



## Mark McGurl

Albert Guérard Professor of Literature

English

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

### Bio

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#### BIO

Mark McGurl's scholarly work centers on the relation of literature to social, educational and other institutions from the late 19th century to the present. He is the author of *The Program Era: Postwar Fiction and the Rise of Creative Writing* (Harvard), which was the recipient of the Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism for 2011. His most recent book, *Everything and Less: Fiction in the Age of Amazon* (Verso 2021), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism.

McGurl's first book was *The Novel Art: Elevations of American Fiction after Henry James* (Princeton). He has also published articles in journals such as *Critical Inquiry*, *Representations*, *American Literary History*, and *New Literary History*. He teaches a range of classes on American literature and related topics.

McGurl received his BA from Harvard, then worked at the *New York Times* and the *New York Review of Books* before earning his PhD in comparative literature from Johns Hopkins. He has held fellowships from Office of the President of the University of California and the Stanford Humanities Center.

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, English

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Professor of English, Stanford University, (2011- present)
- Professor of English, University of California, Los Angeles, (1997-2011)

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

- The Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism, University of Iowa (2011)
- Hurst Visiting Professor, Washington University St. Louis (2009)
- Distinguished Teaching Award, Departmental Nominee, University of California, Los Angeles (2006)
- Distinguished Teaching Award, Departmental Nominee, University of California, Los Angeles (2008)
- Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center (2002 - 2003)
- President's Research Fellowship in the Humanities, University of California (2002 - 2003)
- Fellowship for Biographical and Literary Historical Studies, Irving Cooper (2000)
- Owen Fellowship in the Humanities, Johns Hopkins (1991 - 1994)
- Thomas J. Watson Memorial Scholarship, IBM (1985 - 1989)

- Hoopes Prize for Outstanding B.A. Thesis, Harvard (1989)
- Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Beta Kappa Society (1988)

## **BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Graduate Admissions co-chair, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Member, Graduate Committee, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Member, Richard Powers Ad Hoc Hiring Committee (2012 - 2013)
- Unit Leader, Literature Lab 20th Century (2012 - 2013)
- Elected board member, MLA Narrative Section (2012)
- Member, Geballe Workshop Selection Committee, Stanford Humanities Center (2012 - 2012)
- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Stanford English Department (2011 - 2012)
- Member, Graduate Committee, Stanford English Department (2011 - 2012)
- Member, Chair's Advisory Committee, Stanford English Department (2011 - 2012)
- American Literature Section elected board member, Modern Language Association (MLA) (2010 - 2010)
- Awards committee chair, Modern Language Association (MLA) (2010 - 2010)
- Chair, UCLA 19th Century Americanist Search Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2010 - 2011)
- Member, UCLA Transatlantic pre-1900 Search Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2008 - 2009)
- Chair, UCLA New Media Search Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2007 - 2008)
- Member, English Department Graduate Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2003 - 2007)
- Member, English Department Executive Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (1998 - 1999)
- Member, English Department Executive Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2000 - 2001)
- Member, English Department Executive Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2004 - 2005)
- Member, English Department Executive Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2007 - 2008)
- Member, UCLA Americanist Search Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2000 - 2001)
- Member, UCLA Latino/a Chicano/a Search Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2001 - 2002)
- Member, UCLA Latino/a Chicano/a Search Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2003 - 2004)
- Member, UCLA Latino/a Chicano/a Search Committee, University of California, Los Angeles (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Advisory Board, Center for Modern and Contemporary Studies, University of California, Los Angeles (2001 - 2004)
- Juror, Cal State Undergraduate Research Competition, University of California, Los Angeles (2001 - 2002)
- Editorial board member, Modern Fiction Studies (2012 - present)
- Editorial Assistant, MLN (Modern Language Notes) Comparative Literature (1993 - 1996)
- Editorial Assistant, The New York Review of Books (1990 - 1991)
- Editorial Assistant, The New York Times Magazine (1989 - 1990)

## **PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS**

- Modern Thought and Literature

## **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

- Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University , Comparative Literature (1998)
- A.B., Harvard University , Literature (1989)

## Teaching

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### COURSES

#### 2025-26

- Orals, Publication and Dissertation Workshop: ENGLISH 398W (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Pedagogy Seminar I: ENGLISH 396L (Aut)
- Thinking Through Genre: ENGLISH 346 (Win)

#### 2023-24

- Introduction to English III: Modern Literature: ENGLISH 12C (Spr)
- Media Theory for Literary Studies: ENGLISH 366F (Spr)
- Wastelands: ENGLISH 15N (Win)

