

UNIVERSITY LEARNING & TEACHING AWARD HOLDERS PROFILE

[Sarah Jane Dickenson,](#) **Drama, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Sarah Jane is Deputy Dean for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Senior Lecturer in Drama and a University Teaching Fellow. Sarah Jane's current Teaching & Learning interests lie primarily in Applied Drama practice and the theoretical and practical investigation of scriptwriting structure.

A large part of her research takes the form of Practice as Research; currently she is working on 'The Transitions' project. 'The Transitions' project is part of a seven-year research project which considers how effective the practice of Applied Drama can be in promoting Active Citizenship. The project has already involved between fourteen and eighteen secondary schools in Lincolnshire, inmates from local prisons and undergraduate students. The specific research interrogation of this stage of the project focuses on migrant assimilation, through cascaded understanding and peer teaching and learning and the identification and exploration of 'tipping points' in social and cultural interaction.

The project has four overlapping phases identified as 'Booters', 'The Landing', 'Transitions' and 'The Tipping Point'. The catalyst for each phase of work has been a play script written by Sarah Jane. The research imperatives regarding the script question the role of the playwright in relation to Applied Drama and current specific analysis considers in 'The Tipping Point' phase, a consideration of the effectiveness of traditional Athenian chorus structures when scripting for Applied Drama.

Sarah Jane has most recently been commissioned to write a play for the Goethe-Institut to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The play 'Not Yet' is aimed at young people and has been toured in the UK and after translation will probably be performed in Germany this year. Furthermore it will form the basis of a German language pack aimed at A-level students.

Sarah Jane currently teaches modules including Dramaturgy for Stage & Screen, Scriptwriting, Process Drama, Drama for Social Change, Writing for Applied Drama and Research in Practice.

Keywords: [applied drama](#), [scriptwriting](#), [citizenship](#), [migrant experience](#)