

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48341-4 — The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction: 1980–2018
Edited by Peter Boxall
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
BRITISH FICTION: 1980–2018

From 1980 to the present huge transformations have occurred in every area of British cultural life. The election of Margaret Thatcher in 1979 ushered in a new neoliberal era in politics and economics that dramatically reshaped the British landscape. Alongside this political shift, we have seen transformations to the public sphere caused by the arrival of the internet and of social media, and changes in the global balance of power brought about by 9/11, the emergence of China and India as superpowers, and latterly the British vote to leave the European Union. British fiction of the period is intimately interwoven with these historical shifts. This collection brings together some of the most penetrating critics of the contemporary, to explore the role that the British novel has had in shaping the cultural landscape of our time, at a moment, in the wake of the EU referendum of 2016, when the question of what it means to be British has become newly urgent.

Peter Boxall is Professor of English Literature at the University of Sussex. He is the author of many books on the novel, including *Don DeLillo: The Possibility of Fiction* (2006), *Since Beckett* (2009), *Twenty-First-Century Fiction* (2013) and *The Value of the Novel* (2015). He is editor of the bestselling *1001 Books*, co-editor, with Byran Cheyette, of volume 7 of *The Oxford History of the Novel*, and with Peter Nicholls of *Thinking Poetry*. He is also editor, since 2009, of the UK journal *Textual Practice*. His most recent book, *The Prosthetic Imagination: A History of the Novel as Artificial Life*, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48341-4 — The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction: 1980–2018
Edited by Peter Boxall
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
BRITISH FICTION:
1980–2018

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48341-4 — The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction: 1980–2018
Edited by Peter Boxall
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
BRITISH FICTION:
1980–2018

EDITED BY
PETER BOXALL
University of Sussex



Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-48341-4 — The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction: 1980–2018
 Edited by Peter Boxall
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108483414
 DOI: 10.1017/9781108649865

© Cambridge University Press 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Boxall, Peter, editor.

TITLE: The Cambridge companion to British fiction : 1980–2018 / edited by Peter Boxall.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2018056585 | ISBN 9781108483414 (alk. paper)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: English fiction – 20th century – History and criticism. | English fiction – 21st century – History and criticism.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PR881 .C347 2019 | DDC 823/.91409–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018056585>

ISBN 978-1-108-48341-4 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48341-4 — The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction: 1980–2018
Edited by Peter Boxall
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

In memory of my mother, Judy Neil. 1940–2018.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48341-4 — The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction: 1980–2018
Edited by Peter Boxall
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of Contributors</i>	page ix
<i>Chronology</i>	xii
CHARLOTTE TERRELL	
Introduction: Framing the Present	I
PETER BOXALL	
PART I – OVERVIEW	
1. The 1980s	17
BRIDGET CHALK	
2. The 1990s	32
PIETER VERMEULEN	
3. Post-Millennial Literature	47
LEIGH WILSON	
PART II – NEW FORMATIONS	
4. British Writing and the Limits of the Human	69
GABRIELE GRIFFIN	
5. Form and Fiction, 1980–2018	89
KEVIN BRAZIL	
6. Institutions of Fiction	105
CAROLINE WINTERSGILL	
	vii

CONTENTS

PART III – GENRES AND MOVEMENTS

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 7. Late Modernism, Postmodernism and After | 137 |
| MARTIN PAUL EVE | |
| 8. Experiment and the Genre Novel: British Fiction, 1980–2018 | 150 |
| CAROLINE EDWARDS | |
| 9. Transgression and Experimentation: The Historical Novel | 169 |
| JEROME DE GROOT | |
| 10. Fiction and Film, 1980–2018 | 185 |
| PETRA RAU | |

PART IV – CONTEXTS

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 11. The Mid-Atlantic | 201 |
| BEN MASTERS | |
| 12. Sexual Dissidence and British Writing | 219 |
| REBECCA POHL | |
| 13. Fiction, Religion and Freedom of Speech, from ‘The Rushdie
Affair’ to 7/7 | 236 |
| STEPHEN MORTON | |
| 14. British Cosmopolitanism after 1980 | 251 |
| PATRICK DEER | |
| Conclusion: Imagining the Future | 273 |
| PETER BOXALL | |
| <i>Further Reading</i> | 296 |
| <i>Index</i> | 299 |

