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EDUCATION

The Johns Hopkins University

- MA (1996) and Ph. D. (1999), English and American Literature
- M.A., Poetry, Writing Seminars Department (1993)
- B.A./M.A. with University Honors and Honors in the Humanities (1992)

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Yale University

- Associate Professor of English (untenured), April, 2004 to the present
- Assistant Professor of English, July, 1999 to April, 2004
(off-clock 2001-2002, 2003-2004)

The Johns Hopkins University

- Instructor, English Department, 1992-93 and Fall, 1996

BOOK

- *The Holocaust of Texts: Genocide, Literature, and Personification* (University of Chicago Press, 2003)

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

- *Postmodern Belief: American Literature and Religion Since 1960* (under contract, Princeton University Press; delivery date: January, 2008). Examines how literary works and popular religious practices imagine belief through the non-semantic aspects of language. Argues that doing so bridges the gap between intense belief and a commitment to pluralism in American culture. Texts include fiction, poetry, religious writings, popular culture discourse, literary criticism and theory, theology, and religious studies scholarship.
- *The Cambridge Introduction to the American Novel Since 1945* (under contract, Cambridge University Press). A student introduction to American fiction in the period.

ARTICLES

- "The Bible and Illiterature," under review, *American Literature*.

- “On the Field Formerly Known as Contemporary,” forthcoming winter, 2008, *American Literary History*.
- “Edward P. Jones and the Terror of Literacy,” forthcoming fall, 2007, *The Yale Review*.
- “Don DeLillo’s Latin Mass,” *Contemporary Literature* 47.3 (Fall, 2006): 343-80.
- “Postmodern Supernaturalism: Ginsberg and the Search for a Supernatural Language,” in “Contercultural Capital,” edited by Sean McCann and Michael Szalay, a special issue of the *Yale Journal of Criticism* 18.2 (Fall, 2005): 269-98.
- “Teaching Fiction, Teaching the Holocaust,” in *Approaches to Teaching the Holocaust*, ed. Marianne Hirsch and Irene Kacandes (New York: Modern Language Association, 2004), 180-90.
- “Memorizing Memory,” in the “Interpretation and the Holocaust” special issue of the *Yale Journal of Criticism* 14:1 (Spring, 2001): 67-92.
- “Surviving Rego Park: Holocaust Theory from Art Spiegelman to Berel Lang,” in *The Americanization of the Holocaust*, ed. Hilene Flanzbaum (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999), 102-24.
- “Ted Hughes, Fatal Poetry, and the Poetry of Fate,” *Boulevard* 14:1-2 (Fall, 1998): 94-100.
- Book Review: Oliver Harris, *William Burroughs and the Secret of Fascination*, in *Studies in the Novel* (forthcoming).
- Book Review: Ruth Leys, *Trauma, A Genealogy* and Juliet Flower McCannell, *The Hysteric's guide to the Future Female Subject*, in *Signs* 29:3 (Spring 2004): 942-45.
- Review article: “The Ambivalent Detective,” review of Sean McCann, *Gumshoe America* and Greg Forter, *Murdering Masculinities: Fantasies of Gender and Violence in the American Crime Novel*, in *Modern Fiction Studies* 49:2 (Summer, 2003): 348-54.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Founding member of Post-45, a collective of scholars working in American literature and culture since 1945, and co-chair of its first annual conference, “Mid-Century to Postmodern: The Postwar Era Reconsidered,” Oct. 27-28, 2006, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. Also co-chair of the 2007 conference, to be held at Harvard University, and slated as host for the 2008 conference, to be held at my home institution.
- Editorial Committee, *Yale Studies in English*, Yale University Press, May, 2006 to the present.

- Reviewer of manuscript submissions for *SIGNS*, *PMLA*, *Twentieth Century Literature*, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, University of Chicago Press, Palgrave, Cambridge University Press: ongoing.
- Regular culture commentator on American Public Media's Weekend America, produced by KPCC-FM, Los Angeles, aired nation-wide on NPR; ongoing since December, 2004.
- Consultant to New Haven Arts and Ideas Festival (working on planned visit of Daniel Libeskind, for which I traveled to Berlin to prepare for the event; event later cancelled due to death of Mr. Libeskind's father), Spring, 2001.
- Editor (as one of an editorial collective of seven), *Yale Journal of Criticism*, January, 2000 to January, 2002; special issue co-editor, "Interpretation and the Holocaust," Spring, 2001. Returning to the collective for the final issue of the journal, August to December, 2005.
- Member, New York Americanists Group, Fall, 1999-Spring, 2001.
- Assistant Editor, *English Literary History (ELH)*, January, 1997-July, 1998.

PRESENTATIONS

- "On the Field Formerly Known as Contemporary," invited lecture, 20th Anniversary Symposium for *American Literary History*, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, upcoming, April 5, 2007.
- "Believing in Literature, 1950 and After," invited lecture, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 5, 2007.
- "The Bible and Illiterature," invited lecture, Department of English, University of California at Irvine, November 22, 2006.
- "Religious Reading: *Left Behind* and the Problem of Belief," presented at "Mid-century to Postmodern: The Postwar Era Reconsidered," the first annual meeting of the Postmodern Studies Association (now renamed Post-45), Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, October 27-28, 2006.
- "Believing in Literature," presented for "At the Margins of Belief," a conference at the Humanities Center, University of California at Irvine, May 12, 2006.
- "The Bible and Contemporary Fiction," Berkeley College Fellowship, Yale University, November 28, 2005.
- "Baldwin's Religious Ecstasy," for the panel "The Uses of Modern Ecstasy," Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, November 7, 2005 (also the organizer for this panel).

