



Margaret Cohen

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

Bio

BIO

For the last two decades, Margaret Cohen has been researching and teaching the literature and imagination of the oceans. Her most recent book is *The Underwater Eye: How the Movie Camera Opened the Depths and Unleashed New Realms of Fantasy* that appeared in April 2022 with Princeton University Press. Her *The Novel and the Sea* (Princeton University Press, 2010) was awarded the Louis R. Gottschalk Prize from the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the George and Barbara Perkins Prize from the International Society for the Study of the Narrative. She co-edited *The Aesthetics of the Undersea* (Routledge, 2019) with Killian Quigley. She is general editor of *A Cultural History of the Sea* (Bloomsbury, 2021), and she is volume editor of *A Cultural History of the Sea in the Age of Empire*, the fifth volume of this six volume set spanning from antiquity to the present.

Professor Cohen's fields of expertise also include critical theories of cultural modernity and the history of the European novel. Her other monographs are *Profane Illumination: Walter Benjamin and the Paris of Surrealist Revolution* (University of California Press, 1993) and *The Sentimental Education of the Novel* (Princeton University Press, 1999), which received the Modern Language Association's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione prize in French and Francophone literature. In addition, Margaret Cohen co-edited two collections of scholarship on the European novel: *The Literary Channel: The Inter-National Invention of the Novel* with Carolyn Dever (Princeton University Press, 2002), and *Spectacles of Realism: Body, Gender, Genre* with Christopher Prendergast (University of Minnesota Press, 1995). She edited and translated Sophie Cottin's best-selling novel of 1799, *Claire d'Albe* (Modern Language Association, 2003), and has edited a new critical edition of Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* that appeared with W.W. Norton in 2004. She is current Director of Stanford's Center for the Study of the Novel.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, English
- Professor (By courtesy), French and Italian
- Professor (By courtesy), Comparative Literature

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director, Center for the Study of the Novel, <https://novel.stanford.edu>, (2018-2025)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Project Award, "Public Knowledge Infrastructures of the Ocean," PI, Public Humanities Program, Stanford (9/23-8/25)
- Project Award, "Connecting the Blue Humanities and the Ocean Sciences" PI, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment (9/23-12/24)
- Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2017-2018)
- George and Barbara Perkins Prize, International Society for the Study of the Narrative (2012)
- Violet Andrews Whittier Faculty Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2011-2012)

- Harry Levin Prize, Honorable Mention, American Comparative Literature Association (2011)
- Louis R. Gottschalk Prize, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (2011)
- Faculty Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2004-2005)
- Fellow, John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island, National Endowment for the Humanities and the Alexander O. Viator Fund for maritime history (2002-2003)
- Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione prize in French and Francophone literature, Modern Language Association (2000)
- Fellow, Project for Cities and Urban Knowledges, International Center for Advanced Study, New York University (1999-2000)
- Presidential Fellowship, New York University (1992)
- American Council of Learned Societies grant for recent recipients of the Ph.D., ACLS (1991-1992)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Yale University (1988)
- M.A., New York University (1982)
- B.A., Yale University (1980)
- Student, Universität Konstanz (1981)

LINKS

- Imagining the Oceans Cantor Arts Center (video): <https://vimeo.com/147931012>
- Center for the Study of the Novel podcasts: <https://novel.stanford.edu/podcasts>
- Stanford Report: A Cultural History of the Seas: https://news.stanford.edu/2021/04/22/oceans-examined-historical-literary-lenses/?utm_source=Stanford+Report&utm_campaign=83c4471e82-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_04_21_03_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29ce9f751e-83c4471e82-52264045
- Guggenheim Project: <https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/margaret-cohen/>
- The Novel and the Sea (lecture, Sydney Environment Institute): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7xxgO-Mweo>
- Internet Archive blog: <http://blog.archive.org/2021/09/01/access-to-rare-historical-materials-makes-an-ocean-of-difference-for-stanford-professor/>
- The Underwater Eye: : <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691197975/the-underwater-eye>
- Conversation with John Plotz about The Underwater Eye: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/underwater-eye-margaret-cohen-explores-the-film-aquatic>
- The Gothic Imagination: From Castle to Shipwreck: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6HNtJwV9Yw>
- Interview about The Underwater Eye: <https://press.princeton.edu/ideas/margaret-cohen-on-the-underwater-eye>
- Whale-Eye Fantasies Across the History of Film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8V8k4pzbWA

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Across her career, Professor Cohen has explored the literature and culture of modernity. Her books include *Profane Illumination* (1993), which showed the impact of surrealist Paris on Walter Benjamin and *The Sentimental Education of the Novel* (1999), recovering the forgotten role of women writers in shaping 19th-century French realism. In her most recent book, *The Novel and the Sea* (2010), she revealed the impact of the ship's log and the history of writing about work at sea on the development of the modern novel, foregrounding the importance of adventure fiction in the history of this form.

