Stanford



Joshua Landy

Andrew B. Hammond Professor of French Language, Literature and Civilization, and Professor of Comparative Literature and, by courtesy, of English and of Philosophy

French and Italian

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Joshua Landy is the Andrew B. Hammond Professor of French, Professor of Comparative Literature, and co-director of the Literature and Philosophy Initiative at Stanford, home to a PhD minor and undergraduate major tracks in Philosophy and Literature.

Professor Landy is the author of Philosophy as Fiction: Self, Deception, and Knowledge in Proust (Oxford, 2004), How To Do Things with Fictions (Oxford, 2012), and The World According to Proust (Oxford, 2023). He is also the co-editor of two volumes, Thematics: New Approaches (SUNY, 1995, with Claude Bremond and Thomas Pavel) and The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age (Stanford, 2009, with Michael Saler). Philosophy as Fiction deals with issues of self-knowledge, self-deception, and self-fashioning in Proust's "A la recherche du temps perdu," while raising the question of what literary form contributes to an engagement with such questions. How to Do Things with Fictions explores a series of texts (by Plato, Beckett, Mallarmé, and Mark) that function as training-grounds for the mental capacities. The World According to Proust (now in paperback as Marcel Proust: A Very Short Introduction) is a reader's guide to "In Search of Lost Time."

Professor Landy has published essays in Critical Inquiry, New Literary History, Poetics Today, Narrative, SubStance, Arion, The Los Angeles Review of Books, the Wall Street Journal, and other venues, as well as chapters in The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Approaches to Literature, The Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Literature, and The Cambridge Companion to Proust.

Since 2017, Professor Landy has co-hosted the nationally syndicated public radio show "Philosophy Talk." He has also appeared on the NPR shows "Forum" and "To the Best of our Knowledge."

Professor Landy has received the Walter J. Gores Award for Teaching Excellence (1999) and the Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching (2001). As of Fall 2024, he is the Eleanor Loring Ritch University Fellow in Undergraduate Education.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, French and Italian
- Professor, Comparative Literature
- Professor (By courtesy), English
- Professor (By courtesy), Philosophy
- Member, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Department of French and Italian, Stanford University, (1996-2004)
- Co-director of the Initiative in Philosophy and Literature, Stanford University, (2004- present)
- Visiting Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago, (2004-2004)
- Associate Professor, Department of French and Italian, Stanford University, (2004-2007)
- Associate Professor, Department of French and Italian and (by courtesy) of English, Stanford University, (2007-2013)
- Professor, Departments of Comparative Literature, French & Italian, and (by courtesy) English, Stanford, (2013- present)
- Andrew B. Hammond Chair of French Language, Literature, and Civilization, Department of French and Italian, Stanford University, (2013- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Fellowship, National Humanities Center (2011 - 2012)
- Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University (2001)
- The Walter J. Gores Award for Teaching Excellence, Stanford University (1999)
- Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorific Fellowship in the Humanities, Princeton University (1994 - 1995)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Editorial board member, Oxford Series in Philosophy and Literature (2014 - present)
- Director of Graduate Studies, French, Stanford University (2013 - 2015)
- Editorial board member, Arcade (2009 - present)
- Member, Stanford Humanities Fellows Executive Committee, Stanford University (2009 - present)
- Chair, Department of French and Italian, Stanford University (2006 - 2007)
- Co-founder, co-director, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy and Literature Initiative, Stanford University (2004 - present)
- Co-chair, Philosophy and Literature Focal Group, Stanford University (2002 - present)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies (intermittent), French, Stanford University (1998 - 2005)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Thought and Literature
- Philosophy and Literature

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Princeton University , Comparative Literature (1997)
- MA, Cambridge University , French & German (1991)
- BA, Churchill College, Cambridge , French & German (1988)

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Film & Philosophy: PHIL 193C (Spr)
- Literature and the Brain: COMPLIT 138, COMPLIT 238, FRENCH 118, FRENCH 218, PSYC 126, PSYCH 118F (Win)
- Literature, Narrative, and the Self: COMPLIT 328, ENGLISH 328, FRENCH 328, ITALIAN 328 (Aut)
- Philosophy and Literature: CLASSICS 42, COMPLIT 181, ENGLISH 81, FRENCH 181, GERMAN 181, ITALIAN 181, PHIL 81, SLAVIC 181 (Win)

- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Win, Spr)

2025-26

- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Win, Spr)

2024-25

- Comparative Literature Pro-seminar: COMPLIT 346 (Win)
- Literature and the Brain: COMPLIT 138, COMPLIT 238, ENGLISH 118, ENGLISH 218, FRENCH 118, FRENCH 218, PSYC 126, PSYCH 118F (Win)
- Philosophy and Literature: CLASSICS 42, COMPLIT 181, ENGLISH 81, FRENCH 181, GERMAN 181, ILAC 181, ITALIAN 181, PHIL 81, SLAVIC 181 (Spr)
- Transfigurative Lyric: Baudelaire and Mallarmé: FRENCH 269 (Aut)
- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Getting Through Proust: FRENCH 228E (Win)
- Literature and the Brain: COMPLIT 138, COMPLIT 238, ENGLISH 118, ENGLISH 218, FRENCH 118, FRENCH 218, PSYC 126, PSYCH 118F (Win)
- Literature, Narrative, and the Self: COMPLIT 328, FRENCH 328, ITALIAN 328 (Aut)
- Philosophy and Literature: CLASSICS 42, COMPLIT 181, ENGLISH 81, FRENCH 181, GERMAN 181, ILAC 181, ITALIAN 181, PHIL 81, SLAVIC 181 (Aut)
- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Win, Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Mahdi Alaoui El Hassani, Vesta Pitts, Tetheren Yu

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Korinne Hensley, Davis Tantillo

Orals Evaluator

Fernando Martinez Periset

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **LYRIC SELF-FASHIONING: SONNET 35 AS FORMAL MODEL** *PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE*
  Landy, J.
  2021; 45 (1): 224-248
- **Mental Calisthenics and Self-Reflexive Fiction** *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Approaches to Literature*
  Landy, J.
  Oxford University Press.2015: 559–80
- **Conditional Goods and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: How Literature (as a Whole) Could Matter Again** *SUB-STANCE*
  Landy, J.
  2013; 42 (2): 48-60
- **Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities** *POETICS TODAY*
  Landy, J.
  2012; 33 (2): 169-216
- **THE DEVIL, THE MASTER-CRIMINAL, AND THE RE-ENCHANTMENT OF THE WORLD (ON THE USUAL SUSPECTS)** *PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE*

Landy, J.
2012; 36 (1): 37-57

- **Deceit, Desire, and the Literature Professor: Why Girardians Exist** *Republics of Letters*
  Landy, J.
  2012; 3 (1)
- **Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman's Adaptation** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*
  Landy, J.
  2011; 37 (3): 497-514
- **Passion, Counter-Passion, Catharsis: Beckett and Flaubert on Feeling Nothing** *The Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Literature*
  Landy, J.
  edited by Hagberg, G., Jost, W.
  Oxford: Blackwell.2010: 28–38
- **Corruption by Literature** *Republics of Letters: A Journal for the Study of Knowledge, Politics, and the Arts*
  Landy, J.
  2010; 1 (2)
- **The Abyss of Freedom: Love and Legitimacy in Constant's Adolphe** *Nineteenth Century French Studies*
  Landy, J.
  2009; 37: 193-213
- **A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction** *Art and Ethical Criticism*
  Landy, J.
  edited by Hagberg, G.
  Oxford: Blackwell.2008: 63–94
- **Philosophical training grounds: Socratic sophistry and Platonic perfection in 'Symposium' and 'Gorgias'** *ARION-A JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND THE CLASSICS*
  Landy, J.
  2007; 15 (1): 63-122
- **Proust, his narrator, and the importance of the distinction** *POETICS TODAY*
  Landy, J.
  2004; 25 (1): 91-135
- **Nietzsche, Proust, and will-to-ignorance** *PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE*
  Landy, J.
  2002; 26 (1): 1-23
- **Gender Trouble (and Cognitive Science) in Baudelaire** *AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF FRENCH STUDIES*
  Landy, J.
  2025; 62 (3-4): 325-344
- **Zinger, clunker, clanger, flunker: On two-point comparisons, and why we love them** *BRITISH JOURNAL OF AESTHETICS*
  Landy, J.
  2024
- **Don't Feed the Liars! On Fraudulent Memoirs, and Why They're Bad** *PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE*
  Landy, J.
  2022; 46 (1): 137-161
- **Saving the Self from Stories: Resistance to Narrative in Primo Levi's The Periodic Table** *NARRATIVE*
  Landy, J.
  2022; 30 (1): 85-103
- **In Praise of Depth: or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Hidden** *NEW LITERARY HISTORY*
  Landy, J.

