

Most recent buy

"Virgil's Aeneid. In a nice publication (so I'm a bit bibliophilic after all then), translation by Robert Fagels."

Most appealing Hero/Heroine?

"I find Satan in Paradise Lost to be an extremely interesting figure. And Tristram Shandy of course."

My Imaginary Bookshelf

"I wouldn't take much with me, though at least enough for a certain period of time. I would of course take The Complete Shakespeare with me and the Riverside Milton. And *Ulysses* [by James Joyce], so I have a reason to read it again. Also Wallace Steven's poetry. Oh, and Proust of course, so I can finally read it. And the Bible. And some Dickens too, because one needs to get a good read too."

Introducing Marion Elenbaas

This semester, some new faces have arrived at the English department. One of those new faces is Dr. Marion Elenbaas, who teaches, amongst other courses, Linguistics 4 (the linguistic history of English).



What do you think of the students here, compared to when you were a student?

Gosh, that is a difficult question... I think that overall, students are very enthusiastic, they've made a clear choice for English. I've only been teaching for five weeks here in Leiden so that makes it difficult for me to say something definitive about it now. The system has changed of course; when I was a student, the BA/MA system hadn't been introduced yet. That may have brought about some changes. Maybe not so much in the attitude of students but in the way they approach their studies.

What did you do before coming to Leiden?

After graduating from the University of Leiden in 2001 I went on to do a PhD at the Radboud University Nijmegen which I defended in January of this year. I spent last year in Manchester where I was a temporary lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at the University of Manchester.

Why did you choose Leiden?

Because the job was exactly what I wanted and it's great it happened to be in Leiden because I already knew Leiden. I knew the department because I was a student here and I think it's a fantastic department to work in. I like the fact that it's an English department with a linguistics section, a philology section, a literature section and a language acquisition section. I'm a linguist, but my interests reach beyond linguistics too.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

One of the things I really enjoy is to be able to combine research with teaching. I like being in touch with students, and I hope to make them enthusiastic for linguistics, specifically historical linguistics in my case, and more specifically syntax. That's definitely one of the things I enjoy doing. I also think it's important to involve them in research. [More information on her research you can find in the article 'Current Research of the Staff' on page 4,5 and 6]

What's your favourite book?

(sighing) Oh, I'm so bad at these things, because there are so many books that I really enjoyed! Let's see. Well, at the moment I'm reading a Dutch one. But one recent English book I really enjoyed was Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. I've always enjoyed Victorian novels; I like George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. I guess I was one of the few students who actually enjoyed it.

By Tessa Obbens