

Shirley Jackson: Beyond *Hill House*

Applicants are sought for a fully-funded four-year Provost's Project PhD doctoral award on the critically neglected works of Shirley Jackson (1916-1965), to start in September 2019. The award comprises the student's full tuition fees (EU or non-EU) and an annual stipend of €16,000. These doctoral awards are generously funded through alumni donations and Trinity's commercial unit. The successful applicant will be expected to complete a PhD thesis and, in addition, to devote up to 24 hours a month to the project, providing organisational assistance to the PI in relation to two forthcoming international conferences, and serving as an editorial assistant for a new essay collection on Jackson's work.

Much academic analysis of Jackson's writing still focuses on three main works – *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959), 'The Lottery' (1948), and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* (1962). There is huge scope for research to be conducted on the rest of Jackson's oeuvre. Beyond the necessity to focus upon Jackson's more academically neglected works, the topic of the student's PhD thesis is not prescribed, but can be developed between the student and the PI. Potential points of focus include (but are not limited to):

- New thematic/historical approaches to Jackson
- Jackson's first four novels
- Her more critically neglected short stories (particularly those published posthumously by the Jackson estate)
- Her family sketches/humorous writing

Students interested in the doctoral award are invited to email the Principal Investigator, Dr Bernice M. Murphy (murphb12@tcd.ie) with expressions of interest by **1st February 2019**. They may subsequently be asked to submit a CV, academic transcripts, a sample of written work, the names of two academic referees, and be asked to take part in a Skype interview. The final stage of the application process will involve the submission of a formal PhD proposal. If the chosen candidate does not have English as a first language s/he will also be required to submit a satisfactory English Language Competency Cert.

The following may be considered the essential and desirable qualifications for the award:

Essential

- A first-class (or equivalent) undergraduate degree in English/American literature
- Excellent research and organisational skills
- Excellent written and spoken English

Desirable

- A first-class (or equivalent) Masters in English or American Literature or an Equivalent Subject
- Some prior familiarity with Jackson's work
- Familiarity with or one or more of the following subject areas: twentieth-century American literature; Gothic or Horror Studies; popular literature



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