Professor Cohen's *The Underwater Eye*, appearing in April 2022 with Princeton University Press, is a book showing how film and TV created a modern imagination of the underwater and undersea environments that even today few experience directly, yet whose well-being is integral to life on our planet.

Professor Cohen is general editor for *A Cultural History of the Sea*, a six-volume set spanning from antiquity to the present that appeared with Bloomsbury in April 2021, as well as editor of the fifth volume in the set, *The Age of Empire*. Throughout her research and teaching, she emphasizes the importance of engaging with the reality and diversity of marine environments.

PROJECTS

- A Cultural History of the Seas
- Ocean Cultures, Underwater Worlds - Sydney Environment Institute
- Visualizing the Oceans (9/9/2013 - 10/2016)
- Podcast host, Center for the Study of the Novel - Center for the Study of the Novel

Teaching

COURSES

2023-24

- History and Theory of the Novel I & II: ENGLISH 360C (Aut, Win)

2022-23

- Imagining the Oceans: ENGLISH 368A (Win)
- Narrative and Narrative Theory: COMPLIT 161E, ENGLISH 161 (Spr)
- The Gothic in Literature and Culture: ENGLISH 238E (Spr)

2021-22

- Imagining the Oceans: ENGLISH 268A (Win)
- Narrative and Narrative Theory: COMPLIT 161E, ENGLISH 161 (Spr)
- The Gothic in Literature and Culture: COMPLIT 338, ENGLISH 338, FRENCH 338 (Spr)

2020-21

- Genres of the Novel: COMPLIT 327, ENGLISH 327, FRENCH 327 (Win)
- Narrative and Narrative Theory: COMPLIT 161E, ENGLISH 161 (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Christopher Cappello, Ben Libman

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Jessica Monaco

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Alexander Sherman

Doctoral (Program)

Sarah Coduto, Steele Douris

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- *The Underwater Imagination From Environment to Film Set, 1954-1956* *ENGLISH LANGUAGE NOTES*
Cohen, M.

2019; 57 (1): 51–71

- **A Feminist Plunge into Sea Knowledge** *PMLA-PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*

Cohen, M.

2019; 134 (2): 372–77

- **The shipwreck as undersea gothic** *AESTHETICS OF THE UNDERSEA*

Cohen, M., Cohen, M., Quigley, K.

2019: 155–66

- **The Aesthetics of the Undersea**

Cohen, M.

2019

- **Submarine aesthetics Introduction** *AESTHETICS OF THE UNDERSEA*

Cohen, M., Quigley, K., Cohen, M., Quigley, K.

2019: 1–+

- **Seeing Through Water: The Paintings of Zarh Pritchard** *The Sea in 19th-Century Anglophone Literary Culture*

Cohen, M.

Routledge.2017

- **Seeing Through Water: The Paintings of Zarh Pritchard** *Coastal Works: Cultures of the Atlantic Edge*

Cohen, M.

Oxford University Press.2017

- **The Bonds of the Sea, Review of William Finnegan's Barbarian Days**

Cohen, M., Borius, H.

Public Books, The Guardian.

2016

- **Atlantik/Pazifik: Die imaginäre Erschliessung der Ozeane im Zeitalter der Segelschiffahrt** *Handbuch Literatur & Raum,*

Cohen, M.

De Gruyter.2015

- **Underwater Optics as Symbolic Form** *French Politics, Culture and Society*

ohen, M.

2015

- **Reading the Book of Water** *WAX*

Cohen, M.

2015

- **In a Fish's Eye** *WAX*

Cohen, M.

2015

- **On Time: Kairos and the Arts of Action** *WAX*

Cohen, M.

2014

- **Denotation in Alien Environments: The Underwater Je Ne Sais Quoi** *Representations*

Cohen, M.

2014

- **The International Novel in a National Age** *The Oxford History of the Novel in English, Volume 3, 1820-1880*

Cohen, M.

