

Biography - Karen Simecek

I am currently a Teaching Fellow in Aesthetics in the Department of Philosophy, University of Warwick. Before joining the department in this role, I was a postdoctoral researcher on the AHRC-funded project 'the Uses of Poetry', in the English Literature Department, University of Birmingham, where I worked with colleagues from literary studies, psychology and education to investigate the value of reading poetry for life-long learning. I have also recently held an Early Career Fellowship (2013) with the Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick, where I researched the relationship between poetry and the emotions.

I was awarded my PhD in Philosophy and Literature in July 2013 at the University of Warwick, under the supervision of Dr Eileen John. My thesis, entitled, 'Experiencing Lyric Poetry: Emotional Responses, Philosophical Thinking and Moral Inquiry' focused on the philosophical value of reading poetry, an area which is still at the heart of my research. My work has been published in *Estetika*, *PN Review* and *the Postgraduate Journal of Aesthetics*, and I have presented my work on the philosophy of poetry at a number of conferences including the *ESA*, *Mediterranean Congress of Aesthetics* and *the Dutch Association of Aesthetics*. I have been a member of the *ESA* since 2012.