

EAAS Posgraduate Travel Grant Report (2022)

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My doctoral thesis is centered around the connections between speculative fiction, identity and power, with a particular emphasis on the narrative representation of marginalized communities in contemporary American literature. During my stay at Lancaster University, which took place from February 1st to February 28th, I worked closely with a feminist science fiction classic, Melissa Scott's *Shadow Man* (1995), and I analyzed its literary representation of gender, sexuality and queerness. During these four weeks, and thanks to the generosity of EEAS I was able to advance greatly on one of the chapters of my thesis that focuses on the intersections between speculative storytelling and queerness, and I hope to publish this writing in the form of an article relatively soon — acknowledging, of course, the support of the EEAS travel grant.

During my research stay, I had the pleasure of working alongside Dr. Jonathan Culpeper, who, as well as being the Head of the English and Linguistics department, acted as my research supervisor throughout the month. We had a total of three meetings in which he provided me with detailed feedback and offered both constructive criticism and relevant sources to refine my work. I also attended several lectures and research seminars from the Critical Discourse Analysis and Stylistics modules of the MA Language and Linguistics program. These lectures were taught by Dr. Veronika Koller, Dr. Johnny Unger and Dr. Elena Semino, and they constituted an invaluable opportunity to rethink and question my approach to critical linguistics and to literature from a multidisciplinary perspective. As well as having the opportunity to directly learn from the members of the English and Linguistics department, I was also able to access the materials from the Lancaster University library. These bibliographical resources were much richer than the ones in my home institution, Universidad de Salamanca, and allowed me to study the intersections between American science fiction, queer identities and gender studies extensively and in depth.

In fact, this research stay has allowed me to reevaluate my initial methodology of combining critical discourse studies, cultural studies and American speculative fiction. The joined influence of the Professors from the English and Linguistics department — specifically, that of Dr. Jonathan Culpeper — and the resources from the Lancaster University library have provided me with the space and tools to question my initial

approach and to find some errors on my initial methodology. This has resulted in a decision to center cultural studies and American literature in my PhD thesis over critical and applied linguistics, as I believe that this new approach will result in a stronger and more coherent doctoral dissertation. Again, it is only through the opportunities that the EEAS travel grant has offered me that I have been able to make this change, and I am deeply grateful to both Lancaster University and EEAS for their direct help in perfecting the methodology and approach of my doctoral thesis.