

Network for New York School Studies



**Network for New York School Studies:
London Symposium and Poetry Reading
May 27th 2023**

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Saturday 27th May, 2023 (10.00 – 18.00)

Stewart House (Senate House), Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

**Hosted by the Poetics Research Centre,
Royal Holloway, University of London**

The theme for our London symposium is, loosely, what the New York School (broadly conceived, as always) gives rise to, makes possible, shapes and informs, or is meaningfully adjacent to... so a kind of 'New York School and Beyond' or 'New York School and After' approach. This day-long event will comprise a combination of poetry readings and a roundtable discussion exploring new work on the New York School and grassroots poetry organizing and publishing.

We're delighted to be organizing this event in conjunction with the Poetics Research Center based at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Public Transportation

The easiest way to pay for public transportation is via contactless/Apple Pay, but you can also purchase an Oyster Card at a kiosk inside the station if you prefer. The closest tube stations to Senate House are Euston Square (Hammersmith and City, Circle, and Metropolitan Lines) and Russell Square (Piccadilly Line). Euston, King's Cross St Pancras, and Holborn are all within walking distance as well.

A useful tool for navigating London is Citymapper, an app which provides a detailed outline of all transportation options between two given locations.

Phone Contacts

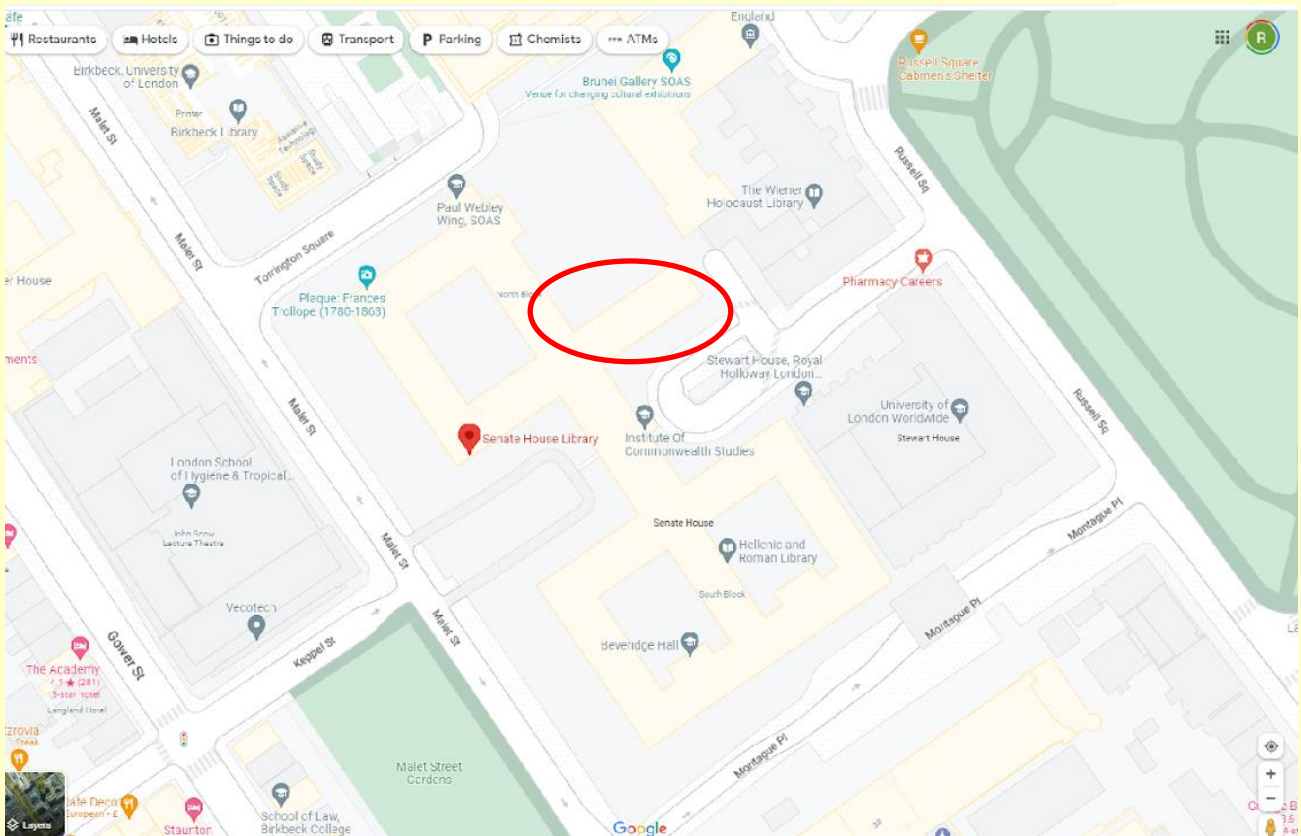
Rona and Yasmine will be contactable throughout the event via phone, SMS and WhatsApp:

