

I write this as I participate in the UCU strike. The strike demonstrates that university staff are sick of being treated as expendable, while our goodwill is treated as infinitely extendable. I hope that those of us striking will return to work with a renewed will to resist the marketisation and de-intellectualisation of the HE sector.

The effects of the marketisation of HE inform my priorities as SCUDD Chair. I will continue SCUDD's strong policy and advocacy work in defending the value of an arts education, but I also want us to think about ways to maintain the pleasures of our work. I want SCUDD to empower us all to speak back to the bleak vision of a 'value for money' attitude to HE. This will be a development of SCUDD initiatives around mental health, well-being and diversity in the discipline, and also connect to SCUDD's important work on the eBacc, and support of PG/ECR colleagues.

To this end, I will seek further opportunities to collaborate with other subject associations in defence of the arts and humanities. My interdisciplinary background (in literary studies and history) gives me a wide informal network across the humanities, and I've already had informal conversations with colleagues in other Humanities subject associations about collaborations to defend the values of Arts & Humanities education.

I come to this post with deep experience of facilitating others' teaching and research. I've been a Head of Department in three institutions, and a Director of Research in two (and for better or worse, have been involved in framing 4 RAE/REF submissions). At Lancaster University I worked closely with Palatine in a period as Acting Co-Director, where my particular focus was on approaches to Practice as Research. I have convened a Working Group for IFTR, and was involved in the foundation of TaPRA, serving on its Executive. I was similarly involved in the establishment of the British Victorian Studies Association. My work has always been collegial and facilitative, and this would be my approach to working for SCUDD.

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