

CV – Louisa Olufsen Layne

b. 1989, Oslo

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Education

- 2013–2017 **University of Oxford: Doctor of Philosophy**
DPhil in English: Critical Readings of Perceptual Models in the Poetry of Linton Kwesi Johnson: Bass Culture (Date of PhD defence: 7. August, 2017)
- 2011–2013 **University of Oslo: Master of Arts**
General and Comparative Literature.
- 2008–2011 **University of Oslo: Bachelor of Arts**
General and Comparative Literature
Exchange autumn term 2010
to University College London (UCL)
Department of English Language and Literature

Academic positions

- Jul. 2023–Dec.2026 **Project leader: “Word, Sound and Power: The Lyrical Making of African Diaspora Futures”, ILOS, University of Oslo**
Funded by Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO)
Postdoc with extension and additional funding from NFR for Research Stay, in Oxford: Wendy Lotterman (PhD, NYU). Guest Researcher: Eliza McCarthy (PhD, University of Oxford).
- Jan.2022–July.2023 **Senior Lecturer (*Førstelektor*) in English Literature, ILOS, University of Oslo (100%)**
ENG1303: British Literature, ENG1304: American Literature, ENG2321: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature
- Jan. 2019–Dec.2021: **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, “Literature, Rights and Imagined Communities”, ILOS, University of Oslo (3 years, 100%)**
- Aug.2018–Dec. **University of Oslo (ILOS): Senior Lecturer in General and Comparative Literature (100%)**
LIT1303: Literature from 1900 to present
Exfac03-HUM, LIT 4380/4381: Verdenslitteratur, LIT4001: Foundational problems in Comparative Literature (*Litteraturvitenskapelige grunnlagsproblemer*)
- Jan. 2018–Aug. **University of Oslo (ILOS): Senior lecturer in General and Comparative Literature (50%)**
LIT1303: Literature from 1900 to present

Other teaching experience

- July 2017–
Aug. **University of Massachusetts Amherst: Oxford Summer Seminar**
Topic: Black British Writers (5 students)
- Feb. 2017 **Faculty of English and History (HENG), University of Oxford**
Co-teaching with Dr Imaobong Umoren
Topic: Black Modernism and The Harlem Renaissance (12 students)
- Jan. 2016–
March **Stanford University in Oxford Programme**
Topic: Caribbean and Black British women's writing (1 student, tutorials)
- Nov. 2015–
March **Faculty of English, University of Oxford**
Co-Supervision with Professor Stephen Tuck, 3rd year undergraduate dissertation.
Topic: The Harlem Renaissance
- Dec. 2014–
March 2015 **Faculty of English, University of Oxford**
Supervision of 3rd year undergraduate dissertation.
Topic: Immigrant literature in London from the 1950s and 60s
- Oct. 2014–
June. 2015 **Stanford University in Oxford Programme**
Topic: Representations of Race in Britain (3 students, one to one tutorials).

Research convening and research committees

- 2022–present: **Arts Council Norway, Committee member Development and Research**
- 2019 **Convenor, Black Poesis-series funded by Fritt Ord and Andres Jahres Fund**
Seminar series with three academic public events in Oslo in 2019: Linton Kwesi Johnson (House of Literature Oslo), Professor Lloyd Pratt (University Library of Oslo) and Professor Marcyliena Morgan (National Library of Norway).
- 2016–2017 **TORCH: Comics and Graphic Novels – The Politics of Form**
Steering group
- 2014 **TORCH: Race and Resistance Across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century**
Convenor of programme for three terms of 2015/2016. Special events: 'Hip Hop, Knowledge, and the Academy' with Professor Marcyliena Morgan, 'Race in Scandinavia' (in collaboration with the Nordic Network) with Dr Michael McEachrane, and Linton Kwesi Johnson in conversation with Paul Gilroy/ Great writers inspire at home (event date: 26. 04. 2018)