- Rona: +447842923191
- Yasmine: +962799475767 (whatsapp) / +447472273790 (phone / sms)

Directions

The event will take place at Senate House, in Bloomsbury in central London. Senate House is located on Malet Street, WC1E 7HU. It's a huge, white, art-deco building right behind the British Museum.

The venue for the symposium is **Room 1, Stewart House (Royal Holloway)**. Use the main Senate House entrance. The room is on the first floor, up the main staircase. Please ask for directions at reception.



Schedule

10.00-10.15 – **Arrival: tea/coffee**

10.15-10.20 – **Welcome:** Rona Cran and Yasmine Shamma (Network for New York School Studies)

10.20 – 11.00 – **Opening Talk:** Redell Olsen and Will Montgomery (Poetics Research Centre, Royal Holloway, University of London)

11.00 – 11.15 – **Break**

11.15 – 12.15 – **Poetry Readings:** Jeremy Over, Betsy Porritt, Rona Cran, Peter Robinson

12.15 – 12.30 – **Break**

12.30 – 13.40 – **Poetry Readings:** Mark Ford, Agnieszka Studzinska, Robert Hampson, Karenjit Sandhu

13.40 – 14.40 – **Lunch** (provided)

14.40 – 16.10 – **Roundtable Discussion: Around and Beyond the New York School** (Chaired by Geoff Ward)

Nick Selby – Painting by numbers: ecological consciousness in Robert Creeley's *Pieces*

Martyna Szot – 'I can't believe that when they see me and talk to me they will still want me': Social and Artistic Insecurities in Joe Brainard's Letters to Ron Padgett

Heleina Burton – 'In forgotten letters': Open reading and Ashbery's poetics of enclosure and disclosure

Yasmine Shamma – What we Talk about When We Talk about the New York School: On interviews with the poets

Sonia Quintero – 'Poetry with an accent': grassroots creative writing activities with marginalized communities and speakers of English as a second/third language

Matt Sowerby – On Kirkby Lonsdale Poetry Festival

Briony Hughes and Caroline Harris – 'Tentacles in many different spheres': Being a small poetry press in the 21st century

16.10 – 16.30 – **Break**

16.30 – 17.55 – **Poetry Readings:** Denise Riley, Charles Bernstein, Alice Notley

17.55 – 18.00 – Thanks and close

A space has been reserved at the Jack Horner pub (234-236 Tottenham Ct Rd, W1T 7QN; <https://www.jackhornerpub.co.uk/>) from 18.30-21.30, so feel free to head there if you'd like to. Alternatively there are plenty of pubs in the near vicinity so you are welcome to make your own plans for carrying on or starting anew any poetic (or non-poetic!) conversations...

Presenters and Poets:

Charles Bernstein was born in New York City in 1950. He is the author or editor of over 50 books, ranging from collections of poetry and essays to pamphlets, libretti, and collaborations, most recently *Topsy-Turvy* (2021) and *Pitch of Poetry* (2016), both from the University of Chicago Press. His work was the subject of *The Poetry of Idiomatic Insistences*, edited by Paul Bove, the Fall 2021 issue of *boundary 2*. From 1978-1981 he co-edited *L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E* magazine with Bruce Andrews. In the 1990s, he co-founded the Poetics Program at the State University of New York – Buffalo. Bernstein co-directs of PennSound and is Donald T. Regan Professor, Emeritus, of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the winner of the 2019 Bollingen Prize from Yale for lifetime achievement in poetry and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. He lives in Brooklyn and Valatie, NY.

