

CENTRE FOR TEXTUAL STUDIES

On 8th May 2014 @ 1pm in Clephan Building 1.17 at De Montfort University, Leicester



**Dr Samantha J. Rayner of the
Centre for Publishing, Dept of Information Studies, UCL**

will talk about

Star Texts: The Next Generation

Since Caxton began printing English versions of key literary works in the fifteenth century, publishers have been editing and repackaging content for new readers and new markets. These core interventions between author and reader have helped shape the literary canon, and, moreover, scholarly editions of these works have added further paratextual apparatus to help mediate the relationship between text and student in carefully curated ways.

In today's publishing world, this curation can push the boundaries of paratextual visibility even further: book apps harness all kinds of materials together that could not appear in a conventionally published volume, and e-readers allow us to view texts, to consume them, in transliterational ways not possible before. How does this affect our ability to "read" a text? What choices are publishers making to offer us "star texts" via app platforms, and will this affect the canon of the future? Are these choices affecting shifts in core text choices on literary studies programmes, or are there other "star texts" emerging whose status rests on more traditional publishing stories?

This paper will explore this brave new world of publishing and its current and potential impact on teaching and learning: seeking out new readers and new reading contexts, and boldly going where no texts have been able to go before, how are publishers editing and packaging content in ways that can benefit teaching of post-millennial literature?

Biography Dr Samantha Rayner is the Director of the Centre for Publishing at UCL. She teaches and writes on publishing and book related topics, with special interests in publishing archives and publishing paratexts, bibliography, the culture of bookselling, editors and editing, bibliotherapy, literary festivals and literary ephemera. She has also taught extensively on English Literature courses and has specialisms in Medieval and Arthurian texts. As well as being the Secretary of the British Branch of the International Arthurian Society, she is Research Officer for the Association of Publishing Education (APE), a member of the AHRC Peer Review Panel, and co-editor for the Intellect journal, 'Book 2.0'.