**Transcript**

***Claire Knowles – Romantic Popular Culture***

I’m an academic who works in the field of 18th and 19th century literature. But I’m not particularly interested in the kinds of people everybody knows about, your William Blake’s and your William Wordsworths and so on, so what I’m interested in are the lesser known writers of that period and there are a whole bunch who were really popular in the 18th and 19th century but have since been forgotten and most of these people you’ll be completely unsurprised to learn are women. So, my research up to now has focused on women writers of that era, and trying to rewrite them into literary history and I’m now branching off to look at other neglected writers and particularly I’m looking at what I see as emergent popular culture forms in that period. So I’m looking at, for example, poetry that was published in newspapers and there’s a whole lot out there that can be seen in the newspapers that no one’s had a chance to look at yet.

In terms of physical outcomes it would obviously be a monograph, a book. In terms of the research impact on the scholarly community and I guess particularly on my students and other people’s postgrad students, I want to explore the ways in which popular cultural forms that we’re comfortable with and very familiar with today emerged in earlier periods and create a prehistory for the popular culture that we know today. So if I can have some impact on the way in which we think about the history of popular culture I’ll be very happy.