CONTRIBUTORS

PETER BOXALL is Professor of English at the University of Sussex. His books include *Don DeLillo: The Possibility of Fiction* (2006), *Since Beckett: Contemporary Writing in the Wake of Modernism* (2009), *Twenty-First Century Fiction: A Critical Introduction* (2013) and *The Value of the Novel* (2015). He has edited a number of collections, including *Thinking Poetry* and *Beckett/Aesthetics/Politics*, and a recent edition of Beckett's novel *Malone Dies*. He is co-editor, with Bryan Cheyette, of volume 7 of the *Oxford History of the Novel in English*. He is also the editor of *Textual Practice*, and the series editor, for Cambridge University Press, of *Cambridge Studies in Twenty-First Century Literature and Culture*. He is currently completing a book entitled *The Prosthetic Imagination: A History of the Novel as Artificial Life*.

KEVIN BRAZIL is a Lecturer in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature at the University of Southampton. He is the author of *Art, History, and Postwar Fiction* (2018), co-editor of *Doris Lessing and the Forming of History* (2016) and has published widely on modern and contemporary literature in *Modernism/modernity*, *Textual Practice* and the *Journal of Modern Literature*.

BRIDGET CHALK is Associate Professor of English at Manhattan College in the Bronx, NY. She is the author of *Modernism and Mobility: The Passport and Cosmopolitan Experience* (2014), as well as multiple essays and reviews on modernism and narrative in *Twentieth-Century Literature*, the *Journal of Modern Literature* and elsewhere. She is currently working on a book project that traces continuities among the novel of development, education and ethics from the nineteenth century to the present.

PATRICK DEER is Associate Professor of English at New York University, where he teaches modern and contemporary British, American and postcolonial literature and culture. His publications include *Culture in Camouflage: War, Empire and Modern British Literature* (2009; paperback edition 2016), 'Beyond Recovery: Representing History and Memory in Iraq War Writing', *MFS* (2017) and 'Mapping Contemporary American War Culture', *College Literature* (2016). His

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

current book projects are *Surge and Silence: Understanding America's Culture of War* and *Deep England: Forging British Culture after Empire*.

JEROME DE GROOT teaches in the Department of English, American Studies and Creative Writing at the University of Manchester. He is the author of *Consuming History* (2008, 2nd edn 2016), *Remaking History* (2015) and *The Historical Novel* (2009), as well as numerous articles on historical fictions, re-enactment, manuscript studies and historiography.

CAROLINE EDWARDS is Senior Lecturer in Modern & Contemporary Literature at Birkbeck, University of London. She is author of *Utopia and the Contemporary British Novel* (2019), co-editor of *China Miéville: Critical Essays* (2015) and *Maggie Gee: Critical Essays* (2015), and a Founding Director of the Open Library of Humanities. Her work has appeared in *Telos*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Textual Practice*, *Contemporary Literature*, *ASAP/Journal*, *Subjectivity*, *New Statesman* and the *Times Higher Education*. She is currently working on a book about science fiction and extreme environments.

MARTIN PAUL EVE is Professor of Literature, Technology and Publishing at Birkbeck, University of London. Martin holds a PhD from the University of Sussex and is the author of five books, most recently *Close Reading with Computers*. As a result of his higher education policy work, Martin was named as one of *The Guardian's* five finalists for higher education's most inspiring leader in 2017, and in 2018 he was awarded the KU Leuven Medal of Honour in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

GABRIELE GRIFFIN is Professor of Gender Research at Uppsala University in Sweden. She coordinates the Nordforsk-funded Nordic Centre of Excellence 'Beyond the Gender Paradox' (2017–2022), and a Vinnova-funded project on female entrepreneurship and decent work (UN Goal 2030). She is editor of the 'Research Methods for the Arts and Humanities' series. Her most recent publication is *Body, Migration, Re/Constructive Surgery: Making the Gendered Body in a Globalized World* (co-ed., 2018).

BEN MASTERS is Assistant Professor of English Literature at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of *Novel Style: Ethics and Excess in English Fiction since the 1960s*. He also writes fiction and has written for *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *Literary Review* and *Five Dials*.

