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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

- Professor of English, July, 2007 to the present
- Associate Professor of English (untenured), April, 2004 to June, 2007
- Assistant Professor of English, July, 1999 to April, 2004

The Johns Hopkins University

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

BOOKS

- *Postmodern Belief: American Literature and Religion Since 1960* (forthcoming, 20/21 Series, Princeton University Press, 2010)
- *The Holocaust of Texts: Genocide, Literature, and Personification* (University of Chicago Press, 2003)

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

- *The Cambridge Introduction to the American Novel Since 1945* (under contract, Cambridge University Press). A student introduction to American fiction in the period.
- *This is McSweeney's*. Book for academic and general readers about the projects and social networks associated with the author, book designer, publisher and education activist, Dave Eggers.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Blog posts (Books section; ongoing since September, 2009), *The Huffington Post*
- Review of Margaret Atwood, *The Year of the Flood*, DoubleX.com (publication of Slate.com), Sept. 23, 2009.

- “Fiction in Review” (Review essay on Colson Whitehead’s *Sag Harbor*), *Yale Review* (forthcoming, Winter, 2010).
- “Religion and the Twentieth-Century American Novel,” forthcoming in *The Cambridge History of American Literature*.
- “Fiction in Review” (Review essay on Denis Johnson’s *Tree of Smoke*), *Yale Review* (Winter, 2009).
- “On the Field Formerly Known as Contemporary,” *American Literary History* (Winter, 2008).
- “Fiction in Review” (Review essay on Edward P. Jones’s *All Aunt Hagar’s Children*) *The Yale Review* (Fall, 2007).
- “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: Susan Gubar, *Rooms of Our Own*, in “Witness,” special issue, ed. Kathryn Abrams and Irene Kacandes, *Signs* 36.1-2, 310-14.
- 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

- Associate Editor for American fiction, *Contemporary Literature* (since September, 2008)
- Editorial Board, Post•45 Series, Stanford University Press
- Commentator on American Public Media's Weekend America, produced by American Public Media, Minneapolis, aired nation-wide on NPR; December, 2004 through January, 2009 (when the show went off the air).
- Featured lecturer, Open Yale Courses. All the lectures in my course, "American Novel Since 1945" during the spring of 2008 were videotaped and transcribed to be made available free on the internet through the Open Yale project. Lectures at <http://oyc.yale.edu/> (select English from left-hand menu). One of four featured lectures in *Time* magazine article on online education, April 28, 2009.
- 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, held at Harvard University in October, 2007, and host for the 2008 conference, Yale University, November, 2008.
- 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.
- 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

- "Believing In Literature: Eisenhower, Salinger, St. Jacques Derrida," precirculated paper presented to the American Colloquium, Harvard University, October 28, 2009.
- Respondant, Joshua Lambert, "Unclean Lips: Obscenity and Jews in American Literature," Center for Jewish History, New York, NY, October 26, 2009.

- “The Literary Practice of Belief,” precirculated paper presented to the Americanist Colloquium, Yale University, September 24, 2009.
- Roundtable presenter, “The Making of the Cambridge History of the American Novel,” American Literature Association annual conference, Cambridge, MA, May 21-24, 2009.
- Roundtable presenter, “Don DeLillo and Religion,” American Literature Association annual conference, Cambridge, MA, May 21-24, 2009.
- “McSweeney’s and the School of Life,” talk delivered at Post•45, November, 2008, Yale University.
- “The Bible and Illiterature,” precirculated chapter presented at Post•45, Harvard University, October, 2007.
- “On the Field Formerly Known as Contemporary,” invited lecture, 20th Anniversary Symposium for *American Literary History*, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, 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

- Introduction to the Study of American Literature (full-year course, 17^h through 20th centuries, multiple genres)
- 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)
- Literature Now (sophomore seminar with advising component)
- American Literature Since 1945 (lecture course)
- Holocaust and Literature, 1950 to the Present (junior seminar)
- Four American Writers Since 1940 (senior seminar)
- Directed readings: Contemporary fiction (graduate and undergraduate versions)
- Postmodern Fiction, Postmodern Theory (graduate seminar)

- Post-1945 American Fiction (graduate seminar)
- The Teaching of English (graduate teaching practicum)

Bread Loaf School of English

- “Religion and the Twentieth-Century American Novel,” Summer, 2009.

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

- Director of Undergraduate Studies (January 2009 to the present)
- Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, English Department, 2004-05, 2006-08
- Assistant Director, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, 2000-01

English Department

- Junior Appointments, 2003-04, 2004-2005, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2009-10
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2001-02, 2004-05, 2006-07, 2007-08, Spring, 2009, 2009-10
- Coordinator, Americanist Colloquium, 2003-04, 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, 2009-10

University

- Steering Committee, Whitney Humanities Center (since Fall, 2008)
- Chair, Course of Study Committee (reviews and must approve all changes to curricula in Yale College; prepared comprehensive report on the senior requirement in Yale College), 2007-08
- Chair, Graduate School Disciplinary Committee, 2007-08
- 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