

'Becoming the Brontës: The Imagination and Craft of the Juvenilia', Dr Simon Marsden

In their childhood writings, the Brontë siblings created imagined worlds that would provide the settings for literary experimentation in both prose and poetry. Glass Town, Angria and Gondal provided settings for collaborative storytelling that enabled the young Brontës both to imitate aspects of the styles and themes of established writers and to develop their own distinctive voices. This lecture will explore the ways in which the juvenilia reveals the Brontës engaging in collaborative creation, responding to literary influences and developing their craft as writers. We will also consider the enduring legacies of the Brontës' childhood creativity in their mature poetry and novels.

Recommended Reading:

The main primary text for this lecture is:

The Brontës, *Tales of Glass Town, Angria, and Gondal: Selected Early Writings*, ed. by Christine Alexander (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010)

The following texts are suggested as further reading:

Alexander, Christine and Juliet McMaster (eds.), *The Child Writer from Austen to Woolf* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Barker, Juliet, *The Brontës*, revised edition (London: Abacus, 2010)

Brontë, Charlotte, *The Lost Manuscripts* (Haworth: Brontë Society, 2018)

Ingham, Patricia, *The Brontës: Authors in Context* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)

Langbauer, Laurie, *The Juvenile Tradition: Young Writers and Prolepsis, 1750-1835* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Miller, Lucasta, *The Brontë Myth* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2001)