2020; 51 (1): 145–76

- **Why Proust Isn't an "Essayist," and Why It Matters** *ROMANIC REVIEW*
  Landy, J.
  2020; 111 (3): 392–407
- **THE MOST OVERRATED ARTICLE OF ALL TIME?** *PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE*
  Landy, J.
  2017; 41 (2): 465–70
- **The Point of the Pyramid: Michael Fried's Flaubert's 'Gueuloir'** *Los Angeles Review of Books*
  Landy, J.
  2013
- **How to Do Things with Fictions**
  Landy, J.
  New York: Oxford University Press.2012
- **PROUST AMONG THE PSYCHOLOGISTS** *PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE*
  Landy, J.
  2011; 35 (2): 375-387
- **Il falso di sacre teorie** *Il Manifesto*
  Landy, J.
  2011: 10-11
- **A Beautiful Life** *The Athens Review of Books*
  Landy, J., Translated by Mentzalira, C.
  2011: 14-18
- **Un égoïsme utilisable pour autrui': le statut normatif de l'auto-description chez Proust** *Morales de Proust*
  Landy, J.
  edited by Bertini, M., Compagnon, A.
  Paris: L'Harmattan.2010: 83–99
- **Secular Magic in a Rational Age** *The Human Experience*
  Landy, J.
  2010
- **The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age**
  edited by Landy, J., Saler, M.
  Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.2009
- **Re-Enchantment** *The American Scholar*
  Landy, J., Saler, M.
  2009: 10-11
- **Modern Magic: Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin and Stéphane Mallarmé** *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*
  Landy, J.
  edited by Landy, J., Saler, M.
  Stanford University Press.2009: 102–29
- **The Varieties of Modern Enchantment** *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*
  Landy, J., Saler, M.
  edited by Landy, J., Saler, M.
  Stanford University Press.2009: 1–14
- **A Beatrice for Proust?** *Poetics Today*
  Landy, J.
  2008; 28: 607-18

- **Mallarméan Magic: Retrospective Necessity, Lucid Illusion, and the Re-Enchantment of the World** *Symbolism*
  Landy, J.
  2008; 8: 259-78
- **Philosophy to the Rescue** *Philosophy and Literature*
  Landy, J.
  2007; 31: 405-19
- **The Paradox of Perfection** *Poetics Today*
  Landy, J.
  2005; 26 (1): 161-8
- **Philosophy as Fiction: Self, Deception, and Knowledge in Proust**
  Landy, J.
  New York: Oxford University Press.2004
- **Accidental Kinsmen: Proust and Nietzsche** *Philosophy and Literature*
  Landy, J.
  2003; 27: 450-5
- **Philosophy as Self-Fashioning: Alexander Nehamas's Art of Living** *Diacritics*
  Landy, J., Anderson, R. L.
  2001; 31: 25-54
- **Les Moi en Moi** *The Johns Hopkins University Press JOURNALS PUBLISHING DIVISION*
  Landy, J.
  2001; 32 (1): 91-132
- **The Texture of Proust's Novel** *Cambridge Companion to Proust*
  Landy, J.
  Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.2001: 117–34
- **Pearson on Mallarmé** *Nineteenth Century French Studies*
  Landy, J.
  1998; 26: 463-5
- **Introduction** *Thematics: New Approaches*
  Landy, J., Bremond, C., Pavel, T.
  Albany: State University of New York Press.1995: 1–6
- **Thematics: New Approaches**
  edited by Bremond, C., Pavel, T., Landy, J.
  Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.1995
- **Music, Letters, Truth and Lies: 'L'Après Midi d'un Faune' as an ars poetica** *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*
  Landy, J.
  1994; 42: 57-69