- “Postmodern Supernaturalism,” Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, December, 2004.
- “On Don DeLillo and the Latin Mass,” Department of English, Boston University, February, 2004.
- “Postmodern Supernaturalism: Allen Ginsberg and Supernatural Language in the Sixties,” Department of English, University of Kentucky, January, 2004.
- “Cattle Killing and Community” (on John Edgar Wideman and Zakes Mda), American Studies Association annual conference, Hartford, Connecticut, October, 2003.
- “Sacred Trash,” presented for the Don DeLillo Society, American Literature Conference, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May, 2003.
- “Imagining Cultural Genocide Since 1948: The Story of How Texts Become Persons,” invited lecture, presented at “The Holocaust: Literature and Representation,” a symposium at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, sponsored by the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, May 24, 2001.
- “Don DeLillo's American Religion,” presented at the American Comparative Literature Association annual conference, Boulder, Colorado, April, 2001.
- “Trauma and the Technologies of Transmission,” presented at the New York Americanists group, Fordham University, March, 2000.
- “Nuclear Holocaust and the Literary Victim,” presented at the American Comparative Literature Association's annual conference, Yale University, February, 2000.
- “Nuclear Holocaust and the Literary Victim,” (in a longer version), Department of English, University of Chicago, January, 1999.
- “History and Its Uses in Saul Bellow,” presented at the North East Modern Language Association annual meeting, April, 1998.
- “From *Maus* to the Museum: Technologies of Recruitment in Holocaust Discourse,” presented at the “Contested Sites” conference, sponsored by the Program in American Cultures, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, April, 1997.

TEACHING

Term courses

- Literature Now (sophomore seminar with advising component)
- Four American Writers Since 1940 (senior seminar)
- American Literature Since 1945 (lecture course)
- Postmodern Fiction, Postmodern Theory (graduate seminar)

- Introduction to the Study of American Literature (full-year course, 17^h through 20th centuries, multiple genres)
- Holocaust and Literature, 1950 to the Present (junior seminar)
- Directed readings: Contemporary fiction (graduate and undergraduate versions)
- Introduction to Literary Study (composition and literature course)
- What Haunts America? (composition and literature course)
- Contemporary American Letters (introductory creative writing and literature course, Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars)

Short Courses

- Instructor, Holocaust Literature Seminar, Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish History, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, June 30-July 1, 2003.
- Instructor, “Survival Stories” Seminar, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute (seminar program for New Haven public school teachers), March-July, 2002.

SERVICE

Administrative Positions

- Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, English Department, 2004-05, 2006-07
- Assistant Director, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, 2000-01

English Department

- Coordinator, Americanist Colloquium, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2006-07
- Junior Appointments, 2003-04, 2004-2005, 2006-07
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2001-02, 2004-05, 2006-07
- Aims and Procedures (elected), 2004-05
- Dissertation advising, as director and committee member, 2004 to the present
- Course Director, English 127, Spring, 2002
- Graduate Mentor, 2000-01, 2001-02
- Committee for English 127, 2000-01
- Honors and Prizes, 1999-2000, 2000-01
- Senior essay advising, 2000 to the present
- English major and sophomore advising, 1999 to the present

American Studies

- Executive Committee, American Studies Program, 1999-2000, 2000-01

University

- Chair, Truman Scholarship Selection Committee, 2006-07
- Writing Center Advisory Committee, 2004-05, 2006-07
- Saybrook College, Freshman advisor, 2004-05, 2006-07
- Faculty Advisory Committee, Beinecke Library, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2006-07
- Steering Committee, Davis Foundation Grant for collections-based learning (Sterling Memorial Library), Spring, 2005
- Hilles/Griswold Funds Committee, Whitney Humanities Center, 2004-05
- University Tribunal, 2003-04, 2004-05
- Committee on Yale College Education, member of Humanities and Coordinating Subcommittees, January, 2002 to May, 2003

- Committee on the Future of the Whitney Humanities Center, 2000-01
- Tanner Lectures Committee, 2000-01
- Finzi-Contini Lecture Committee, 2000-01
- Founder and convenor, Holocaust Working Group, Whitney Humanities Center, 1999-2000, 2000-01

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Poorvu Family Prize of Yale College, for innovation and excellence in interdisciplinary teaching (for “Literature Now” seminar), Spring, 2005
- Junior Faculty Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, 2004-2005
- Grant from the Electronic Library Initiative Project, Spring, 2004, Fall, 2005
- Grant from the Paul Moore Fund for Innovation in Teaching, Spring, 2004
- Grant from the Griswold Fund for research, Yale University, Spring, 2003
- Samuel and Ronnie Heyman Prize, Yale University, for outstanding first book by Yale junior faculty, Summer, 2002
- Morse Fellowship for the 2002-2003 academic year, awarded Fall, 2001
- Grant from the Frederick W. Hilles Publications Fund, Yale University, Fall, 2001
- Phi Beta Kappa, 1992
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship, 1990