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## **EMPLOYMENT**

Professor of English, Stanford University: 2008—. Department Chair, 2011—.

Associate Professor of English, Stanford University: 2004-2008.

Assistant Professor of English, Stanford University: 1999-2004.

Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University: 1996-1999.

Lecturer in American Literature, University of Sheffield, UK: 1996.

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in English, Princeton University: 1996.

M.A. in English, Princeton University: 1993.

B.A. in English Language and Literature, Oxford University: 1990. First Class Honors.

## **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

Violet Andrews Whittier Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, 2010-2011.

Stanford Fellow: 2006-2008. Co-chair: 2007-2008.

Gordon and Dailey Pattee Faculty Fellowship, Stanford University: 2005-2006.

Undergraduate Teaching Award of Phi Beta Kappa, presented by Beta of California at Stanford University: 2004.

Stanford Humanities Center, Research Fellowship: 2001-2002.

*Choice Magazine's* Outstanding Academic Title Award for my book, *Strange Talk*: 2000.

Princeton University Center for Human Values, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Graduate Prize Fellowship: 1994-95.

Keble College, Oxford University, Degree Prize: 1990.

## BOOKS

*Failure and the American Writer: A Literary History*. Forthcoming, Cambridge University Press, January 2014.

*American Hungers: The Problem of Poverty in U.S. Literature, 1840-1945*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008. Paperback, 2009.

*Strange Talk: The Politics of Dialect Literature in Gilded Age America*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999. In paperback.

## ARTICLES

“Lost in the City.” Co-authored with Judith Richardson. *Carleton Watkins: The Stanford Albums*. Forthcoming publication, based on a Cantor Center exhibition, 2014.

“Plantation Fiction and Literary Proslavery.” *The Cambridge Companion To Slavery In American Literature*, ed. Ezra Tawil. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Excluded Middles: Social Inequality in American Literature.” *The Blackwell Companion to American Literary Studies*. Eds. Robert S Levine and Caroline Levander. Oxford: Blackwell, 2011.

“Poor Poe: On the Literature of Revulsion.” *American Literary History*. 23.1 (Spring 2011): 1-18.

“The Embarrassment of Naturalism: Feeling Structure in Frank Norris’s *McTeague*.” *Amerikastudien/American Studies*. Special Issue: Poverty and the Culturalization of Class. Eds. Michael Butter and Carsten Schinko. 55.1 (Winter 2010): 45-61.

“American Dialects.” *The Blackwell Companion to the History of the English Language*. Eds. Haruko Momma and Michael Matto. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.

“Dialect.” *American History through Literature, 1820-1870*. Eds. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert Sattlemeyer. Detroit: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006; pp. 336-40.

“Twain, Language, and the Southern Humorists.” *A Companion to Mark Twain*. Eds. Louis J. Budd and Peter Messent. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005; pp. 125-40.

“Poverty and the Limits of Literary Criticism.” *American Literary History* 15.4 (Winter

2003): 765-92.

“Poverty, Gender, and Literary Criticism: Reassessing Edith Wharton’s *The House of Mirth*.” *Comparative American Studies* 1.2 (Summer 2003): 153-77.

“‘Those Gossamer Threads of Thought’: The Supernatural Naturalism of Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie*.” *Essays in Arts and Sciences* 28 (October 1999): 69-90.

“‘The Sea Ain’ Got No Back Door’: The Problems of Black Consciousness in Paule Marshall’s *Brown Girl, Brownstones*.” *African American Review* 32.4 (Winter 1998): 597-606.

“The Paradise of Aesthetics: Sylvester Judd’s *Margaret* and Antebellum American Literature.” *New England Quarterly* 71.3 (September 1998): 449-72.

“Signifying Songs: The Double Meaning of Black Dialect in the Work of George Washington Cable.” *American Literary History* 9.2 (Summer 1997): 244-67.

“‘Whose Line is It Anyway?’ W.E.B. DuBois and the Language of the Color-line.” *Race Consciousness: African-American Studies for the New Century*, ed. J. Jackson Fossett and J. A. Tucker (New York: NYU Press, 1997): 19-34.

“Dusky Comments of Silence: Language, Race, and Herman Melville’s *Benito Cereno*.” *Studies in Short Fiction* 32.1 (Winter 1995): 39-50.