Heleina Burton recently completed a PhD in American Studies at the University of East Anglia; her thesis was titled "John Ashbery in the World". Her poetry chapbook, *Verges Green*, is forthcoming from Salo Press.

Rona Cran (they/she) is Associate Professor of Twentieth-Century American Literature at the University of Birmingham, and the co-founder, with Yasmine Shamma, of the Network for New York School Studies. Cran is the author of *Collage in Twentieth-Century Art, Literature, and Culture* (Ashgate/Routledge, 2014), and the creator of the British Academy-funded interactive digital humanities resource www.makeyourownbrainard.com, dedicated to the collages of New York School poet and artist Joe Brainard. Their next book is entitled *Everyday Rebellion: poetics of resistance in New York City, 1950-1995*. Together with Shamma, Cran is also editing an oral history of the New York School (under contract with Edinburgh University Press). Their first poetry collection, *I Remember Kim*, will be published by Verve Poetry Press in 2023.

Mark Ford is the author of four collections of poetry: *Landlocked* (Chatto & Windus, 1992), *Soft Sift* (Faber & Faber, 2001), *Six Children* (Faber & Faber, 2011), and *Enter, Fleeing* (Faber & Faber, 2018). He has also published two monographs, *Raymond Roussel and the Republic of Dreams* (Faber & Faber, 2000) and *Thomas Hardy: Half a Londoner* (Harvard University Press, 2016), and is the editor of the anthology *London: A History in Verse* (Harvard University Press, 2012). His most recent collection of essays, *This Dialogue of One: Essays on Poets from John Donne to Joan Murray* (Eyewear, 2014), was awarded the Poetry Foundation's 2015 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism. A monograph entitled *Woman Much Missed: Thomas Hardy, Emma Hardy, and Poetry* will be published by Oxford University Press in July. He is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books* and the *New York Review of Books*. A selection of his poetry is available at <http://www.poetryarchive.org/poet/mark-ford>; and an ongoing series of podcasts made with Seamus Perry about twentieth-century poets (including one on John Ashbery and Frank O'Hara) is available on the *London Review of Books* website <https://www.lrb.co.uk>

Robert Hampson was formerly Professor of Modern Literature in the Department of English at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is currently Professor Emeritus at Royal Holloway, and Research Fellow at the Institute for English Studies, University of London. He has been involved in the field of contemporary innovative poetry since the 1970s as editor, critic and practitioner. During the 1970s he co-edited the magazine *Alembic* with Peter Barry and Ken Edwards. He co-edited (with Peter Barry) *New British poetries: The Scope of the Possible* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1993); and, more recently, has co-edited (with Will Montgomery) *Frank O'Hara Now* (Liverpool UP, 2010); (with Ken Edwards) *Clasp: late modernist poetry in London on the 1970s* (Shearsman 2016); and (with cris cheek) *The Allen Fisher Reader* (Shearsman 2020). His own poetry has appeared in a range of magazines including Cid Corman's *Origin* and Alan Davies *100 Posters*. More recently, he has published poetry in *The Wolf*, *tentacular magazine*, *parmenar*, *Long Poem Magazine* and *Rewilding: an ecopoetic anthology* (2020). *Assembled Fugitives: selected poems 1973-1998* was published by Stride (2001). His best-known work is *seaport* (Shearsman, 2008). More recent publications include *an explanation of colours* (Veer, 2010), *reworked disasters* (Kfs 2013), and *Covodes 1-19* (Artery Editions, 2021).

