Steve is at present completing a creative-critical PhD in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Aberystwyth. In the session he will be reading from and discussing his recent sequence of poems on urban environments. A selection of this work appears in the current issue of the magazine *Poetry Wales* (Winter, 2010-11)
1. Collage

Those pancakes were delicious
The tap is running
A dress as black as her nails
It’s absolutely impossible
Look Sir
The malachite ring
The ground is covered with sawdust
So it’s true
The redhaired waitress was abducted by a bookseller

- Guillaume Apollinaire, 'Zone', 1913

Here you are in Marseilles among the watermelons
Here you are in Coblenz at the Sign of the Giant
And here you are in Rome under a Japanese medlar-tree
Here you are in Amsterdam with a girl whom you think is beautiful and who is ugly

- Guillaume Apollinaire, 'Rue Christine Monday', 1913

2. Zones

- Borderless frontier worlds
- Juxtapose places not connected on real-world maps
- Superimpose different times and localities

- Brian McHale, Postmodernist Fiction

‘The iron districts had no urban traditions. Although a mass society developed there, it happened in a frontier world, a world lacking the graces of civic life. The people who created the communities which grew up under the shadow of the ironworks brought with them the traditions and values of the countryside from whence they came.’

- John Davies, A History of Wales
3. Cut-ups

Take a newspaper.
Take some scissors.
Choose from this paper an article of the length you want to make your poem.
Cut out the article.
Next carefully cut out each of the words that makes up this article and put them all in a bag.
Shake gently.
Next take out each cutting one after the other.
Copy conscientiously in the order in which they left the bag.

- Tristan Tzara, 'Manifesto of Feeble Love and Bitter Love'

Cut right through the pages of any book or newsprint… lengthwise, for example, and shuffle the columns of text. Put them together at hazard and read the newly constituted message.

- William Burroughs & Brion Gysin, The Third Mind

Take a page… Now cut down the middle and across the middle. You have four sections… Now rearrange the sections placing section four with section one and section two with section three.

- ibid

4. Interzone

Burroughs’s zone, or interzone, is a vast, ramshackle structure in which all the world’s architectural styles are fused and all its races and cultures mingle, the apotheosis of the Third World shanty-town.

- Brian McHale, Postmodernist Fiction

America is not a young land: it is old and dirty and evil before the settlers, before the Indians. The evil is there waiting.

- William Burroughs, Naked Lunch