Oxford University Press.2012

- **"Artists' Blood" and "Interview with Patrick Trefz"** *Surfer's Blood*

Trefz, P., Cohen, M., et al

powerHouse Books.2012

- **Literary Studies on the Terraqueous Globe** *PMLA-PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*
Cohen, M.
2010; 125 (3): 657-662
- **The Novel and the Sea**
Cohen, M.
Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.2010
- **Narratology in the Archive of Literature** *REPRESENTATIONS*
Cohen, M.
2009: 51-75
- **The Right to Mobility in Adventure Fiction** *NOVEL-A FORUM ON FICTION*
Cohen, M.
2009; 42 (2): 290-296
- **Review of Open Secrets: The Literature of Uncounted Experience by Anne-Lise Francois** *Rmanticism and Victorianism on the Net (RaVoN)*
Cohen, M.
2009
- **Flaubert lectrice: Flaubert lady reader ('Madame Bovary')** *MLN*
Cohen, M.
2007; 122 (4): 746-758
- **Historical Fiction** *Oxford Book of Maritime History*
Cohen, M.
Oxford University Press.2007
- **Modernity on the Waterfront: The Case of Haussmann's Paris** *Locating the City*
Cohen, M.
University of Minnesota Press.2007
- **The Chronotopes of the Sea** *History of the Novel*
Cohen, M.
Princeton University Press.2006
- **Madame Bovary: contexts, critical reception**
Cohen, M.
New York: W.W. Norton.2005
- **Madame Bovary**
Flaubert, G.
edited by Cohen, M.
W.W. Norton.2004
- **Fluid States: The Maritime in MOdernity** *Cabinet*
Cohen, M.
2004
- **Modernity as Phantasmagoria: Benjamin's Arcades** *Companion to Walter Benjamin*
Cohen, M.
Cambridge University Press.2004
- **Complex Culture** *The Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture Reader*
Cohen, M., Higonnet, A.
Routledge.2004
- **Traveling genres (Literary history, novel)** *NEW LITERARY HISTORY*
Cohen, M.

2003; 34 (3): 481-499

- **Claire d'Albe**
Cottin, S., Translated by Cohen, M.
edited by Cohen, M.
New York: Modern Language Association.2003
- **Traveling Genres** *New Literary History*
Cohen, M.
2003
- **Claire d'Albe: an English translation**
Cohen, M.
New York: Modern Language Association of America.2002
- **Sentimental Communities** *The Literary Channel*
Cohen, M.
Princeton University Press.2002
- **Empatia e sensibility nell'evoluzione del romanzo** *Storia del Romanzo*
Cohen, M., Alliston, A.
Einaudi.2002
- **Il Mare** *Storia del Romanzo*
Cohen, M.
Einaudi.2002
- **The Literary Channel: The Inter-National Invention of the Novel**
edited by Cohen, M., Dever, C.
Princeton: Princeton University Press.2002
- **Claire d'Albe: the original French text**
Cohen, M.
New York: Modern Language Association of America.2002
- **The literary channel: the inter-national invention of the novel**
Cohen, M.
Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.2002
- **Les Mysteres de la rue et les mysteres du coeur** *La Modernite avant Haussmann*
Cohen, M.
Editions de la Recherche.2001
- **Mania, Melancholy and the Reproduction of the Dead Father** *Seductions of the Novel: Stael's Corinne in Critical Inquiry*
Cohen, M.
Bucknell University Press.1999
- **Walter Benjamin and Surrealism** *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*
Cohen, M.
Oxford University Press.1998
- **Women and French Fiction in the Nineteenth Century** *Companion to the Modern French Novel*
Cohen, M.
Cambridge University Press.1997
- **Spectacles of realism: body, gender, genre**
Cohen, M.
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.1995
- **Red Mothers, Wise Grandmothers: Women's Non-Realist Representations of 1789** *Literature Women and the French Revolution*

Cohen, M.

Summa Press.1995

- **In Lieu of a Chapter on Some French Women Realist Novelists** *Spectacles of Realism: Body, Gender, Genre*
Cohen, M.
1995
- **Panoramic Literature and the Invention of the Everyday** *Rethinking 1895: Cinema and the Invention of Modern Life*
Cohen, M.
University of California Press.1995
- **Spectacles of Realism: Body, Gender, Genre**
edited by Cohen, M., Prendergast, C.
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.1995
- **Translation of Etienne Balibar, "Althusser's Object"**
Cohen, M., Robbins, B.
Social Text.
1994
- **Review of Robert Alter's "Necessary Angels"** *Comparative Literature*
Cohen, M.
1994
- **Profane illumination: Walter Benjamin and the Paris of surrealist revolution**
Cohen, M.
Berkeley, CA; Los Angeles, CA; London: University of California Press.1993
- **Review article on Susan Suleiman's "Subversive Intent" and Maud Lavin's "Cut With the Kitchen Knife"** *Annals of Scholarship*
Cohen, M.
1993
- **The Homme Fatal, the Phallic Father, and the New Man** *Cultural Critique*
Cohen, M.
1992
- **The Most Suffering Class** *boundary 2*
Cohen, M.
1991
- **Walter Benjamin's Phantasmagoria** *New German Critique*
Cohen, M.
1989
- **A Woman's Place: La Petite Fadette v. La Voix des Femmes** *L'Esprit Createur*
Cohen, M.
1989
- **Mysteries of Paris: The Collective Uncanny in Andre Breton's L'Amour fou** *Dada/Surrealism*
Cohen, M.
1988