

Curriculum Vitae – Dr Astrid Rasch



Contact details:

Email: astrid.rasch@ntnu.no

<https://www.ntnu.no/ansatte/astrid.rasch>

Profile

I am an associate professor of cultural and social studies of the English-speaking world at the Department of Language and Literature, Norwegian University of Science and Technology. My research focuses on identity and memory at the end of empire, in particular as expressed in cultural production such as life writing, with attention to relationship between individual and collective narratives. I have published peer reviewed as well as outreach articles in this field and have edited a special issue recently republished by Routledge. I hold a Master and a PhD in English from the University of Copenhagen where I have also taught. In addition, I have studied at Monash University, Melbourne, and been a visiting doctoral fellow at the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, Wolfson College, University of Oxford.

Education

- 2013-2016 PhD fellow, University of Copenhagen. Graduated 13 January 2017. Project member of the ‘Embers of Empire’, a major privately funded research project led by Professor Stuart Ward, which studies the effects of decolonisation on Britain as well as discursive practices of Britishness around the world. My primary supervisor was Professor Ward and my secondary supervisor was Associate Professor Ulla Rahbek. Examining committee: Associate Professor Eva Rask Knudsen (University of Copenhagen), Professor Elleke Boehmer (Wolfson College, University of Oxford) and Professor Bill Schwarz (Queen Mary, University of London).
- 2015 Visiting Doctoral Student at Wolfson College, University of Oxford, Michaelmas term, 2015. Affiliated with the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing with Professor Elleke Boehmer as my local point of contact.
- 2010-2012 MA in English, University of Copenhagen.
Thesis title: “I looked at myself in the mirror and saw an Australian”
– A Study of the Influence of Collective Narratives on Individual

Memory’.

- 2011 Exchange student, Monash University, Australia, autumn 2011.
Subject of course work: ‘History and Memory’ and ‘Postcolonial Literature’.
- 2006-09 BA in English with electives in Literature, History and Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen.
Title of BA thesis: “‘Lies will flow from my lips” – a critical study of the portrayal of gender and power structures in *A Room of One’s Own* and *Orlando*’.

Academic appointments

- 2016- Associate Professor at the Department of Language and Literature, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.
- 2016-2017 Research assistant, teaching ‘Making of the English-Speaking World’, ‘Implosion of Empire’, ‘Life Writing After Empire’ and ‘Writing the Postcolonial Past’ at Engerom, University of Copenhagen.
- 2013-2016 PhD fellow at Engerom, University of Copenhagen.
- 2013 Research assistant and Project Convenor for the ‘Embers of Empire’ project.
- 2012 External lecturer in Postcolonial Studies at Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Copenhagen. Course title: ‘Contemporary Australia’.

Other relevant work experience

- 2015-6 Guest editor of *Life Writing*. Published issue 13, vol. 2.
- 2015 Teacher of BA course. Course title: ‘Introduction to Postcolonialism’.
- 2015 Main organiser of the workshop ‘Life Writing After Empire’. Venue: Gilleleje Badehotel.
- 2014 Teacher of MA course on the metropolitan ramifications of decolonisation. Course title: ‘Implosion of Empire’.
- 2014 Convenor of the workshop ‘Post-Imperial Britain’. Venue: Klitgaarden.

- 2014-15 Member of the Local Collaboration Committee representing the PhD students at the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies.
- 2013-14 Convenor of the Australian Studies Centre, University of Copenhagen.
- 2013 Convenor of the workshop 'After Empire'. Venue: Klitgaarden.
- 2013 Convenor of the PhD course 'Transnational European Circulations'. Venue: European University Institute, Florence.
- 2011 Copywriter at the consulting firm Anewbiz.
- 2010 Editorial assistant at the translation bureau Lingo.
- 2009-10 Educational mentor as well as social tutor to new students, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Copenhagen.

Publications

'The Family Connection: White Expatriate Memoirs of Zimbabwe' *Journal of Southern African Studies*, forthcoming.

Autobiography After Empire: Individual and Collective Memory in Dialogue, Astrid Rasch, PhD thesis, August 2016. Available via the Danish Royal Library.

'Life Writing After Empire', Astrid Rasch (ed.), special issue of *Life Writing*, vol. 13, no. 2, June 2016. Reissued as Routledge anthology in December 2016 as:

Life Writing After Empire, Astrid Rasch (ed.), (Routledge, 2016)

'Editorial: Life Writing After Empire', Astrid Rasch, *Life Writing*, vol. 13, no. 3, June 2016. Reissued in Routledge anthology in December 2016.

'"This Union-Jacked Time": Memories of Education as Post-Imperial Positioning' in 'Life Writing After Empire', *Life Writing*, vol. 13, no. 2, June 2016. Reissued in Routledge anthology in December 2016.

'Review: *How Empire Shaped Us*, edited by Antoinette Burton and Dane Kennedy', Astrid Rasch, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth Studies*, December 2016.

'A Postcolonial Education: Using End of Empire Autobiographies to Introduce Postcolonial Studies', Astrid Rasch, *European Journal of Life Writing*, December 2015.

‘Et undervisningsforløb om uddannelse i postkoloniale selvbiografier’, Astrid Rasch, *Anglo Files, Journal of English Teaching*, May 2015, vol. 176, pp. 65-69.

