

Literature HT/ISC, Semester 2 2025/2026: List of Available Faculty and Their Topics

1. Anne Thell

Topics:

- Eighteenth-century studies
- Later seventeenth-century literature and philosophy
- Travel literature and circumnavigation
- Early fiction and the novel
- The history of aesthetics
- Authors of special interest include Cavendish, Defoe, Swift, Johnson

Advising Style:

I enjoy the ‘big idea’ conversations with students and so try to ensure that HT meetings are lively discussions about conceptual frameworks and approaches, as we develop certain core arguments. I’m fairly flexible about meetings—e.g., some students like to have a specific time-slot and meet each week for all 9 weeks; others like more variation. Usually, we plot out together what is most useful for each individual student.

2. Beryl Pong

Topics:

- British modernism and late modernism
- 21st century Anglophone fiction
- science, technology, and society studies (STS)
- film, visual culture, sound studies
- philosophies of space and time

3. Chitra Sankaran

Topics:

- Ecocriticism
- Environmental justice
- Postcolonial ecologies
- Ecological feminism
- South Asian & Southeast Asian Literature

Advising Style:

No specific supervision style

4. David Teh

Topics:

- modern and contemporary art in Asia
- media theory, critical theory and cultural theory
- worldliness and cultures of globalisation
- exhibition histories and curatorial discourse
- the moving image in Southeast Asia

Advising Style:

I am fairly flexible as a supervisor, but I prefer working with students who value independent research and the process of setting and refining their own research agenda. Organised students can expect to receive detailed feedback on draft chapters - I tend to put an emphasis on the craft of critical writing.

5. Gilbert Yeoh

Topics:

- Postmodern literature and film
- Postsecular literature
- J. M. Coetzee
- Flannery O'Connor

6. Heather Brink-Roby

Topics:

- Nineteenth-century British literature
- Nineteenth-century literature and science/medicine
- George Eliot; Jane Austen; Charles Dickens; Thomas Hardy; Emily Bronte
- The changing ways in which characters' lives are treated as representative of a wider reality
- Theory of the novel
- Art and social justice

7. John Whalen-Bridge

Topics:

- Contemporary American literature
- Bohemian rebellion
- George Saunders
- Don DeLillo
- Maxine Hong Kingston

- Kaveh Akbar, Tommy Orange

Advising Style:

What Valerie Wee said!

8. Steven Green

Topics:

- > Ancient Roman Literature: esp. Ovid, Virgil, Augustan Poetry and Politics
- > The Legend of Troy in Ancient Literature (esp. Homer) until the Modern Day
- > Reception of the Ancient World in Contemporary Media (esp. 20th and 21st century film, TV, and literature)

Advising Style:

After the first meeting, which typically focuses on the plan of action for the entire semester, meetings should be student-directed: the student will bring ideas for discussion to the meeting, or the meeting will be based around a previously circulated draft of a particular chapter. I am happy to read and comment on draft sections of the thesis up until the end of Week 9.

9. Tania Roy

Available for supervision. Please check in with her re topics.

10. Valerie Wee

Topics:

- Contemporary film — texts and industry
- Mainstream Hollywood media
- Multi-media conglomeration/multi-media texts

Advising Style:

I see myself as an interested advisor and guide in the HT process. The supervisee is expected to take the lead and be responsible for identifying the research topic, the primary texts, the preferred framework and the theoretical approach(es) to be adopted in the HT before initiating a supervision meeting.

11. Walter Lim

Topics:

- The English Renaissance
- William Shakespeare
- John Milton
- Literature and Religion

12. Yanbing Er

Topics:

- Feminist and queer theory
- New conversations between feminist and literary studies
- Contemporary literature and culture, especially in light of recent debates on race, class, gender, and the environment
- Environmental humanities, especially around the tropics and/or queer ecologies
- Racial and affective politics of refusal

Advising Style:

I value students who are highly independent, accountable, and receptive to feedback. I see my role primarily as a discussant who will work with you to refine the scope of your research, strengthen your existing arguments, and better organize your writing. Please get in touch with me at the earliest opportunity to discuss your preliminary ideas.

13. Yong Li Lan

Topics:

- Shakespeare and performance (film, theatre, popular culture, digital media)
- Cross-media/cultural performance
- Digital humanities; digital archiving