



**1996-1999:** BA in English and Philosophy, NUI Cork (1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours)

## **Grants and Distinctions:**

**2020-2021:** Through Texture AI, I am director of an **Innovate UK-funded consortium research project** with Lancaster University and the University of Cardiff. This grant aims to predict outbreaks of infectious diseases like COVID-19 using NLP methods on social media.

**2017-2020:** I held a **Wellcome Fellowship in the Medical Humanities** at Brunel University London. This large grant allowed me to pursue a course of innovative research and employ a research assistant.

**2012-2015:** I held a **Junior Research Fellowship** at Linacre College, Oxford. This is an extremely competitive scheme that attracts large numbers of applicants every year. My JRF was extended for an extra year by the Linacre Governing Body—an award made to only two JRFs annually.

**2014:** My work was selected to represent the Oxford Faculty of English in the 2014 **Research Excellence Framework (REF)**.

**2012-2014:** In 2012 I was awarded a two-year **Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship** to work with Professor Robin Dunbar in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford. My score in the Marie Curie evaluation—99.2 out of 100—is one of the highest scores on record in this pan-European competition.

**2012:** Between January and March 2012, I was co-investigator (with Dr Siobhan Collins) in an Irish Research Council (IRC) ‘**New Ideas**’ grant, hosted at UCC. This grant funded a pilot study in how recent advances in cognitive science can be used in the teaching of poetry.

**2002-2006:** During my PhD I was funded by the **UCC Faculty of Arts PhD Scholarship**. Valued at €15,000 plus fees per annum, this scholarship was, at the time, the most financially remunerative humanities-based scholarship in the Irish State.

**2000-2001:** My MA in English Literature was funded by a **competitive, merit-based studentship**.

**1999-2000:** My MA in Philosophy was funded by a **competitive, merit-based studentship**.

**1996-1999:** For each of my three years as an undergraduate I was awarded the title “**College Scholar**” by the UCC Examinations Board. In addition, the second-year award attracted a cash scholarship of IR£500.

## **Publications:**

### **Articles & Chapters:**

- Riestra-Camacho, Rocío, Emily Troscianko, and James Carney. “Can Narrative Bibliotherapy Reduce Vulnerability to Eating Disorders? Evidence from a Reading Experiment.” *Empirical Studies of the Arts*. Forthcoming.
- Robertson, Cole, James Carney and Shane Trudell. “Language About the Future on Social Media as a Novel marker of Anxiety and Depression: A Big-Data and Experimental Analysis.” *Current Research in Behavioral Sciences*. 4 (2023): 100104.
- Carney, James and Cole Robertson. "Five Studies Evaluating the Impact on Mental Health and Mood of Recalling, Reading and Discussing Fiction. *PLOS ONE*. (2022): 0266323.
- Troscianko, Emily and James Carney. "Drawing Kafka’s Castle: An Experimental Expansion of the Theory of Cognitive Realism." *Scientific Studies of Literature*. Forthcoming.
- Carney, James. “Thinking avant la lettre: A Review of 4E Cognition.” *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*. 4.1 (2020): 77-90.
- Carney, James. “The Role of Aesthetic Style in Alleviating Anxiety About the Future.” In *Evolutionary Perspectives on Imaginative Culture*. Ed. Joe Carroll. Leiden: Brill, 2020.
- Lynott, Dermot, Louise Connell, Marc Brysbaert, James Carney and James Brand. “The Lancaster Sensorimotor Norms: Multidimensional Measures of Perception and Action Strength for 40,000 English Words.” *Behavior Research Methods*. (2019): 1316.
- Carney, James. “Culture and Mood Disorders: The Effect of Abstraction in Image, Narrative and Film on Anxiety and Depression .” *Medical Humanities*. (2019): 011459.
- Carney, James, Cole Robertson and Tamas David-Barrett. “Fictional Narrative as a Variational Bayesian Method for Estimating Social Dispositions in Large Groups.” *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*. (2019): 102279.
- Carney, James. “Hard Truths and Comforting Fictions: Does Narrative Actually Construct Identity?” *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*. (2019): 37-40.
- David-Barrett, Tamas, James Carney, Anna Rotkirch, Isabel Behncke Izquierdo. “Social Network Complexity in Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro*.” In *Evolution and Popular Narrative*. Ed. Dirk Vanderbeke and Brett Cooke. Leiden: Brill, 2019. 106-118.
- Carney, James. “The Return of the Oppressed: Intra-Social Inequality and Supernatural Agency in the *Táin* and Crofton-Croker’s ‘Teigue of the Lee’.” *Cosmos* 32. (2019): 121-134.
- Carney, James. "Necessary Fictions: Supernormal Cues, Narrative Cognition and the Nature of Fictional Narrative." In *Narrative Complexity: Cognition, Embodiment,*