Caroline Harris is a poet, artist, editor and publisher based in Bath. Handmade limited-edition artist's books and material poetry are held in the National Poetry Library and Bodleian Library, UK, and Bavarian State Library, Germany. Language artworks have been exhibited at the Beaumont Gallery, Dorset, The Plough Arts Centre, Devon and Art Park Gallery, Rhodes. A PhD student at Royal Holloway, University of London, her research focuses on the poetics of deer and the emerging field of Cute Studies. She is the founder of Small Birds Press and her latest poetry pamphlet, *A Summoning Spell for Lost Deer*, is published by Osmosis Press. Instagram: @carolineyolande.

Briony Hughes is a poet, visiting tutor, and Techne AHRC-funded PhD candidate based at Royal Holloway, researching 'hydropoetics', Kathleen Fraser, and Charles Olson. Her limited-edition artists' books have been collected by the National Poetry Library, Senate House Library, the Bodleian, and the Kings College London Special Collections. She is editor at Osmosis Press and a co-founder of the Crested Tit Collective. Briony is an Associate Member of the Royal Holloway Poetics Research Centre and a participant in the Techne Embodied Practice Group.

Instagram: @bristaceyhughes.

Will Montgomery joined Royal Holloway in January 2007 RCUK research fellow in contemporary poetry and poetics. He is a member of the department's Poetics Research Centre and was a co-organizer of that group's POLYply reading and performance series. He is currently a Reader in Contemporary Poetry and Poetics. His book publications include *The Poetry of Susan Howe* (Palgrave, 2010), two co-edited essay collections: *Frank O'Hara Now* (co-edited with Robert Hampson, Liverpool UP, 2010), and *Writing the Field Recording: Sound, Word Environment* (co-edited with Stephen Benson, Edinburgh UP, 2018) and *Short*

Form American Poetry: the Modernist Tradition (Edinburgh UP, 2020). Will has also released several CDs of field recordings, sound art and music and has collaborated with the poet Carol Watts and the artist, composer and writer Emmanuelle Waeckerlé.

Alice Notley was born in Bisbee, Arizona in 1945 and grew up in Needles, California in the Mojave Desert. She was educated at the Needles public schools, Barnard College, and The Writers Workshop, University of Iowa. She has lived most extensively in Needles, in New York, and since 1992 in Paris, France. She is the author of numerous books of poetry, and of essays and talks on poetry, and has edited and co-edited books by Ted Berrigan and Douglas Oliver. She edited the magazine CHICAGO in the 70s and co-edited with Oliver the magazines SCARLET and Gare du Nord in the 90s. She is the recipient of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award, the Griffin Prize, the Academy of American Poets' Lenore Marshall Prize, and the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly Prize, a lifetime achievement award. Notley may be most widely known for her epic poem *The Descent of Alette*. Recent books include *Eurynome's Sandals*, *Benediction*, *Certain Magical Acts*, and *For the Ride*. Soon to be available are *Early Works* and the six-book book, *The Speak Angel Series*. Notley is also a collagist and visual artist, and some of her artwork may be found in the book *Runes and Chords*.

Redell Olsen is a writer and visual artist who also makes work in film and performance. She co-directs the Living Sustainably Catalyst at Royal Holloway with Prof. Klaus Dodds and also curates the Poetics Research Centre which foregrounds modernist and experimental approaches to writing and poetics. In 2020-1 she was the winner of the DARE Art Prize. Olsen is interested in the emerging critical space between academic and creative practice, innovative and interdisciplinary writing as well as environmental literatures and art writing. Her past film and performance projects include: 'Newe Booke of Copies' (2009), 'Bucolic Picnic (or *Toile de Jouy Camouflage*)' (2009) and the collaboratively realized 'The Lost Swimming Pool' (2010). These texts were published as *Film Poems* (Les Figues, 2014). Her scholarly articles include essays and conference papers on sound and poetics, the painter Grace Hartigan and Frank O'Hara, Susan Howe, feminism and poetry and film. Her poetry publications include: 'Film Poems' (Les Figues, 2014), 'Punk Faun: a bar rock pastel' (subpress, 2012), 'Book of the Fur' (Rempress, 2000), 'Secure Portable Space' (Reality Street, 2004) and the collaboratively edited (with Susan Johanknect) 'Here Are My Instructions' (Gefn Press, 2004).

