

### **Notes from the editors**

It is with great pride that I introduce the first issue of the LBU Review, an open access journal showcasing student work across the English Literature and Creative Writing modules at Leeds Beckett University. The work in these pages has been completed by the graduating class of 2022 across all three levels of undergraduate study. The past few years have seen unprecedented challenges for students, and it is a testament to the dedication and resilience of this year group that they have been able to excel and produce some truly exceptional work.

With thanks to my editorial team, Joanna Hemmings, and Mackenzie Woodhouse whose enthusiasm, energy, and eyes for detail have enabled us to present to you what I hope you will find is a worthy record of student work.

I am immensely proud to have been able to teach these students and look forward to following theirs and their peers' progress beyond their undergraduate studies as they move on to bright futures.

### **Dr Steve Nash - Editor**

I am honoured to be involved with the University's first student academic journal. It is a fitting conclusion to my experience on the English with Creative Writing bachelor's degree upon which I have greatly developed as a critical thinker and creative writer. I returned to university as a mature student with little confidence in how I would handle the assignments and learning, having been out of education for so many years. I engaged as much as I could, wanting to get out of the experience as much as I put into it.

Meeting such a diverse range of personalities in the form of my tutors at Leeds Beckett University has shown me different models of teaching and learning and it was fascinating to experience the different ways in which each of these practitioners thinks and engages with texts and their students. They consistently provided me with excellently constructive feedback on my assignments which I utilised to produce better quality work. Across the three years, I developed a keen aptitude for critical reading and applying key theoretical frameworks to a broad range of texts.

My communication and interpersonal skills have vastly improved and I was one of five students asked to deliver a mock seminar as part of first year induction week. I was also selected to form a small student panel as part of an interview process for the vacancy of Course Director for English with Creative Writing. This experience was invaluable and I look forward to re-entering the professional space armed with a new frame of mind and a greater understanding of the importance of language and the significance of the textual world that surrounds us every day.

It is a pleasure to present the critical work in this inaugural issue of the LBU Review to you. This publication offers students who have excelled during their time at Leeds Beckett the

opportunity to showcase their best work and it also demonstrates the broad range of topics, theories and ideas that are covered throughout the undergraduate degrees.

**Joanna Hemmings – Critical Writing Editor**

My time at Leeds Beckett University has enabled me to grow into an observant writer. I have discovered the potential for writing in the mundane ‘things’ around me. This degree has given me the strong foundations, and confidence, to be able to express my thoughts in my own unique forms. Beyond writing, my studies have supplied me with a bursting toolkit that was all but empty before I began university. In my toolkit I now have the confidence to clearly articulate my ideas, leadership skills, the ability to closely listen/read, perseverance and, most of all, editorial skills. I have realised, throughout my degree, that being a good writer must mean being a good reader too. Being a great writer means being able to effectively edit your peers’ work. I now understand the importance of the creative suggestions of others. I have been inspired by the diverse creative eye of those taking the same degree as me. These people bring fresh perspectives and depth to my own work. So, this journal is the perfect showcase of the talent we have here at Leeds Beckett University and a survey of how our course is designed to yes, build your writing skills, but more, to bring attention to the writing process as a whole: before the words go on the page, during, and after. I hope that this is evident in the range of creative writing in this journal.

**Mackenzie Woodhouse – Creative Writing Editor**