Publications

- Layne, L.O. (2026): "From Jazz to Dub Poetry: Linton Kwesi Johnson and the Literary Problem Space of Black Music". *Callaloo: Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 44.2, pp. 173–191. Link: <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/1/article/990596> .
- Layne, L.O. (2023). "Let's Look at the Immediate Background of this Young Poet: Langston Hughes and the Sociological Critique of Taste". *African American Review*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 53 (1–2), pp. 27–42. Link: <https://doi.org/10.1353/afa.2023.a903596>.
- Layne, L.O. (2019). "Kamau Brathwaite's karibiske estetikk: Perseptuelle modeller som skrivemetode», Kritisk teori fra sør, *Agora: Journal for metafysisk spekulasjon*, 36 (3–4), pp. 36–58. Link: https://www.idunn.no/agora/2019/03-04/kamau_brathwaite_s_karibiske_estetikk.
- Layne, L.O. (2018). "Sound Systems and Other Systems: The Policing of Urban Aesthetic Space in the Poetry of Linton Kwesi Johnson". *Planned Violence: Post/Colonial Urban Infrastructure*,

Literature and Culture. Ed. Elleke Boehmer and Dominic Davies, Palgrave Macmillan. Link: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-91388-9_9

(Under contract) Layne, L.O. (2027). "Black British Live Artists" in *Cambridge Companion to Black British Theatre and Performance*. Cambridge University Press (expected publication early 2027)

(Accepted) Layne, L.O. (2027/28) "A constant: Remembering with Linton Kwesi Johnson": *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*. Special Issue on Linton Kwesi Johnson. Issue 88.

Research lectures and conference presentations

28. November 2025: Word, Sound and Power Symposium "Listening to the Sociosonic", Christ Church, University of Oxford, "Linton Kwesi Johnson and the Shape of That Hurt".

2. April 2025: Word, Sound and Power workshop 2025, St John's College, University of Oxford, "Thinking with Grounation: The mystic Revelation of Rastafari".

9. April 2024: Word, Sound and Power workshop 2024, ILOS, University of Oslo, "Linton Kwesi Johnson and the literary problem space of Black music".

30. October 2024: RITMO, Research Cluster, University of Oslo. "*Black Music* magazine as an alternative literary archive".

30. September 2024: Bergen Dramatikkfestival, lecture about aesthetic judgement today.

25. May 2023: Kritikerseminaret, Norsk Litteraturfestival, *Identitet som kritisk verktøy*

10. November, 2021: *Identitet og mangfold i forskning* with Iver B. Neumann, ILOS, University of Oslo. Convenor.

19. October 2020: The National Library of Norway, Black History Month, "Poesi, musikk, estetikk og arkiv".

23. May 2019: Museum of Cultural History (*Kulturhistorisk museum*): The sea is history, discourses on the poetics of relation conference, "Linton Kwesi Johnson: From Tropics to Underground".

25. March 2019: *Post/Colonial Urban Infrastructure, Literature and Culture*, City University of London, Presentation of book chapter.

21. September 2018: Litteraturfestivalen Sted, "Linton Kwesi Johnsons britiske reggae estetikk".

5. September 2018: *Mangfold i Litteraturvitenskapen* with professor Elleke Boehmer, ILOS, University of Oxford, Convenor.

17. November 2017: Being Human Festival: Lost Night at the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, "Lost in Print?: Linton Kwesi Johnson and the Reggae Music Archive".

12. May 2017: Literary Cosmopolitanism exchange workshop with Gisèle Sapiro TORCH, University of Oxford/EHESS: 'It Dread Inna Ingran: Linton Kwesi Johnson's Interaction with John Cooper Clarke'.

23. February 2017: The Postcolonial Seminar, University of Oxford, "Re-reading Linton Kwesi Johnson's Poetry in its British contexts: The Black New Wave".

13. December 2016: Pembroke College Outreach event, London Centre for Languages and Cultures launch at Westminster Academy. Showing A-level students examples of research conducted at the University of Oxford.

9. September, 2016: Telling Tales, Writing Stories' Conference, University of Oxford (TORCH): 'The Bard of Brixton and the Bard of Salford: Linton Kwesi Johnson's relationship with John Cooper Clarke'.

26. April, 2016: Graduate and Early Career Workshop on Gender and Race with Professor Catherine Hall, University of Oxford: "'Di Breddah Dem a Scank": Linton Kwesi Johnson, Punk, and the Voicing of Masculinity'.