## REVIEWS

Review of María Carla Sánchez, *Reforming the World: Social Activism & the Problem of Fiction in Nineteenth-Century America* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2008). *Modernism/Modernity*, forthcoming.

Review of Page Richards, *Distancing English: A Chapter in the History of the Inexpressible* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2009). *New Books Online* 19: forthcoming.

Review of Brad Evans, *Before Cultures: The Ethnographic Imagination in American Literature, 1865-1920* (University of Chicago Press, 2005). *Philological Quarterly* 105.2 (November 2007): 402-405.

“Language Nation.” *American Literary History* 13.4 (Winter 2001): 776-88.

Review of Edward G. Gray’s *New World Babel: Languages and Nations in Early America* (Princeton University Press, 1999) and *The Multilingual Anthology of American Literature: A Reader of Original Texts with English Translations* (New York University Press, 2000), edited by Marc Shell and Werner Sollors.

## EDITIONS

Sylvester Judd, *Margaret: A Tale of the Real and the Ideal, Blight and Bloom* (1845), edited with an introduction by Gavin Jones. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2009. New scholarly edition of a neglected classic. Paperback.

Co-editor of a special issue of *African American Review* (41.2, Summer 2007) based on the proceedings of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Centennial Conference, Stanford University, 2006.

## PEER REVIEW

Editorial Board, *American Literature*, 2008-2011.

Chair of the selection committee for the American Studies Association's Constance Rourke Prize, 2005: an annual award given to the best article published in *American Quarterly*.

Reader of essay manuscripts for *American Quarterly*, *American Literary History*.

Reader of book manuscripts for Princeton University Press, Oxford University Press, Duke University Press, and University of North Carolina Press.

Book reviewer for *American Literary History*, *Philological Quarterly*, *Novel*.

Co-organizer of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Centennial Conference. Stanford University, March 9-11, 2006.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS, LECTURES, & TALKS

"Failure Studies." Panel co-organizer. MLA Annual Meeting, Chicago January 2014.

Roundtable participant, "American Ruins," American Studies Association Convention, "Dimensions of Empire and Resistance: Past, Present, and Future," November 16, 2012, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"Walt Whitman's Body Language." Classes Without Quizzes, Stanford University. October 7, 2012.

"Wealth in the Gilded Age: How Much Is Enough?" (with Richard White), The Ethics of Wealth lecture series, organized by Stanford's Program in Ethics and Society, October 2 2012.

"Steinbeck in the Jungle." 2012 Steinbeck Festival, Salinas California. May 5, 2012.

“Henry Adams at Fault.” Keynote Address, Stanford-Berkeley Graduate Student Conference, Berkeley California, April 14 2012.

Roundtable participant, “American Ruins,” C19 (The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists) Conference, Berkeley California, April 14 2012.

“Cropping Evans.” A lecture on February 25 2012 during the presentation of the exhibit “Walker Evans,” Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University CA.

“Bartleby the Scrivener.” Appearance on the KZSU radio show, “The Short Story Club,” hosted by Trip Sweeney. November 15 2011.

“The Failure of *Walden*.” *Literature and Economic Crisis*. Program arranged by the Division on Nineteenth-Century American Literature. MLA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles 2011.

“Boom and Bust: The Language of Financial Insecurity in the Gilded Age.” *Depressions*. Program arranged by the Division on Late-Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century American Literature. MLA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia 2009.

Respondent, “Cultures of Poverty.” A Special Session at the MLA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2008.

Keynote Address, Stanford-Berkeley Graduate Student Conference, April 2007.

“Understanding Poverty through American Literature.” Invited faculty lecture, Stanford Sierra Camp, August 2005.

“The Achievement of Paul Laurence Dunbar.” Lecture to Continuing Education students, Stanford University, February 2006.

Chair, “Seeing Masculinity, Reading Maleness.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2004.

“The Nature of Inquiry.” Invited lecture for the Cantor Center for the Visual Arts, Stanford University, November 2004.

“Reassessing Paul Laurence Dunbar.” *Roundtable Discussion*. American Literature Association, Annual Conference, San Francisco, May 2004.

Invited Participant in a televised Roundtable Discussion of Arthur Miller’s *All My Sons*. *How Theater Works*. Lucy Stern Theater, Palo Alto, March 2004.

“Edith Wharton: Class Activist.” *Being Edith Wharton/The Edith Wharton Business*. Session sponsored by The Edith Wharton Society. Modern Language Association of

America, Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2003.