#### 2022-23

- Introduction to English III: Modern Literature: ENGLISH 12C (Spr)
- Thinking Through Genre: ENGLISH 346 (Spr)

### STANFORD ADVISEES

#### Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Alexia Ainsworth

#### Orals Chair

Jon Tadmor

#### Doctoral (Program)

Caroline Bailey, Louisa Bolch-Gillett, Ido Keren

## Publications

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### PUBLICATIONS

- **The CounterText Interview: Mark McGurl** *COUNTERTEXT-A JOURNAL FOR THE STUDY OF THE POST-LITERARY*  
McGurl, M., Herbrechter, S.  
2022; 8 (3): 358-367
- **Unspeakable Conventionality: The Perversity of the Kindle** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*  
McGurl, M.  
2021; 33 (2): 394-415
- **Gigantic Realism: The Rise of the Novel and the Comedy of Scale** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*  
McGurl, M.  
2017; 43 (2): 403-430
- **Making It Big: Picturing the Radio Age in King Kong** *SCALE IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE*  
McGurl, M.  
edited by Clarke, M. T., Wittenberg, D.  
2017: 105-41
- **Everything and Less: Fiction in the Age of Amazon** *MODERN LANGUAGE QUARTERLY*  
McGurl, M.  
2016; 77 (3): 447-471

- **The Institution of Nothing: David Foster Wallace in the Program** *BOUNDARY 2-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LITERATURE AND CULTURE*  
McGurl, M.  
2014; 41 (3): 27-54
- **"Neither Indeed Could I Forebear Smiling at My Self": A Reply to Wai Chee Dimock** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*  
McGurl, M.  
2013; 39 (3): 632-638
- **The Posthuman Comedy** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*  
McGurl, M.  
2012; 38 (3): 533-553
- **Dark Times: On the 21st Century Gothic** *Los Angeles Review of Books*  
McGurl, M. J.  
2012
- **The New Cultural Geology** *Twentieth Century Literature*  
McGurl, M. J.  
2012: 380-390
- **Timing** *The Critical Pulse: 36 Credos by Contemporary Critics*  
McGurl, M. J.  
edited by Williams, J.  
Columbia UP.2012: 252–257
- **The Program Era: Postwar Fiction and the Rise of Creative Writing**  
McGurl, M. J.  
Harvard.2011
- **The Novel, Mass Culture, Mass Media** *The Cambridge History of the American Novel*  
McGurl, M. J.  
edited by Cassuto, L., Eby, C.  
2011
- **The MFA Octopus: Four Question about Creative Writing** *Los Angeles Review of Books*  
McGurl, M. J.  
2011
- **Ordinary Doom: Literary Studies in the Waste Land of the Present** *NEW LITERARY HISTORY*  
McGurl, M.  
2010; 41 (2): 329-349
- **The Zombie Renaissance** *n+1*  
McGurl, M. J.  
2010
- **The Program Era: Postwar Fiction and the Rise of Creative Writing**  
McGurl, M. J.  
Harvard.2009
- **Understanding Iowa: Flannery O'Connor, B.A., M.F.A.** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*  
McGurl, M.  
2007; 19 (2): 527-545
- **Learning from Little Tree, or, The Political Education of the Counterculture** *Yale Journal of Criticism*  
McGurl, M. J.  
2006

- **Scorned Literature: Essays on the History and Criticism of Popular Mass-Produced Fiction in America** *Paradoxa: Studies in WorldLiterary Genres*  
McGurl, M. J.  
2006
- **The program era: Pluralisms of postwar American fiction** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*  
MCGURL, M.  
2005; 32 (1): 102-129
- **The Novel Art: Elevations of American Fiction after Henry James**  
McGurl, M. J.  
Princeton.2001
- **Social geometries: Taking place in Henry James** *REPRESENTATIONS*  
MCGURL, M.  
1999: 59-83
- **Excluded Middle: Janice Radway's A Feeling for Books**  
McGurl, M. J.  
1997
- **Framing Truth: Reply to Nick Sharp** *Critical Inquiry*  
McGurl, M. J.  
1997
- **Making "literature" of it: Hammett and high culture** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*  
MCGURL, M.  
1997; 9 (4): 702-717
- **MAKING IT BIG, PICTURING THE RADIO AGE IN 'KING KONG'** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*  
MCGURL, M.  
1996; 22 (3): 415-445