‘Er du den nye Ritt? Tema: Kvinder og kommunalpolitik’, Astrid Rasch (ed.), special issue of *Kvinden&Samfundet*, april 2009.

As editor of *Kvinden&Samfundet*, I wrote the editorial as well as the following article:

‘I Århus tager man skeen i den anden hånd’ in ‘Er du den nye Ritt? Tema: Kvinder og kommunalpolitik’, special issue of *Kvinden&Samfundet*, april 2009.

Conference papers and seminar presentations

- Nov 2017 ‘The Political Positioning of Trauma: White Zimbabwean Family Memoirs’ as part of panel on ‘Rhodesian Selfhood at Empire’s End’, chaired by Professor Dane Kennedy (George Washington University) with Professor Bill Schwarz (Queen Mary, University of London) as commentator. Presented at the North American Annual Conference on British Studies, Denver, Colorado.
- June 2017 ‘The Political Positioning of Trauma: White Zimbabwean Family Memoirs’ at the International AutoBiography Association’s European chapter’s 2017 Conference at King’s College London.
- 30 Jan 2017 ‘Autobiography After Empire’. Colonial/Postcolonial New Researcher’s Workshop at the Institute for Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, London.
- 13 Jan 2017 PhD thesis defence: ‘Autobiography After Empire’, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies. Opponents: Professor Bill Schwarz, Queen Mary, University of London; Professor Elleke Boehmer, Wolfson College, University of Oxford; Associate Professor Eva Rask Knudsen, University of Copenhagen.
- 20 May 2016 ‘Pre-defence’, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies. Opponent: Professor Wulf Kansteiner, Aarhus University.
- 26 Feb 2016 ‘Re-ordering Memory: Individual and Collective Perceptions of the Imperial Past in Australia’. ‘End of Empire’ workshop, Research Centre ‘Threatened Orders – Societies under Stress’, University of Tübingen.
- 1 Dec 2015 ‘Coming Home? Australian Autobiographical Homecomings at Empire’s End’. ‘Locating Lives’ conference, International AutoBiography Association, Flinders University, Adelaide.
- 11 Nov 2015 ‘Colonial Imaginations’. Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, Wolfson

College, University of Oxford.

- 23 Oct 2015 'Zimbabwean Political Memoirs'. 'PhD work in progress' workshop, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies. Discussant: Professor Charles Lock, University of Copenhagen.
- 14 Sept 2015 'Autobiographical Accounts of the End of Empire in Rhodesia'. 'Mentor Workshop' by 'Embers of Empire', University of Copenhagen.
- 3 June 2015 'Cultural Heritage and Identity'. 'Critical Cultural Heritage Studies', workshop, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen.
- 13 May 2015 'Position Paper on Migration and Ethnic Identity'. 'Migration and Ethnic Identity Master Class with Zoë Wicomb', co-organised by myself and other PhD students and the PhD School, University of Copenhagen.
- 4 May 2015 "'This Union-Jacked Time": Memories of Education as Post-Imperial Positioning'. 'Life Writing After Empire' workshop by 'Embers of Empire', University of Copenhagen.
- 3 May 2015 'New Approaches to Life Writing After Empire'. 'Life Writing After Empire' workshop, by 'Embers of Empire', University of Copenhagen.
- 23 Oct 2014 'Australian and Caribbean Life Writing After Empire'. 'The Future of Australian Studies' symposium, Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London.
- 24 Sept 2014 'Coming Home? Travel to Britain in Australian End of Empire Autobiography'. 'Encountering Australia' conference, European Association for Studies on Australia in Monash Prato Centre, Italy.
- 25 June 2014 'Autobiographical Narratives of Imperial Travels to Britain'. 'Post-Imperial Britain' workshop, 'Embers of Empire', University of Copenhagen. Discussant: Professor Javed Majeed, King's College London.
- 7 Nov 2013 'Migration and Memory in End-of-Empire Autobiography'. 'Migration and the Uses of Memory' conference, Comparative Studies in Migration and Memory, University of Copenhagen.
- 25 Oct 2013 'Caribbean End-of-Empire Autobiography as Transnational Literature'. 'Transnational European Circulations' workshop, University of Copenhagen and Leeds University.

24 June 2013 'British Civic Identity in the Windrush Era'. 'After Empire' workshop, 'Embers of Empire', University of Copenhagen.

Outreach

I'm a blogger for Danish TV2 on British politics. My blog entries can be read here: <http://nyheder.tv2.dk/blogs/nyheder>. In addition, I covered the British 2017 elections on television and radio, including direct from London.

27 June 2017 I commented on the controversial deal between the DUP and the Conservatives on the Danish national radio broadcaster Radio24syv.

8-9 June 2017 I covered the UK parliamentary elections live from London all night on 8 June and on the morning of 9 June for the Danish national broadcaster TV2 News.

6 May 2017 I commented on British politics on the Danish national broadcast TV2 News. (<http://embersofempire.ku.dk/media/dr-rasch-on-british-elections/>)

19 Nov 2016 I presented my PhD thesis to an audience of university students from all disciplines at the Royal College of Regensen.

May 2015 I was invited to write this article for the magazine for Danish high school teachers of English which gave me a chance to suggest how my findings might be used in a classroom setting.