Chair and Co-organizer. *Illiteracy in American Literary Culture, 1830-1930*. Special Session. Modern Language Association of America, Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2003.

“Whitman’s Body Language.” Expositional lecture to prospective freshmen, Stanford University, April 2003, 2004.

“Poverty.” *Keywords for Global/Local American Studies: A Roundtable*. American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, November 2002.

Appearance on the MLA Radio Show, “What’s the Word?”: *Regional Literature Volume III: The South*. An interview with host Sally Placksin on the writings of George W. Cable. Produced for NPR in 2002.

“Representing Poverty in America.” Stanford Humanities Center, November 2001.

“Why Literary Critics Don’t Talk About Poverty.” “American Cultures” Graduate Student Workshop, Stanford University, October 2001.

“Paul Laurence Dunbar and the Authentic Black Voice.” Modern Language Association of America, Annual Meeting, Chicago, December 1999.

“Dialect and Cultural Difference in Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*.” Guest lecture for Elaine Scarry’s class *The Brontës*. Harvard University, October 1997 and October 1998.

“Ethnic Dialect and New York Literary Culture in the 1890s.” Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States Conference, Hawaii, April 1997.

“Zora Neale Hurston and the Harlem Renaissance.” University of Sheffield, UK, May 1996.

“Language and American National Identity After the Civil War.” British Association for American Studies Conference, Cambridge, UK, April 1995.

“W.E.B. DuBois and the Rhetoric of Race.” *‘The Negro Problem’: 1895-1995* Conference, Princeton University, March 1995.

“Dialect, Race, and ‘Local Color’ Fiction.” *Folk Voices and Spaces*. American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Nashville, October 1994.

“Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie*: Naturalism or Supernaturalism?” Guest lecture for *American Literature: Civil War to World War I*. Princeton University, October 1993.

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SERVICE**

Current Department Chair.

Chair, Junior Faculty Reappointment Committee for Stephen Sohn.

Vice Chair: 2008-2010.

Outcomes Assessment Officer: 2008-2010. Coordinator of the English Department's Assessment Exercise to satisfy the University's re-accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Director of Graduate Studies: 2005-2008.

Faculty Director of TA Training: 2006-2008.

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Spring 2004.

Co-chair (with Michele Elam) of the African American Literature search, which hired Vaughn Rasberry.

Co-chair (with Ramón Saldívar) of the Early American Literature Faculty Search Committee: 2007-2008, which hired Nancy Ruttenburg.

Co-chair (with Jay Fliegelman) of the Asian American Literature Junior Faculty Search Committee, 2006-2007, which hired Stephen Sohn.

Senior Faculty Hiring Committee, which made an offer to Mark McGurl (UCLA): 2007.

Senior Faculty Hiring Committee, which hired Michele Elam: 2005.

Junior Faculty Search Committee, African American Literature: 2003-2004.

Junior Faculty Search Committee, 1999-2000, which hired Denise Gigante, Donna Jones, and Sianne Ngai.

Creative Planning Committee: 2006-2008.

Chair's Advisory Committee: 2005-2010.

Examiner, Ph.D. Qualifying Examinations: September 2005, 2008.

Graduate Student Admissions Committee: 2002-2003.

Curriculum Committee, 2000-2002, 2005-2008.

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2003-04.

## **STANFORD UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Breadth Governance Board: 2011-2014.

Pre-Major Advisor: 2011—.

CAPER: 2011-12.

Stanford Humanities Center Executive Committee: 2009-2013.

Board of Judicial Affairs. Faculty member: 2009-2010.

Stanford Humanities Center, Selection Committee for External Applicants: 2009.

Resident Fellow, Junipero House, Wilbur Hall, 2003 to 2008. Faculty mentor to 87 students and manager of 7 staff members in an all-frosh Stanford dorm.

Co-chair (with Patrick Dunkley) of the Stanford Fellows: 2007-2008.

John Gardner Public Service Fellowship, Selection Committee: 2006, 2007.

Faculty Sponsor and Coordinator, Honors College: American Studies, Summer 2004, 2005, 2006.

Rhodes-Marshall Fellowship Selection Committee: 2000, 2001, 2008.

Faculty Coordinator, “American Cultures” Mellon Graduate Student Research Workshop: 2001-2005

Evaluator of External Applications to the Stanford Humanities Center: 2001 to present.

