

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS (MSCA) POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2026 APPLICATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MACERATA

SUPERVISOR PROFILE

Name of Supervisor: Prof. John Mc Court

Email: Johnfrancis.mccourt@unimc.it

Department at the University of Macerata: Department of Humanities (Studi Umanistici)

Personal Webpage: <https://docenti.unimc.it/johnfrancis.mccourt>

Research themes proposed

My research brings together **Irish Studies**, **Victorian/Modern literary history**, and **transnational approaches to culture**, with a strong commitment to **innovative methodologies** and **public-facing scholarship**. I am particularly interested in projects that combine rigorous textual analysis with broader cultural, historical, and technological perspectives.

1) Environmental Humanities & Ecocriticism

- The relationship between narrative and environmental awareness; literature's role in shaping ethical and ecological imagination
- Literary and cultural responses to ecological crisis; place, landscape, and belonging
- **Keywords:** ecocriticism; environmental humanities; narrative ethics; place studies

2) Digital Humanities & AI for literary research and pedagogy

- Digital/AI-supported methods for literary analysis, interpretation, research communication, and teaching innovation
- Critical reflection on the opportunities and limits of AI in humanities scholarship and education
- **Keywords:** digital humanities; AI and culture; public humanities; research innovation

3) Global & Transnational Literary Studies (Ireland–Europe connections)

- Cultural transfer, mobility, translation, reception, and intellectual networks between Ireland, Britain, and continental Europe
- Comparative and connected histories of modernity; literary circulation across languages and media
- **Keywords:** transnationalism; mobility; cultural networks; reception; modernity; comparative literature

4) Victorian and Modern Irish literature (with a Britain–Ireland focus)

- The Victorian novel and the Anglo-Irish context; literature and social change

- Modernism and its European entanglements; institutions, authority, and cultural debate
- **Keywords:** Victorian studies; Irish modernity; empire/periphery; print culture; cultural history

5) James Joyce and modernism (text, context, media)

- Joyce in European contexts (Trieste and beyond), life-writing, and cultural environments
- Joyce and visual culture (cinema), reception, canon formation, and contemporary re-readings
- **Keywords:** Joyce; modernism; life-writing; media studies; reception studies

Other info

I am **Rector of the University of Macerata (2022–2028)** and **Professor of English Literature**, and I previously served as **Head of the Department of Humanities**. I am **President of the International James Joyce Foundation**. Before joining Macerata, I taught at **Università Roma Tre**, where I directed **CRISIS** (the Centre for Research into Irish and Scottish Literature), and at the **University of Trieste**, where I co-founded the **Trieste Joyce School**. I have been Visiting Professor or Research Fellow at institutions including **Concordia University (Montreal)**, **Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3**, the **Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (University of Texas)**, and the **University of Pennsylvania**.

My publications include numerous books and articles on **James Joyce** and **19th- and 20th-century Irish literature**. Key works include *Consuming Joyce: 100 Years of Ulysses in Ireland* (Bloomsbury, 2022), *James Joyce in Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), and *Writing the Frontier: Anthony Trollope between Britain and Ireland* (Oxford University Press, 2015), alongside *The Years of Bloom: Joyce in Trieste 1904–1920* (2000; translated into Spanish, Japanese, and Hungarian; Italian edition *Gli Anni di Bloom*, Mondadori, 2005, **Comisso Prize**) and *Roll Away the Reel World: James Joyce and Cinema* (Cork University Press, 2010). More recently, I co-edited *Flann O'Brien: Problems with Authority* (Cork University Press, 2017) and *Reading Brendan Behan* (Cork University Press, 2019).

Supervision and training environment (PhD and postdoctoral)

I currently supervise **three PhD projects** that contribute to a research and training environment aligned with MSCA priorities (excellence, interdisciplinarity, innovation, and impact):

1. **AI-enabled pedagogies for Irish environmental fiction**
Development of an **AI-powered teaching and learning platform** for Irish literature, designed to support reflective, dialogic, and inclusive learning practices, combining Environmental Humanities, pedagogy, and Digital Humanities.
2. **Learning Design + Game Design for teaching Irish women's ghost stories**
An interdisciplinary project integrating **literary theory, gender studies, game studies, and learning design** to produce innovative teaching models and resources, with a clear focus on **curriculum innovation** for English language and literature in secondary education.
3. **Public humanities and intermedial Joyce: *Ulysses* as a graphic novel**
A practice-based research project on **adaptation and visual storytelling**, translating *Ulysses*

into graphic form to explore narrative strategies, readership, and research dissemination beyond academia.

Training offer to MSCA fellows: I provide structured mentoring on **project design and positioning, publishing strategy, international networking, and impact-oriented dissemination** (including public engagement and DH/AI-informed research communication), supporting fellows in building a competitive profile for both academic and non-academic career paths.

Completed supervision (Oct 2025): I successfully concluded the supervision of **Dr Sofia Cavalcanti** (research fellow/assegnista di ricerca) within the project “*Wandering Identities. Gendered Representations in Contemporary Migration and Refugee Narratives*”, funded under the Departmental research scheme “*Culture for democracy, inclusion and sustainability*” (Department of Humanities). Dr Cavalcanti is currently an **MSCA Global Postdoctoral Fellow** at **Ca’ Foscari University of Venice** and **UNC–Chapel Hill**, working at the intersection of **postcolonial studies, Blue Humanities, island feminism, and material ecocriticism**.