

# Martin Billingham (BA, MA)

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## Online profiles

Academia.edu: [www.ucl.academia.edu/MartinBillingham](http://www.ucl.academia.edu/MartinBillingham)

Blog: [www.listen-learn-standup-speak.com](http://www.listen-learn-standup-speak.com)

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## Academic History

**MA Educational Assessment**, Institute of Education, UCL. (Oct 2018 - present)

Part-time

Study emphasis: The validity and reliability of assessment in Dialogic learning and Oracy pedagogy.

### Year 1 modules:

- Assessment Issues and Practice
- Investigating Research into Schooling, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning
- Assessment for Learning

**MA Drama: Stand-up Comedy**, University of Kent. (2013 - 2014)

Merit awarded

Study emphasis: Stand-up comedy performance, theory, practise and application

**Master's thesis:** "Can techniques in Stand-up comedy aid effective teaching practice?"

**BA (Hons) Interactive Media and Fine Art**, Arts University of Bournemouth. (2008 - 2011)

Awarded 2:1

Study emphasis: production of interactive artwork in regards to the theme of relational aesthetics

**Dissertation:** "Interactive Art, Psychology and Self: How interactive and mediated experiences affect the psychological and sociological aspects of human behaviour".

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## Relevant professional experience

**Ongoing research – UK representative** of 'Stand-up Comedy in Science Education' International Action Research project. (Feb 2019 - present)

- Using Applied Theatre techniques: Stand-up Comedy to inform Initial Teacher Training practice. (Greece, Belgium, Norway, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom)

**Collaborator** with Cambridge University: CEDiR project. (Aug 2018 - present)

- Preparing teachers to use SEDA codes of dialogue for observation and assessment activities.

**Proprietor & Lead Trainer** at Funny You Should Say That: Public Speaking Made Fun. (May 2014 - present)

- Specialising in public speaking and confidence skills through performance and stand-up comedy exercises. Reinforced by my experience as a semi-professional stand-up comedian and Master's degree in stand-up theory and practise.
- Led workshop 'Science on Stage' for 15 University of Kent students and teaching staff in the Science and Mathematics departments.
- Skills gained: marketing and promotion, contract negotiation, asset management and impact assessment.

**Co-lead for Sixth Form Projects** at Six21, London. (Sept 2017 - Sept 2018)

- Designing, planning, delivering whole year group sessions on 'design thinking' and facilitating social action projects e.g. Project Home (awareness of homelessness) & Intergenerational learning project (interaction between elderly and school population).
- Communicating effectively and confidently with a range of stakeholders such as employers, charities and other educational institutions.
- LinkedIn recommendation by colleague: *"Have found Martin to be a positive and friendly co-teacher who has a strong sense of integrity and is keen to make a difference. He was particularly good on our intergenerational project bringing sixth formers together with the elderly. He is easy to work with, adaptable and professional."*

**Pupil Achievement Coach** at School 21, London. (Sept 2016 - Sept 2018)

- Leading Harkness debates and LIT Programme interventions.
- Providing educational and pastoral support for primary and secondary students as part of the inclusion team, under direction of the SENCO.
- Specialising in English language, literature and speaking & listening.
- Working directly with SEN students, designing, producing and delivering interventions aimed to improve students' academic abilities, well-being and life skills.

**Advisor to academic publication:** "A Philosophy of Comedy on Stage and Screen: You Have to be There" - Dr Shaun May. (June-Dec 2015)

- Editorial assistant in conversion of academic writing into commercially viable publication.

**FE Supply teacher** at East Kent College. (May 2015 - Aug 2016)

- Planning, preparing and delivering resources and assessments of Post-16 students.

**Personal Mentor in Higher Education (HNC level)** at East Kent College. (Sept 2014 - Aug 2016)

- 1:1 mentoring of HNC students in performing arts, art and design and engineering.
- Focused support of students with learning needs and mental health difficulties.
- Developing and maintaining Individual Learner Training Plans (ILPs), differentiation materials and in-class support.