Faculty host for Fulbright Foreign Scholar, Dr. Shaoyuan Cui, Associate Professor, Xi’an Foreign Languages University, Peoples Republic of China: 2000-2001.

American Studies Committee in Charge: 2003 to present.

University Chair, Ph.D. Dissertation Defense, Department of Art and Art History.

Candidate: Emily Shapiro, “Machine Crafted: Images of the Artisan in American Genre Painting, 1877-1908.” June 2003.

External Member of the Stanford Art Department Senior Americanist Faculty Search Committee, 2001, which hired Bryan Wolf.



## **CURRENT Ph.D. COMMITTEES**

Morgan Frank, "Pragmatism and Theories of Education in American Literature." Director.

Joshua Mann, "Catastrophe and American Modernism." Director.

Sarah Perkins, "'Dixie' in the Making of American Literature." Director.

Whitney Trump, "Race and Revision in American Literature." Director.

## **PAST Ph.D COMMITTEES**

Geordie Hamilton. "The Rhetoric of Realism: American Literature and Democratic Form." 2013. Director.

Elda Maria Roman, "The Minority Middle Class." 2013.

Marissa Gemma, "Against Eloquence: The Anti-Social Life of Style in 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Literature." Co-director. 2012.

Steffi Dippold, "Plain as in Primitive: The Figure of the Native in Early American Language of Dissent." Co-director. 2013.

Brianne Bilsky, "Recycled Paper: Print Culture, Visual Display, and the Question of Authenticity in Contemporary American Literature." 2012.

Joseph Shapiro, "The Early American Exception: Class and the Rise of the U.S. Novel, 1789-1846." 2010. Co-director.

Heather Houser, "'The Whole World is our Hospital': Contemporary Fictions of Eco-Sickness." 2009.

Melissa Leavitt, "Will Work for Land: Real Property and Rural Labor in U.S. Fiction, 1850-1900." 2006. Director.

Jolene Hubbs. "Revolting Whiteness: Race, Class, and the American Grotesque." 2008.

Allison Carruth. "Pastoral's Late History: Literature of Foods from World War I to the World Trade Organization." 2008.

Christopher Phillips. "The Uses of the Epic Impulse in American Culture, 1785-1876." 2007.

Patricia Roylance, "International Nationalism: World History as Usable Past in

Nineteenth-Century U.S. Culture.” 2005.

Shimberlee Jiron-King, “Reading Religiously: Towards a Critical Understanding of Religion in Chicana/o Literature.” 2006.

Louise Siddons, “The Future of the American Race: Reproducing The Racialized nation in Print Media, 1925-1940.” Department of Art/Art History, 2005.

Ticien Sassoubre, “American Literature and the Transformation of Property, 1865-1940.” 2001.

Molly Hutton, “Anthropologies of the City: Urban Realisms, Urban Order, and the Ashcan School.” Department of Art/Art History, 2000.

### **UNDERGRADUATE LECTURE COURSES**

*American Literature and Culture to 1855.* Stanford University.

*Hemingway, Hurston, Faulkner, and Fitzgerald.* Stanford University.

*The Multicultural Moment: American Literature from the Civil War to World War I.* Stanford University.

*Masterpieces of American Literature.* Stanford University.

*Early American Literature.* University of Sheffield, UK.

### **UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR COURSES**

*Top Ten Books: The Politics of Teaching the Most Frequently Taught Books.* Stanford University. Freshman Seminar.

*Research Seminar in American Studies.* Stanford University.

*The Social Novel in America.* Stanford University.

*Representing Poverty in America.* Stanford University.

*African-American Literature II: 1940 to the Present Day.* University of Sheffield, UK.

*Modern Literature.* University of Sheffield, UK.

*American Literature: Civil War to World War I.* TA, Princeton University.

## GRADUATE COURSES

*Introduction to Graduate Studies for Ph.D. Students.* Stanford University.

*Pedagogy Seminar* for graduate students TAing in English. Stanford University.

*Antebellum American Literature.* Stanford University.

*Gilded Age American Literature.* Stanford University.

*Top Ten Books: The Politics of Teaching the Most Frequently Taught Books.* Stanford University.

*The American Novel.* Stanford University.

*Representing Poverty in America.* Stanford University.

*American Literature and the Politics of Language.* Stanford University.