STEPHEN MORTON is Professor of English and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Southampton. His publications include *States of Emergency: Colonialism, Literature, and Law* (2013), *Terror and the Postcolonial*, co-edited with Elleke Boehmer (2009), *Foucault in an Age of Terror*, co-edited with Stephen

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Bygrave (2008), *Salman Rushdie: Fictions of Postcolonial Modernity* (2007), *Gayatri Spivak: Ethics, Subalternity and the Critique of Postcolonial Reason* (2006) and *Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak* (2003). He has also published articles in *Public Culture*, *Interventions*, *Textual Practice*, *New Formations*, *Ariel* and *Research in African Literatures*. He is currently completing two monographs on ‘Allegories of the World–System: Dispossession and the Idea of the Commons in Postcolonial World Literature’ and ‘In the Debt Colony: A Cultural History of Colonial Debt’.

REBECCA POHL is the co-editor of *Rupert Thomson: Critical Essays* (2016). Most recently, she has published on Christine Brooke-Rose and on Ali Smith. Her work in progress includes a manuscript that examines the impact of gender on mid-century experimental writing by women in Britain. She is Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Manchester.

PETRA RAU is Senior Lecturer in Modern Literature at UEA. Her research interests are literature and film about war, fascism and forced migration, travel writing and memory studies. She is the author, most recently, of *Our Nazis: Representations of Fascism in Contemporary Literature and Film* (2013) and editor of *Long Shadows: The Second World War in British Literature and Film* (2016). She is currently working on a British-Academy funded monograph about flight and expulsion in post-war German literature and film and on a family memoir.

PIETER VERMEULEN is Assistant Professor of American and Comparative Literature at the University of Leuven, Belgium. He is the author of *Romanticism after the Holocaust* (2010) and *Contemporary Literature and the End of the Novel: Creature, Affect, Form* (2015), and a co-editor of, most recently, *Institutions of World Literature: Writing, Translation, Markets* (2015) and *Memory Unbound: Tracing the Dynamics of Memory Studies* (2017). He is currently writing a book entitled *Literature and the Anthropocene*.

LEIGH WILSON is Professor of English Literature at the University of Westminster. She is the author of *Modernism and Magic: Experiments with Spiritualism, Theosophy and the Occult* (2013), co-editor of *The Edinburgh Critical Edition of the Selected Writings of Andrew Lang* (2 vols, 2015) and series co-editor of the *Decades Series on Modern and Contemporary British Fiction* (2014 onwards).

CAROLINE WINTERSGILL is Visiting Lecturer in the Department of English, Creative Writing and American Studies at the University of Winchester, where she is completing a PhD on endings in the twenty-first-century novel, funded by a 175th Anniversary Studentship. Caroline moved to academia following a 25-year career in publishing and she continues to work as a consultant editor to several publishers. Her research is on contemporary fiction, with a particular interest in literary institutions, the contemporary history of the book, readers and readership, and the relationship of all three to narrative. She also writes on haptic approaches to film and literature.

CHRONOLOGY

Charlotte Terrell

Date	Events	Publications
1979	Conservatives win majority in general election, Margaret Thatcher becomes Prime Minister	
1980	Republicans win majority in US election, Ronald Reagan becomes President ‘Right to Buy’ scheme begins, enabling council house tenants to buy their houses	
1981	Riots in Brixton after the ‘sus’ law had been used to stop and search 1,000 people in 6 days, stirring tension in ethnic minority communities	Alasdair Gray, <i>Lanark</i> Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight’s Children</i>
1982	Falklands War	William Boyd, <i>An Ice Cream War</i> Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>A Pale View of the Hills</i>
1983	IRA car bomb kills six and injures hundreds outside Harrods, London First Dyson vacuum cleaner manufactured	William Golding wins the Nobel Prize in Literature Terry Pratchett, <i>The Colour of Magic</i> (first book of his ‘Discworld’ series) Graham Swift, <i>Waterland</i> First year of Granta’s Best of Young British Novelist – a once-per-decade list of twenty novelists who hold promise to become the outstanding writers of their generation
1984	Coal miners strike for 12 months over threat of pit closures, nearly half of miners return to work by February the following year Unemployment reaches a record high of 3.3 million First year of the FTSE 100 First Virgin Atlantic flight British Telecoms privatised	Martin Amis, <i>Money</i> J. G. Ballard, <i>Empire of the Sun</i> Christine Brooke-Rose, <i>Amalgamemnon</i> Anita Brookner, <i>Hotel du Lac</i> Angela Carter, <i>Nights at the Circus</i> Alasdair Gray, <i>1982 Janine</i>
1985	Riots in Brixton, Tottenham and Peckham in London after Cherry Groce is shot in her home by police and left paralysed	Iris Murdoch, <i>The Good Apprentice</i> Caryl Phillips, <i>The Final Passage</i> Jeanette Winterson, <i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i>

CHRONOLOGY

(cont.)