- Evolution*. Ed. Marina Grishakova and Maria Poulaki. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019. 391-413.
- Carney, James and Cole Robertson. “People Searching for Meaning in Their Lives Find Literature More Engaging.” *Review of General Psychology* 22. (2018): 199-209.
  - Carney, James. “Psycho-Cosmology: Mental Mapping in *Táin Bó Cuailgne*.” In Ed. Emily Lyle. *Celtic Myth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Gods and Their Stories in a Global Perspective*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2018. 163-178.
  - Carney, James and Pádraig MacCarron. “Comic-Book Superheroes and Prosocial Agency: A Large-Scale Quantitative Analysis of the Effects of Cognitive Factors on Popular Representations.” *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 17: (2017): 306-330.
  - Carney, James. and Dávid-Barrett, Tamas. (2017) [‘What is the naturalistic basis of theological interpretation?’](#). *Religion, Brain & Behavior*. (2017): 1 - 4.
  - Dunbar, RIM., Launay, J., Wlodarski, R., Robertson, C., Pearce, E., Carney, J. et al. [‘Functional Benefits of \(Modest\) Alcohol Consumption’](#). *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology* 3.2 (2016)” 118-133.
  - Gantley, Michael, and Carney, James. ‘Grave Matters: Mediating Corporeal Objects and Subjects through Mortuary Practices’. *M/C*, 19.1 (2016): Online.
  - Dávid-Barrett, Tamas. and Carney, James. [“The deification of historical figures and the emergence of priesthoods as a solution to a network coordination problem.”](#) *Religion, Brain & Behavior* 6.4. (2016): 307 – 317.
  - Carney, James. “The Space between Your Ears: Construal Level Theory, Cognitive Science, and Science Fiction.” In Troscianko, Emily. and Burke, M. (eds.) *Cognitive Literary Science: Dialogues between Literature and Cognition*. Oxford University Press, 2016. pp. 73 - 92.
  - David-Barrett, T. A. Rotkirch, J. Carney, I. Behncke Izquierdo, J. A. Krems, D. Townley, E. McDaniell, A. Byrne-Smith, and R.I.M. Dunbar. “Women Favour Dyadic Relationships, But Men Prefer Clubs: Cross-Cultural Evidence From Social Networking.” *PLOS ONE*. (March 2015).
  - Carney, James, Rafael Wlodarski and Robin Dunbar. “Inference or Enaction? The Impact of Genre on the Narrative Processing of Other Minds.” [PLOS ONE](#). (December 2014).
  - Carney, James. “Some Previously Unrecognised References to Classical Historians in Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s *The Last Man*.” *Notes & Queries* 61. (2014): 527-530.
  - Carney, James, Robin Dunbar, Tamas David-Barrett, Anna Machin and Mauro Silva Junior. “Social Psychology and the Comic-Book Superhero: A Darwinian Approach.” *Philosophy and Literature* 38A. (2014): 195-215.

- Quigley, Declan and James Carney. “Juvenile porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) sighting at Crookhaven, Ireland.” *Irish Naturalists’ Journal* 33. (2014): 71-73.
- Carney, James. “Supernatural Intuitions and Classic Detective Fiction: A Cognitivist Appraisal.” *Style* 48. (2014): 203-218.
- Carney, James. “Homo Hibernicus: Myth, Ethnography and Nationalism in Robert Flaherty’s *Man of Aran*.” *Studies in Documentary Film* 6. (2012): 61-79.
- Carney, James. “The Buzzing of B: The Subject as Insect in Beckett’s *Molloy*.” *Beckett Re-Membered: After the Centenary*. Cambridge: CSP, 2012. 224-237.
- Carney, James. “Advertising and the Predation Loop: A Biosemiotic Model.” *Biosemiotics* 2. (2008): 313-327.
- Carney, James. “The Pangs of the Ulstermen: An Exchangist Perspective.” *The Journal of Indo-European Studies* 36. (2008): 52-66.
- Carney, James. “‘Unweaving the rainbow’: The Semantic Organisation of the Lyric.” *The Journal of Literary Semantics* 37. (2008): 33-53.
- Carney, James. “Narrative and Ontology in Hesiod’s *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*: A Catastrophist Approach.” *Semiotica* 167. (2007): 337-368.
- Carney, James. “‘Gifts of heaven – things of earth’: Haunting and Exchange in Conrad’s ‘Karain: A Memory’.” *L’Epoque Conradienne* 33. (2007). 1-17.

### **Popular Engagements:**

- I am the technical lead on the BBC Radio 4 drama, "An Artificially Intelligent Guide to Love". This is currently in production for broadcast in 2022, and is a collaborative piece between a human dramatist and GPT-J, an analogue to GPT-3. I was responsible for generating the AI materials and collaborating with the dramatist (Hannah da Silva) in making the work production-ready. The Wellcome Trust funded this collaboration, and with Radio 4 selected it for production out of more than 30 projects.
- “If we ever came across aliens, would we be able to understand them?” *The Conversation*, July 2016; syndicated in *The Daily Mail* and *iNews*.
- “How primitive emotions may explain Brexit.” *The Conversation*, July 2016; syndicated in *The Independent*.
- “Why do humans have an innate desire to get high?” *The Conversation*, June 2016; circulated by the popular ‘I f—king love science’ Facebook page.

