Stanford



Mark McGurl

Albert Guérard Professor of Literature

English

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

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

COURSES

2026-27

- Introduction to English III: Modern Literature: ENGLISH 12C (Spr)
- Media Theory for Literary Studies: ENGLISH 366F (Aut)
- Orals, Publication and Dissertation Workshop: ENGLISH 398W (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Pedagogy Seminar I: ENGLISH 396L (Aut)

2025-26

- Orals, Publication and Dissertation Workshop: ENGLISH 398W (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Pedagogy Seminar I: ENGLISH 396L (Aut)
- Qualifying Exam Workshop: ENGLISH 398Q (Sum)
- 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)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Alexia Ainsworth

Orals Chair

Jon Tadmor

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Gabi Birch, Mallen Clifton

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Madison Zickgraf Burke

Doctoral (Program)

Gabi Birch, Louisa Bolch-Gillett, Mallen Clifton, Victor Woszczak

Publications

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 WorlLiterary 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