Date	Events	Publications
	UK's first heart and lung transplant carried out	
1986	First mobile phone calls are made GCSEs replace O Levels London Stock Exchange is computerised	Kazuo Ishiguro , <i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>
1987	Remembrance Day bombing in Northern Ireland kills eleven General election sees Margaret Thatcher win a third term in office	Penelope Lively , <i>Moon Tiger</i> Ian McEwan , <i>The Child in Time</i> Alan Moore , <i>Watchmen</i>
1988	Lockerbie bombing, kills 270 IRA bombing kills a British soldier in London and six in Belfast NHS nurses go on strike for higher pay Tate Liverpool opens to public Group known as 'Young British Artists' begin to exhibit together	Stephen Hawking's <i>A Brief History of Time</i> is published David Lodge , <i>Nice Work</i> (the last book in the 'campus trilogy') Salman Rushdie , <i>The Satanic Verses</i>
1989	Hillsborough disaster, ninety-six killed in crush at Sheffield football stadium Satellite TV becomes available via Sky TV Iran breaks off diplomatic relations with UK over the publication of Rushdie's <i>The Satanic Verses</i>	Martin Amis , <i>London Fields</i> Janice Galloway , <i>The Trick Is to Keep Breathing</i> Kazuo Ishiguro , <i>The Remains of the Day</i> Jeanette Winterson , <i>Sexing the Cherry</i>
1990	Aldi and Poundland open first stores in UK Reunification of Germany	A. S. Byatt , <i>Possession</i> Hanif Kureishi , <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>
1991	First website goes online through the first web browser WorldWideWeb Dial-up internet becomes available to the public Three IRA members killed in Northern Ireland by British Army	Martin Amis , <i>Time's Arrow</i> Pat Barker , <i>Regeneration</i> (the first book of a trilogy) Christine Brooke-Rose , <i>Textermination</i> (considered one of Brooke-Rose's foremost 'anti-novels') Angela Carter , <i>Wise Children</i> Ben Okri , <i>The Famished Road</i>
1992	Further and Higher Education Act sees thirty-five polytechnics become universities Damien Hirst's <i>The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living</i> included in an exhibition of Young British Artists' work in the Saatchi Gallery Conservatives elected for fourth term, John Major is PM	Victor Headley , <i>Yardie</i> Nick Hornby , <i>Fever Pitch</i>

CHRONOLOGY

(cont.)

Date	Events	Publications
1993	Downing Street Agreement signed, promising the transfer of Northern Ireland to Ireland if voted for by its people, and the exclusive right of Ireland and Northern Ireland to determine its conflict resolution Racially motivated murder of Stephen Lawrence. The examination of forensic evidence in 2012 leads to the sentencing of his killers	Toni Morrison wins the Nobel Prize, simultaneously the first African American woman, and first African American ever to receive the award Irvine Welsh , <i>Trainspotting</i>
1994	Provisional IRA announce a ceasefire Coal industry privatised Russell Group formed, a collection of twenty-four research universities self-selected as 'elite' in the UK	James Kelman , <i>How Late It Was, How Late</i>
1995	Amazon.com, initially an online bookstore, launched by Jeff Bezos	Diran Adebayo , <i>Some Kind of Black</i> Penelope Fitzgerald , <i>The Blue Flower</i> A. L. Kennedy , <i>So I Am Glad</i> Philip Pullman , <i>Northern Lights</i> (first book of the 'His Dark Materials' trilogy)
1996	Provisional IRA ends ceasefire and conflicts continue into 1997 Dunblane school shooting, sixteen children and one teacher die, private gun ownership in the UK effectively banned by subsequent legislation Dolly the sheep – the first animal cloned using somatic cells – is born GMO foods go on sale Prince Charles and Princess Diana divorce	Helen Fielding , <i>Bridget Jones's Diary</i> Graham Swift , <i>Last Orders</i> Meera Syal , <i>Anita and Me</i>
1997	General election results in landslide victory for Labour, Tony Blair becomes PM Hong Kong becomes a Chinese territory again, as agreed in the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash Scotland and Wales vote in favour of devolved power from Westminster BBC launches an online news service	J. K. Rowling , <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i> Ali Smith , <i>Like</i>
1998	Good Friday Agreement is signed, a major step in the Northern Irish peace process Larry Page and Sergey Brin's pet computer project receives first	Rob Colson , Martin Cooper , Ted Curtis , Robert Dellar , Keith Mallinson , Emma McElwee and Lucy Williams , <i>Seaton Point</i> (a collectively authored polemic novel against postmodernism)