8. Mars, 2016: Oxford Music Faculty Research Colloquium, University of Oxford, 'Bass Culture: Linton Kwesi Johnson and the British reggae aesthetic'.

24. September, 2015: Comparative Infrastructures workshop, University of Oxford: 'Sound Systems and Other Systems: Urban Aesthetic Spaces in the Work of Linton Kwesi Johnson'.

Other Public Engagement

6. September 2025: Norwegian-American Literary Festival (NALF), House of Literature Oslo. Conversation with editor Audun Vinger about the Harlem Renaissance.

Summer Issue 2025 of *Jazznytt*, Interview "Gjenfødselen av Harlem", #275.

25. April 2025: The Fosse Prize, National Library of Norway. "Vi Les Fosseforedraget". Panel discussion about Jean Luc Marion's Fosse Lecture *Creation* with translator Margunn Vikingstad, Hanne Ørstavik and Ragnar Misje Bergem

17. January 2025: Kirkens Bymisjon: Talk about the Norwegian use of the term "utenforskap" based on an article in *Samtiden*

22. March 2022: Demokratifestivalen UiO, Deichman Bjørvika. Panel about bell Hooks with Tonje Vold

31. August 2021: UiO Kunnskapsfestival på Universitetsplassen. Panel about «the ideal Citizen» with Jan Grue and Tone Bratteteig

20. August 2021: House of Literature Oslo. Panel about Zora Neale Hurston

13. May 2021: Theory from the Margin with Professor Paul Gilroy and Ruth Wilson Gilmore. One of two invited panellists.

17. March 2021: Oslo International Theatre Festival
In-debt conversation about Audre Lorde with dance critic Grace Tabea Tenga

15. October 2020: Klassekampen, Antirasismen og Musikken
Panel with Sverre Knudsen og Olav Østrem

25. August 2020: Litteratur på Blå: "The ideas of Frederick Douglass"
Panel with Marjam Idriss og Mohamed Abdi

11. August 2020: BLA-podden, God Natt Oslo Festival: «Literature and Racism»

Panel with Camara Lundestad Joof og Mohamed Abdi

6. August, 2019: Studio 2 på P2, Norwegian National Broadcasting service: Interview about Harlem Renaissance

17. April, 2019: Litteratur på BLÅ: "In memoriam: Toni Morrison"
Panel with Kaja Scerven Mollerin og Mohamed Abdi

June 2017: Breaking Convention, Birmingham Repertory Theatre.
Panel about the "The Hip Hop Scholar" (documentary)

Other Work Experience

2021–2022 **Columnist, *Samtiden***

June 2016 **Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation**
Oxford Translation day, Translation workshop with Marina Warner

2014–present **Cataloging of private book collection**
Collection of Anne Walmsley, author of *The Caribbean Artist Movement*

2014 **Reading Manuscript for Dr Christian Refsum**
Kjærlighet som Religion: Lidenskap og Lengsel i litteratur på 2000-tallet

2012–2014 **Personal assistant for contemporary artist Knut Åsdam**

2012–present **DJ Sweet Talking: Gaasa, Turkish Delight, Illegal, Fuglen, Khartoum**

2011–2014 **The Association of Norwegian Printmakers**
Guide, sales

2006–2009 **«Knudsens fotomobil». Analog photo shop at St. Hanshaugen**
Customer service, photo developing

Volunteer work experience

2014–2015 **Social Officer, Wadham College Master Common Room**

2009–2013 **Galleri Storck, Oslo**
Curator

2011–2012 **History Forms My Revolution: Art for University of Oslo's
200th Anniversary**
Research assistant for Gerd Elise Mørland

2008–2010 **Radio Nova**
Radio journalist and host for the
music programme Bra Trommis

Teaching Certificate

Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

Scholarships and Awards

Programrredaktør Andor Birkeland og Hustru Halinas Legat

Overrettssaksfører Axel Brynies, Helga Brynies og Adelheid Jordans legat

Norwegian Oxford Scholarship

Lise og Arnfinn Hejes Fond