Jeremy Over lives in Llanidloes in mid-Wales. His poetry first appeared in Carcanet's *New Poetries II*. Other anthologies which include his work include *Visiting Wallace: Poems Inspired by the Life and Work of Wallace Stevens* University of Iowa Press (2010) and *The Penguin Book of Oulipo* (2020). His three full collections with Carcanet are *A Little Bit of Bread and No Cheese* (2001), *Deceiving Wild Creatures* (2009) and *Fur Coats in Tahiti* (2019). He is currently at work on a fourth collection. Jeremy completed an AHRC funded PhD in 2020 at the University of Birmingham: *Light As Air: A Poetics of Wonder in the work of Ron Padgett*. He has been a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Cumbria and Chester. His reviews and essays have appeared in various magazines including Poetry Review, PN Review and Writing in Education and he has delivered academic papers on his research into the work of Kenneth

Koch and Ron Padgett at the universities of Aberystwyth, York and Bangor. In July 2017 he took part in the Poets and Critics Symposium on Ron Padgett at the Université Paris 7 Denis Diderot.

Betsy Porritt is a poet and academic. Her written works and sounds collages have appeared variously online and in print, among them *Free Verse Journal*, *SPAMzine*, *Ludd Gang*, *Datableed Zine*, and *Jacket2*. Her chapbook *A Mediated and Partial Zone* is available from Guillemot Press. She is currently based in (glorious) Leamington Spa and teaches at University of Birmingham.

Sonia Quintero (they/them) is a queer Colombian–British poet, cultural promoter, community builder, dreamer and change maker, and the founder and organiser of Newham Poetry Group CIC. They have lived in London for 15 years and have published several poetry books, both in English and Spanish. Their poetry explores mental health and social issues, and when writing in English Quintero reflects on topics such as migration, refugees, identity and belonging. The challenges they have faced due to their sexual orientation, Latin American background, and speaking English as a second language, have not stopped them from reaching their goals and developing both personally and professionally. They have participated in art exhibitions as an artist, curator and organizer in both Colombia and in England. They proudly represented Colombia at the XII International Book Fair in Lawrence, Massachusetts, October 2017. In 2016 Quintero received the Resident of the Year Award from the Mayor of Newham, Sir Robin Wales, and in 2017 and 2018 they received the Community Builder Award, also from Sir Wales. They are an active member of the community and have led several projects that combine their passion for poetry and LGBTQ+ rights. Six years ago, they started Newham Poetry Group (www.newhampoetrygroup.com), a grassroots initiative that facilitates access to creative writing for people who speak English as their second or third language as well as engaging with marginalized communities through artistic activities such as open mics, spoken words or even publishing their own books.

Denise Riley lives in London. Her writing includes poetry, the history of ideas, and philosophy. Among her prose books are *War in the Nursery: Theories of the Child and Mother* (1983), *'Am I That Name?' Feminism and the Category of 'Women' in History* (1988), *The Words of Selves: Identification, Solidarity, Irony* (2000), *The Force of Language* (with Jean-Jacques Lecercle; 2004), *Impersonal Passion: Language as Affect* (2005) and *Time Lived, Without Its Flow* (2012, 2019). Some poetry collections are *Marxism for Infants* (1977), *Dry Air* (1985), *Mop Mop Georgette* (1993), *Say Something Back* (2016), *Selected Poems* (2019), and *Lurex* (2022).