CHRONOLOGY

(cont.)

Date	Events	Publications
1999	investment and officially becomes Google Inc. Scotland's devolved parliament at Holyrood, and the devolved National Assembly of Wales, hold their first meetings TV presenter Jill Dando shot and killed outside her home, shooter never found Series of nail bomb attacks in London by far-right terrorists SMS texts can be sent across different networks for the first time	Jackie Kay , <i>Trumpet</i> Ian McEwan , <i>Amsterdam</i> J. M. Coetzee's <i>Disgrace</i> wins the Booker Prize, making him the only novelist to have won the award more than once
2000	Millennium Dome opens Tate Modern opens in London on the site of Bankside Power Station Damilola Taylor stabbed to death on way home from school First series of Big Brother airs on Channel 4	Zadie Smith , <i>White Teeth</i>
2001	9/11 attacks in US. Al-Qaeda hijack four planes, two of which are flown into the Twin Towers. Nearly 3,000 people are killed Launch of Wikipedia Foot and mouth disease outbreak OED revises its definition of 'meme' to include the internet joke format	Ian McEwan , <i>Atonement</i> David Mitchell , <i>Number9Dream</i> V. S. Naipaul wins the Nobel Prize Ali Smith , <i>Hotel World</i> Irvine Welsh , <i>Glue</i>
2002	Gibraltar holds referendum, votes in favour of remaining a solely British territory Euro tender enters into circulation	Maggie Gee , <i>The White Family</i> Jon McGregor , <i>If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things</i> Sarah Waters , <i>Fingersmith</i>
2003	Millions of citizens across UK march in protest of British military action in Iraq PM Tony Blair announces UK intervention in Iraq in support of the United States' search for weapons of mass destruction	Monica Ali , <i>Brick Lane</i> Hari Kunzru , <i>The Impressionist</i> Adam Thirlwell , <i>Politics</i>
2004	Social networking sites Myspace and Facebook both founded	Alan Hollinghurst , <i>The Line of Beauty</i> Andrea Levy , <i>Small Island</i> David Mitchell , <i>Cloud Atlas</i>
2005	7/7 bombings in London, fifty-two killed and over 700 injured	Kazuo Ishiguro , <i>Never Let Me Go</i> Tom McCarthy , <i>Remainder</i>

CHRONOLOGY

(cont.)

Date	Events	Publications
	MG Rover goes into administration, resulting in over 6,000 job losses at its Longbridge plant	Harold Pinter wins the Nobel Prize Zadie Smith , <i>On Beauty</i>
	Israel withdraws troops from Gaza, temporarily ending its occupation of Palestine	
	Gender Recognition Act comes into effect, meaning transgender people will have their reassigned gender recognised by law	
	First partial face transplant surgery takes place in France	
2006	Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq, is executed	Naomi Alderman , <i>Disobedience</i>
	Twitter launched	J. G. Ballard , <i>Kingdom Come</i>
	A whale is spotted swimming in the River Thames	Gautam Malkani , <i>Londonstani</i> Sarah Waters , <i>The Night Watch</i>
2007	First model of Apple's iPhone available to buy on the market	Nicola Barker , <i>Darkmans</i>
	Amazon's Kindle released	Doris Lessing wins the Nobel Prize
	Smoking ban stops smoking in enclosed public spaces	Ian McEwan , <i>On Chesil Beach</i>
2008	Global financial crash, believed to be the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s, results in the collapse of investment bank Lehman Brothers and public bail-outs for financial institutions	James Kelman , <i>Kieron Smith, Boy</i> Salman Rushdie's <i>Midnight's Children</i> wins the 'Best of the Booker' award
	Barack Obama elected US President	
	Closure of the last working mine	
2009	MP expenses scandal: the illegitimate claims of MPs, ranging from income-generating second homes to duck houses for ponds, are exposed	Hilary Mantel , <i>Wolf Hall</i>
2010	Full body scanners introduced at UK airports	Andrea Levy , <i>The Long Song</i>
	General election results in a coalition between Conservatives and Liberal Democrats; Chancellor George Osborne announces Austerity to reduce deficit, involving drastic cuts to public services	Tom McCarthy , <i>C</i>
	The Equality Act requires employers to give equal access to jobs across different age groups, races, genders and religions	

