

# Dr Mike Witcombe

[witcombeUK@gmail.com](mailto:witcombeUK@gmail.com)

## Education

- 2010 – 2015 Doctor of Philosophy in English, University of Southampton  
Thesis: *Beyond Imagining: Sex and Sexuality in Philip Roth's Kepesh Novels*
- 2009 – 2010 Master of Science with Distinction in American Literature  
University of Edinburgh
- 2004 – 2008 Master of Arts with honours of the First Class in English Literature  
University of Glasgow

## Professional Accomplishments

- 2019 Appointed Reviews Editor of *Philip Roth Studies* journal  
Nominated by students for "Outstanding Student Support" Vice Chancellor's Award at Bath Spa University
- 2018 Elected Membership Sec. of the British Assoc. for Contemporary Literary Studies  
Elected Secretary of the Philip Roth Society
- 2017 Awarded Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy
- 2012 Awarded Kluge Fellowship to study the Philip Roth Papers at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.
- 2010 Awarded Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) scholarship for PhD project at University of Southampton.

## Teaching Experience

- 2019 - Visiting Lecturer in English Literature, Royal Holloway, University of London  
Module: *The Holocaust in Literature* (MA)
- Redesigned and served as Module Leader for an optional module on Holocaust literature, as part of RHUL's groundbreaking interdisciplinary MA in Holocaust Studies.
  - Taught seminars and completed all related marking, giving students an insight into contemporary academic debates and supporting related applications to PhD programmes.
- 2019 - Course Tutor, Advanced Studies in England, Bath  
Module: *British Detective Fiction*
- Designed and led a specialist module for high achieving students from American liberal arts colleges, for a programme run by Franklin and Marshall College.
- 2017 – 2019 Lecturer in English Literature, Bath Spa University  
Modules: *Critical Reading 1 (Year 1)*, *Crime Fiction (Year 2)*, *Literature and Evil (Year 3)*, *English Project (Year 3)*, MA Dissertation Supervision
- Co-organised a field trip to sites in Eastern and Central Europe in support of module material, as well as a research practice away day for English dissertation students.
  - Worked with colleagues to promote the department in local schools and sixth form colleges, as well as leading sample seminars for potential applicants visiting campus.
- 2015 - 2017 Visiting Lecturer, University of Southampton  
Course Title: *Post-War Jewish-American Fiction (Year 3)*, *Dissertations (Year 3)*
- 2012 - 2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Southampton  
Course Titles: *Critical Theory (Year 1)*, *Jewish Fictions (Year 2)*
- 2011 – 2015 Academic Skills Tutor, University of Southampton  
Course Title: *Pre-Sessional English for Academic Purposes*

## Selected Related Experience

- 2019** Conference Co-Organiser, *Naomi Alderman: Empty Spaces, Untold Stories*, Bath Spa University, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2019
- 2016 – 2018** Co-Editor, “New Voices in Jewish-American Fiction” (edited collection, *Open Library of the Humanities*)
- 2015 – 2017** Tutor, *Brilliant Club* Widening Participation Programme  
Research Assistant, Darian Leader
- 2015** Conference Administrator, ‘*Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations from Antiquity to the Present*’, University of Southampton

## Publications (Selected Monographs, Book Chapters and Journal Articles)

Witcombe, Mike. *Jewish-American Literature: A Reader’s Guide to Essential Criticism*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020 (Forthcoming).

Witcombe, Mike. “Representing the Israel-Palestine Conflict in Contemporary British-Jewish Theatre”. *Companion to British-Jewish Theatre 1956-2020*, London: Bloomsbury Methuen, 2020 (forthcoming).

Witcombe, Mike. “The Kepesh Novels.” Philip Roth in Context. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. [Under Contract]

Witcombe, Mike. “In the Roth Archives: The Evolution of Philip Roth’s Kepesh Trilogy.” *Philip Roth Studies*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2017, pp. 45-64.

Witcombe, Mike. “A Comedy of Eruvs: (Re)Locating Jewish Identity in Michael Chabon’s *The Yiddish Policemen’s Union* and Howard Jacobson’s *J.*” *Shofar*, vol. 34, no. 4, 2016, pp. 25-47.

Witcombe, Mike. “Goodbye, Goodbye, Columbus: Experimental Identities in Philip Roth’s Early Dramatic Works.” *The Review of Contemporary Fiction*, vol. 34, no. 1, 2016, pp. 108-124.

Witcombe, Mike. “Beyond Divorce: Michael Chabon’s ‘Lost World’ stories.” *Michael Chabon’s America: Magical Words, Secret Worlds, and Sacred Spaces*, edited by Jesse Kavadlo and Bob Batchelor. Scarecrow Press, 2014, pp. 63-7.

## Publications (Selected Other Recent Writings)

Witcombe, Mike. “Life After Roth?.” *Jewish Renaissance*, July 2018, pp. 8-9.

O’Brien, Dan and Witcombe, Mike. “Editorial: New Voices in Jewish-American Literature”. *Open Library of Humanities*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2018, p18.

## Selected Recent Conference Papers

Roth Remembered Conference, New York University, April 2019.  
“*The Most Fraught Human Interaction There is*”: *On Adelle Waldman and Philip Roth*

Technical University Braunschweig, October 2018.  
“*We Just Can’t Agree on the Same*”: *Representing the Israel/Palestine Conflict in Contemporary British-Jewish Theatre* [Invited Talk]