### **Policy Documents:**

- Rapley, Chris et al. “Time for Change? Climate Science Reconsidered.” Report published by the UCL Policy Commission on Communicating Climate Science (2014). (Contributory author)
- Report to the Director General of the European Space Agency on the Public Communication of European Space Science. (Consultant.) ESA: 2015.

### **Books:**

- Carney, James. *Culture and Anxiety: Investigating the Role of Predictability in Symbolic Representations*. Emerald: Forthcoming 2021.
- Carney, James, Karl White, Leonard Madden and Michael O’Sullivan (eds). *Beckett Remembered: After the Centenary*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: CSP, 2012.
- Carney, James. *This is Paper 1: An Introduction to Leaving Cert Essay Writing*. Cork: Forum Books, 2008. [Commissioned textbook]

### **Other:**

- Carney, James and Emily Troschianko. [\*Manifesto for the Literary Humanities\*](#). Published conference plenary, delivered at the “Beyond Crisis: Visions for the New Humanities” Conference, University of Durham, July 2014.

### **Editorial and Grant Review:**

- I am reviewer for several journals across the humanities and social sciences, including *Human Nature*, *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, *Cognition and Emotion*, and *Review of General Psychology*.
- I am a member of the Wellcome Trust peer review College for its Ethics and Society and Medical Humanities funding strands.

### **Employment:**

**2017-2020: Wellcome Fellow in the Medical Humanities, Brunel University London.** At Brunel, I was employed on a Wellcome Trust Medical Humanities Fellowship. This involved using machine learning to evaluate the therapeutic effects of fiction on individuals who suffer from depression and anxiety. The goal was to train a neural network to be able to read large numbers of narratives and assess their impact on the populations of interest; the training was based on data from real-world readers. This interdisciplinary sat at the intersection of the humanities, experimental psychology and computational linguistics, and formed part of a wider move towards blending interpretive and empirical methodologies. The project allowed me a budget of £261,000.

**2016-2017: Senior Research Associate, Department of Psychology, Lancaster University.**

At Lancaster I worked in the Embodied Cognition Lab on a Leverhulme Foundation funded project on the sensorimotor basis of conceptual cognition. The core claim of the project is that our use of concepts is not solely intellectual, but also draws upon parts of the brain used in perception and movement. This entailed writing python code to gather, analyse and organise large bodies of data from massive online samples. This gave me particular expertise in programming and ‘big data’ approaches to psychology.

**2014-2016: Research Associate, Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford UK.** In this position my principal role involved conducting experiments on psychological engagement with virtual worlds—mostly, those represented in narrative fiction. I was (and remain) particularly interested in exploring the cognitive and material factors that establish some narratives as being ‘interpretable’ and others not.

**2014-2015: Tutor, New College, University of Oxford.** In this role I delivered one-to-one instruction in the area of humanistic psychology.

**2012-2015: Junior Research Fellow, Linacre College, University of Oxford.** My appointment as Junior Research Fellow in Linacre College involved me in the vocational aspect of life at Oxford. I was College advisor to five students in various disciplines; this involved offering general advice, interceding when there was a conflict with supervisors and commenting on each student’s capacity for progress in advanced academic research.

**2012-2014: Marie Curie Fellow, Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford; Junior Research Fellow, Linacre College, University of Oxford.** My Marie Curie Fellowship was designed to complement my training in humanities with cross training in scientific and social scientific methodologies. In practice, this entailed participating in Professor Robin Dunbar’s Social and Evolutionary Neuroscience Research Group (SENRG). In this capacity, I was PI in my own project and in control of a budget of c.£235,000. My specific project looked at how the cognitive biases that inform religious thinking manifest themselves in secular traditions. However, I was also engaged in a number of collaborations that bring experimental perspectives to bear on humanities data.

**2009-2012 Assistant Lecturer in Modern English, School of English, University College Cork, Ireland**  
In this position, I delivered courses on Irish literature, science fiction, Romantic literature, literary theory and eighteenth-century literature. I also contributed to the ‘Modernities’ MA programme. My complement of teaching covered both small group seminars and large group lectures. At Cork, I was module leader for four modules.

**2007-2009 Teaching Fellow in English and Cultural Studies, School of Languages, Literature, Culture & Communication, University of Limerick, Ireland**  
This position involved giving lectures and tutorials in cultural studies, English literature and literary theory at all levels. In addition, I was course director for the ‘Screening Ireland’ summer school on Irish cinema. At Limerick, I was module leader for eight modules.

## **Commercial and Third Sector:**

I am a founding director of Texture AI, a text analytics company that uses deep learning on cultural data to create culturally sensitive machine learning algorithms.

## **Referees:**

Professor James Knowles, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, Royal Holloway, Egham TW20 0EX, UK.

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Professor Michael Griffin, Head of School, School of English, Irish, and Communication. University of Limerick, Limerick V94 T9PX, Ireland.

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