**Learning Support Practitioner** at East Kent College. (Feb 2014 - Aug 2016)

- Teacher's Assistant for performing arts (FE level).
- Facilitating the learning potential of students, reporting to staff to ensure that students' needs and learning objectives are being met.

**Learning support / ICT tutor** at Lifescopes Learning Mental Health Charity. (Jan 2010 - June 2011)

- Facilitating computing and internet skills for clients with mental health issues.
- This position was designed as complimentary to recovery and rehabilitation.

**Academic Conferences/seminars**

**Forthcoming:**

- "Comedy and the Classroom: You Must Be Joking?" panel seminar, Brunel University, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – panellist.

**Given:**

- "Group Work & Group Talk: Assessing Collaboration and Dialogue," Craftsmanship presentation, June 2018.
- "Dialogic Classroom CPD: Understanding the State of Dialogic Learning," London Association for the Teaching of English (LATE), March 2018.
- "Stand-up Educator," The Great Oracy Exhibition, School 21, March 2018.

- “Stand-up Comedy Applied to Educational Practices”, BSCA (British Stand-up Comedy Archive), Feb 2016.
  - “There’s Something Seriously Funny about the English Language,” PALA International, July 2015.
  - “Methods in Teaching and Stand-up Comedy: how do they relate?” Masters research seminar, University of Kent, Canterbury April 2015
  - “Can techniques in Stand-up comedy aid effective teaching practice?” Masters dissertation paper, University of Kent, Canterbury, Nov 2014
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### **Additional professional experience**

**Workshop Instructor** at University of Kent. (Jun 2014 - Dec 2014)

- Leading stand-up comedy workshops for the Widening Participation department.
- Focused on confidence building and public speaking exercises, working closely with a network of ambassadors and HE staff.
- Exceeded targets set by department regarding student engagement resulting in a showcase of student work at a local theatre.

**Founding member, organiser and dramatic performer** at OutsideIN Creative Collective (June 2011)

- Urban regeneration and arts organisation based in Bournemouth.
- Group aims were to reengage the public with dilapidated area of the high st, creating a pop-up interactive art installation within empty retail space ‘slack space’ resulting in economic and commercial uptake of empty units.
- Was personally responsible for resource management, applying for funding and sourcing in-kind contributions from Arts University of Bournemouth, Sita Suez, Ellis & Partners and won BBC Radio Solent’s ‘Community Chest’ award and appeared on ‘Vision News South’
- Resulted in an honorary membership of the Bournemouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC)

**English Teaching Assistant** at ‘Santa Teresa de Jesús’ Vilanova I la Geltru, Barcelona, Spain. (Sept 2012 - Jul 2013)

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### **Successful Funding Bids**

- Lifescopes learning: I was able to successfully bid for and obtain **£50,000** of funding for the organisation, this supported the expansion of the programme, staff and client numbers and further resources. I successfully negotiated a portion of these funds to be applied to staff training.
  - OutsideIN Creative Collective: through negotiation with local government representatives, estate agents, universities and local businesses. This resulted in raising over **£4000** in funding for the project.
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### **Key skills**

- Highly skilled in all areas of computing including Adobe suite, Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint.
  - Undertaking formal training in quantitative and qualitative research methods (including start to learn SPSS) through current Master’s module.
  - Spanish language (Intermediate).
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## **Other qualifications**

- **Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector** (CTLLS) Bournemouth and Poole College. (Jul 2011-Jan 2012)
- **Emergency First Aid at Work** - Emergency First Aid Ltd (Sep 2016 - valid for 3 years)
- **Essential knowledge of Key Stage Teaching Level 2** - Reaching Your Potential, ABC Awards. (Nov 2016)
- **Equality and Diversity Level 2** - Acacia Training (2012)

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**References available upon request**