Peter Robinson is Professor of English and American Literature at the University of Reading, and poetry editor for Two Rivers Press and *The Fortnightly Review*. The author of aphorisms, a collection of stories, two novels, and various volumes of literary criticism, he has been awarded the Cheltenham Prize and the John Florio Prize, as well as two Poetry Book Society Recommendations for some of his collections of poetry and translation, mainly from the Italian. His *Collected Poems 1976-2016* was published by Shearsman Books in 2017, and the same firm has recently released *The Personal Art: Essays, Reviews &*

Memoirs (2021), *Reports after the Fire: Selected Poems of Pietro De Marchi* (2022), and the collection of essays, *Peter Robinson: A Portrait of his Work* ed. Tom Phillips (2021). His most recent collection of poetry is *Retrieved Attachments* (Two Rivers Press, 2023) and, this autumn in the USA, MadHat Press will bring out *Return to Sendai: New & Selected Poems* and Agincourt Press will publish *The Collected Poems of Giorgio Bassani*, a bilingual edition translated in collaboration with Roberta Antognini. Further information on his life, career, publications and reception can be found here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Robinson_%28poet%29.

Karenjit Sandhu is a poet and artist. Her second poetry collection *Poetic Fragments from the Irritating Archive* (Guillemot Press) is a limited-edition box set. Previous publications include *young girls!* (the87Press) and her work appears in anthologies such as *Magma*, *Judith: Women Making Visual Poetry* and *Writing Utopia*. Her performance work has led to collaborations with the Sir Denis Mahon Foundation, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Barbican, Flat Time House and Camden People's Theatre (London), Arnolfini (Bristol) and Galerie Eric Dupont (Paris). Karenjit is a former Poet in Residence at the University of Surrey. Her artists' books have been collected by the Tate, National Poetry Library, Nature Library and UWE.

Nick Selby has a wide range of research interests, with poetry of the twentieth century at the core of his research. His work centres on the poetry and poetics that emerge out of the modernist tradition, especially as it relates to American culture, but he has also written on connections between poetry and art, transatlantic connections in British experimental poetry, and ecocriticism. He has published books on Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, Walt Whitman and Herman Melville and numerous other essays on a range of American poets and artists, and his essay 'Ecopoetics in America' appears in the Cambridge Companion to American Poetry Since 1945 (ed. Jennifer Ashton). Central to his concern with environmental poetics is an ongoing examination of poetic difficulty and the ways in which close-reading entails ethical responsibility. His current book projects are: *American Poetry Since 1900*, due for publication by Edinburgh University Press in 2024; and *Robert Creeley's Eco-poetics - On the Limits of Ecological Thinking*, which is under contract with Palgrave (in its 'Modern and Contemporary Poetry and Poetics series'). This latter book turns to issues of intimacy, affect, and touch in Robert Creeley's work in order to examine close-reading as ecological thinking.

Yasmine Shamma is Associate Professor of Modern and Contemporary Literature at the University of Reading. She is the author of *Spatial Poetics*, which reads New York School poetry closely for "organic form," and she is the editor of *Joe Brainard's Art*, as well as *Migration, Culture, and Identity*. She is also the lead creator of the British Academy funded digital archive devoted to understanding stories of migration (www.makinghomeaway.com). Together with Rona Cran, she is in the process of completing an oral history project with New York School poets, to be published with EUP in late 2023. Her current work attends to the art of waiting and forms of displacement, and is funded by the Leverhulme Research Trust.

Matt Sowerby is a writer and environmental activist from Cumbria. He was a 2018 National Youth Slam Champion and 2023 Uni-Slam Champion. Matt has performed in the Houses of Parliament and on BBC Radio 3, and his work was exhibited by the United Nations in 2022. Matt is also the Director of Kirkby Lonsdale Poetry Festival, the first of which took place in 2022. He runs writing workshops in schools and universities, and also for campaigning organisations. In his own writing Matt is frequently inspired by the roots of words, activist history, and the spoken word. He writes a newsletter called *How to Stay Hopeful in a Climate Crisis*, which he is adapting into a non-fiction book, and he is also working on his first poetry pamphlet. Outside of poetry Matt sits on the National Trust's Regional Advisory Board (North England), advising primarily on Sustainability. He also studies Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences at the University of Birmingham, Majoring in Sustainability and Literature.