CHRONOLOGY

(cont.)

Date	Events	Publications
2011	Mark Duggan shot and killed by police in Tottenham, London, on suspicion of possessing a gun. His death catalyses riots across London Osama Bin Laden assassinated in Pakistan by US special forces	First issue of arts and literary journal <i>The White Review</i> Julian Barnes , <i>The Sense of an Ending</i> Luke Williams , <i>The Echo Chamber</i>
2012	Car manufacturer Ford closes its last UK production plant in Dagenham, East London PM David Cameron issues apology over police misconduct in Hillsborough disaster Scientists at the CERN Large Hadron Collider – the world’s most powerful particle accelerator – observe proof of the Higgs Boson particle After government cuts, universities allowed to raise tuition fees to £9,000 per year (later capped at £9,250), in comparison with £3,375 in previous years	John Lanchester , <i>Capital</i> Zadie Smith , <i>NW</i>
2013	Britain deploys troops to Syria Same-sex marriage legalised in England and Wales. Scotland follow suit the following year and although public opinion polls show Northern Ireland in favour of same-sex marriage it has not been legislated	Goldsmiths Prize established for fiction that ‘embodies the spirit of invention’ Eleanor Catton , <i>The Luminaries</i>
2014	Scotland holds referendum for independence from the rest of UK, majority vote to stay in the UK First REF (Research Excellence Framework) takes place in UK universities, a controversial new system for measuring the ‘quality’ of research ‘Selfie’ is added to the <i>OED</i>	Helen Oyeyemi , <i>Boy, Snow, Bird</i> Ali Smith , <i>How to Be Both</i>
2015	European Migrant Crisis begins. It is estimated that over 1 million people – displaced by conflict and climate change – have tried to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea Jeremy Corbyn elected as leader of the Labour Party	University of East Anglia opens British Archive for Contemporary Writing, includes holdings of Nobel Laureate Doris Lessing Kazuo Ishiguro , <i>The Buried Giant</i> Tom McCarthy , <i>Satin Island</i>
2016	Jo Cox, MP murdered in her Leicestershire constituency by far-right terrorist	Man Booker International Prize established Deborah Levy , <i>Hot Milk</i>

CHRONOLOGY

(cont.)

Date	Events	Publications
	UK holds EU referendum, majority vote to leave the Union beginning exit of the UK from the EU (dubbed 'Brexit'); David Cameron resigns and Theresa May becomes PM	Ian McEwan , <i>Nutshell</i> Ali Smith , <i>Autumn</i> (the first of a quartet) Zadie Smith , <i>Swing Time</i>
	Department for Education adds TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) to REF as a measure of teaching quality	
	Scotland ends Right to Buy	
	Junior doctors strike over proposed changes to working hours	
2017	May calls snap election and loses majority, creates coalition with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	Kazuo Ishiguro wins the Nobel Prize Jon McGregor , <i>Reservoir 13</i> Kamila Shamsie , <i>Home Fire</i>
	Fire at Grenfell Tower, London. Official death toll stands at seventy-one	Inaugural Republic of Consciousness Prize for small press publications
	Donald Trump elected as US President	
	Bomb at a pop concert in Manchester Arena kills twenty-two and injures over 100 people	
	Film, TV, and music streams and downloads overtake physical sales for first time in UK	
	'#metoo' campaign highlights the frequency of women's experiences of sexual assault	
	Government privatises portion of its student loan books	
2018	Volvo makes decision to stop developing new models of petrol engine and invest in electric motor development	
	'Despacito' by Luis Fonsi ft Daddy Yankee becomes the most viewed video on YouTube, accumulating over 5 billion views	