spaces of Devotion, c. 1600–1800: The Architecture of Devotion*, Aix Marseille Université, Aix-en-Provence.
- July 2021 Q&A session at ‘*Othello* Teacher Webinar’; in conversation with Dr Amy Smith on reading and teaching Shakespeare’s *Othello*.
- June 2019 ‘Elite Catholic Consumption and Equestrian Sports in Post-Reformation England’  
Multidisciplinary research workshop ‘The Protean Consumer: Competing Visions of Consumption and Consumerism’, EUI, Florence.
- Dec. 2016 ‘Shakespeare in krščanstvo’ [Shakespeare and Christianity]  
Forum za dialog med vero in kulturo, Ljubljana, Slovenija;  
<http://www.forumzadialog.com/shakespeare-in-kranstvo>. A public debate with Dr Gregor Moder (University of Ljubljana) and Matic Kocijančič (University of Ljubljana). Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiulbOx1a8U>
- May 2016 ‘Catholic Recusants in Performance’  
A public talk, which accompanied the exhibition *Plays, Processions and Parchment*, in Durham Cathedral. Available here: <https://www.mixcloud.com/READDurham/catholic-recusants-in-performance/>

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH**

- June 2024 **Research in Action: Staging Mass in Early Modern Drama (Shakespeare’s Globe)**  
Public workshop interrogating the relationship between Catholic ritual and theatre in post-Reformation England. With Professor Alison Shell and Rev Fr Ryan Service as collaborators.
- 2023– **CaPer Culture** (<https://caperculture.com/>)  
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship project webpage.
- 2020–2021 **Experiencing Epidemics** (<https://experiencing-epidemics.org/>)

A public history podcast sharing historical research on the deadly epidemics of the past. Set up with Dr Ian Hathaway (EUI) and Dr Jorge Díaz Ceballos (EUI) in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

- Nov. 2019 **Max Weber Interview with Prof. Richard Whatmore (University of St. Andrews)**  
Together with Dr Jorge Díaz Ceballos (EUI), I interviewed Prof. Whatmore, who delivered one of the prestigious Max Weber lectures on 20 November. Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34E8o6HGjSg>
- Oct. 2016 **‘Records of Early English Drama North-East: Uncovering Performance and Musical Heritage’**  
I participated in an outreach promotional video for the REED North-East project. Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CawxuJmAdMY>.
- Jul. 2016 **Theatrum Mundi Theatre Festival**  
I performed the part of Satan in the Anglo-Saxon *The Harrowing of Hell*. The play was directed by Prof. John McKinnell (Durham University). Details are available here: [https://community.dur.ac.uk/reed.ne/?page\\_id=82](https://community.dur.ac.uk/reed.ne/?page_id=82).
- Aug. 2015 **‘Politična ideologija, vtakana v Shakespearovo dramatiko’**  
An interview with Goran Dekleva on Slovenian national radio (Radio Prvi) about my book on Shakespeare’s history plays. Available here: <https://radioprvi.rtvsl.si/2015/08/kar-bog-zajteva-to-naj-kralj-ukrene/>

#### AFFILIATIONS

Honorary associate, *Records of Early English Drama North-East*  
Member, *Society for Renaissance Studies*  
Member, *Renaissance Society of America*

#### LANGUAGE SKILLS

<b>Slovenian</b>	Native speaker
<b>English</b>	Near-native speaker competence
<b>Italian</b>	Proficient
<b>German and Serbo-Croatian</b>	Good reading skills
<b>Latin and Ancient Greek</b>	Basic reading skills