Agnieszka Studzińska has an MA in Creative Writing from the UEA. Her first debut collection, *Snow Calling* was shortlisted for the London New Poetry Award 2010. Her second collection, *What Things Are* is published by Eyewear Publishing (2014). Her most recent collection is called *Branches of a House* (Shearsman Books 2021). She has recently finished her PhD at Royal Holloway University of London exploring how the image of the house is appropriated in the work of Carolyn Forché, Alice Notley and Mei Mei Berssenbrugge. She teaches creative writing for The Poetry School, among other educational institutions.

Martyna Szot is an MA student of The Institute of English Studies at the University of Wrocław. She is writing her dissertation about Joe Brainard's literary works.

Geoff Ward is a Professor of English in the University of Cambridge. His scholarly publications include *Statutes of Liberty: The New York School of Poets* (Palgrave, 1993/2001), *Language Poetry & the American Avant-Garde* (BAAS, 1993) and *The Writing of America: Literature & Cultural Identity from the Puritans to the Present* (Polity, 2002). His novel *You're Not Dead* was published by Garn Press, New York in 2016. An Honorary Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia, he holds Honorary Fellowships at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, and Homerton College, Cambridge, and is a Life Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. From 2013-21 he was Principal of Homerton College and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. He is currently completing a novel, and beginning a memoir in praise of strangeness.

Acknowledgements

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Network Information

Website: <https://www.nnyss.org/>

Twitter: @NYSSNetwork

Network Founders: Rona Cran and Yasmine Shamma

Network Membership: Anyone can become a member of the Network for New York School Studies. To join, just get in touch with us via the website: send a brief bio and some information about your interest in the New York School.



Brief Guide to the Local Area

Coffee Shops

- Frequency, 121 King's Cross Rd, London WC1X 9NH
- Noxy Brothers, 9 Russell Square, London W1CB 5EG
- Tutti's, 68 Lamb's Conduit St, London WC1N 3LW
- Redemption Roasters, Bloomsbury— 84b Lamb's Conduit St, London WC1N 3LR; Islington High Street— 96-98 Islington High St, London N1 8EG
- The Observatory, 64 Marchmont St, London WC1N 1AB
- Aux Pains de Papy, 279 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1X 8QF
- London Review Bookshop Café, 14-16 Bury Pl, London WC1A 2JL

Food and Drink

- WC Wine & Charcuterie Bloomsbury, Former Public Convenience, Guilford Pl, London WC1N 1EA, Wine, cocktails, and small plates
- Ciao Bella, 86-90 Lamb's Conduit St, London WC1N 3LZ, Italian
- Noble Rot, 51 Lamb's Conduit St, London WC1N 3NB, Wine bar
- Half Cup, 100-102 Judd St, London WC1H 9NT, Brunch
- Burr & Co., 1 Russell Square, London WC1B 5BE, Cafe by day, bar by night. All day food menu.
- Mildred's, 200 Pentonville Rd, London N1 9JP, Vegan (branches in Camden, Soho also)
- Coal Drops Yard, Stable St, London N1C 4DQ (RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS: Lina Stores, Dishoom, Caravan, The Lighterman, Parrillan), Canal-side complex filled with shopping and restaurant options.
- Flat Iron, 47-51 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, Steak house
- Terra Rossa, 139 Upper St, London N1 1QP, Italian
- Le Sacre Coeur, 18 Theberton St, London N1 0QX, French
- NEM NEM, 279 Upper St, London N1 2TZ, Vietnamese
- Itadakizen, 139 King's Cross Rd, London WC1X 9BJ, Vegan Japanese
- Tofu Vegan, 105 Upper St, London N1 1QN, Vegan Chinese
- Humble Grape, 11-13 Theberton St, London N1 0QY, Wine bar

Bookshops

- Gay's the Word, 66 Marchmont St, London WC1N 1AB
- Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DY
- Judd Books, 82 Marchmont St, London WC1N 1AG
- London Review Bookshop, 14-16 Bury Pl, London WC1A 2JL
- Daunt Books, 84 Marylebone High St, London W1U 4QW
- Word on the Water, Regent's Canal Towpath, London N1C 4LW
- Skoob Books, 66 The Brunswick Centre, off Marchmont St