

## Joshua Landy

*Andrew B. Hammond Chair of French Language, Literature, and Civilization  
and Professor of Comparative Literature*

*(also professor by courtesy of Philosophy; professor by courtesy of English)*

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### Education

PhD: Comparative Literature, Princeton University, 1997

MA: Cambridge University, 1991

BA: French & German, Churchill College, Cambridge, 1988

### Academic Employment

1996-present Stanford University (Assistant Professor of French 1996; Associate Professor of French 2004; Full Professor of French 2013; Andrew B. Hammond Chair 2013; Professor of Comparative Literature 2013)

1995-1996 University Lecturer, Princeton University

### Visiting Professorships

2019 (Spring) Kohut Distinguished Visiting Professor, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

2004 (Fall) Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago

### Fellowships, Awards, and Nominations

2024-29 appointed Eleanor Loring Ritch University Fellow in Undergraduate Education

2023 *The World According to Proust* nominated for the American Library in Paris Book Award

2022-23 “Philosophy Talk” named finalist in NY Festivals Radio Competition, Social Issues category

2020-21 “Philosophy Talk” named finalist in NY Festivals Radio Competition, Social Issues category

2019-20 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center

2015-16 nominated for Phi Beta Kappa teaching award, Stanford University

2011-12 Fellowship at the National Humanities Center

2008-09 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center

2001 Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University

1999-2000 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center

1999 The Walter J. Gores Award for Teaching Excellence, Stanford University

1994-95 Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorary Fellowship in the Humanities

### Directorships

2004-present Co-founder and co-director of the Philosophy and Literature Initiative (includes role as Director of Undergraduate Studies for a set of major tracks)

2013-19 Director of the Structured Liberal Education program

### Books

• [\*Marcel Proust: A Very Short Introduction\*](#). New York: Oxford University Press, 2024. [Audiobook version](#) (narrated by Kevin Kemp), Tantor Media, 2025. Previously in hardcover as [\*The World According to Proust\*](#). New York: Oxford University Press, 2023. [Audiobook version](#) (narrated by Stephen Bowlby), Tantor Media, 2023.

• [\*How to Do Things with Fictions\*](#). New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

• [\*Philosophy as Fiction: Self, Deception, and Knowledge in Proust\*](#). New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

### Edited volumes

• [\*The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age\*](#), with Michael Saler. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2009. Paperback edition: 2021.

• [\*Thematics: New Approaches\*](#), with Claude Bremond and Thomas Pavel. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1995.

## Other Academic Publications

### Articles and book chapters:

- “Dwelling in Metaphor,” forthcoming in *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Philosophy*, edited by R. Lanier Anderson and Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé.
- “Mixed Metaphors: Gender Trouble (and Cognitive Science) in Baudelaire,” forthcoming in the *Australian Journal of French Studies*.
- “[Zinger, Clunker, Clanger, Flunker: On Two-Point Comparisons, and Why we Love them](#),” *British Journal of Aesthetics* 64:4 (2024): 563-84.
- “[Why a Novel?](#)”, in *Proust’s “In Search of Lost Time”: Philosophical Perspectives*, ed. Kate Elkins, New York: Oxford University Press, 2022: 19-46.
- “[Don’t Feed the Liars! On Fraudulent Memoirs, and Why They’re Bad](#),” *Philosophy and Literature* 46:1 (2022): 137-61.
- “[Saving the Self from Stories: Resistance to Narrative in Primo Levi’s \*Periodic Table\*](#),” *Narrative* 30:1(2022): 85-103.
- “[Lyric Self-Fashioning: Sonnet 35 as Formal Model](#),” *Philosophy and Literature* 45:1 (2021): 224-48.
- “8 ½: Self-Reflexive Fiction and Mental Training,” in *Metacinema*, ed. David Larocca, Oxford University Press, 2021: 139-54.
- “[Why Proust Isn’t an ‘Essayist,’ and Why it Matters](#),” *Romanic Review* 111:3 (2020): 392–407.
- “[Art, Intention, and Everyday Psychology](#),” *nonsite* 32 (2020).
- “[In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden](#),” *New Literary History* 51:1 (2020): 145-76.
- “[To Thine Own Selves be True-ish: Shakespeare’s \*Hamlet\* as Formal Model](#),” *Shakespeare’s Hamlet: Philosophical Perspectives*, ed. Tzachi Zamir, New York: Oxford University Press, 2018: 154-87.
- “[The Most Overrated Article of All Time?](#)” *Philosophy and Literature* 41:2 (2017): 465-470.
- “[Mental Calisthenics and Self-Reflexive Fiction](#),” *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Approaches to Literature*, ed. Lisa Zunshine, New York: Oxford University Press, 2015, 559-80.
- “[Conditional Goods and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: How Literature \(as a Whole\) could Matter Again](#),” *SubStance* 42:2 (2013): 48-60.
- “[Deceit, Desire, and the Literature Professor: Why Girardians Exist](#),” *Republics of Letters* 3:1 (2012), <http://rofl.stanford.edu/node/108>. This article was featured in *The Browser* in February 2022. (The Browser is an online content aggregator with over 140,000 subscribers.)
- “[The Devil, the Master-Criminal, and the Re-Enchantment of the World \(on \*The Usual Suspects\*\)](#),” *Philosophy and Literature* 36:1 (2012): 37-57. (Selected as “Editor’s Pick” to represent the journal, May 2020.)
- “[Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities](#),” *Poetics Today* 33:2 (2012): 167-214.
- “[Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s \*Adaptation\*](#),” *Critical Inquiry* 37:3 (2011): 497-514.
- “Un égoïsme utilisable pour autrui’: le statut normatif de l’auto-description chez Proust,” *Morales de Proust*, ed. Mariolina Bertini & Antoine Compagnon, Paris: L’Harmattan, 2010: 83-99.
- “[Corruption by Literature](#),” *Republics of Letters: A Journal for the Study of Knowledge, Politics, and the Arts* 1, no. 2 (April 3, 2010).
- “[Passion, Counter-Passion, Catharsis: Flaubert \(and Beckett\) on Feeling Nothing](#),” *The Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Literature*, ed. Garry Hagberg & Walter Jost, Oxford: Blackwell, 2010: 28-38.
- “[The Abyss of Freedom: Love and Legitimacy in Constant’s \*Adolphe\*](#),” *Nineteenth Century French Studies* 37:3-4 (2009): 193-213.
- “[Modern Magic: Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin and Stéphane Mallarmé](#),” *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, ed. Joshua Landy and Michael Saler, Stanford University Press, 2009: 102-29.
- “[The Varieties of Modern Enchantment](#)” (with Michael Saler). Introduction to *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, ed. Joshua Landy and Michael Saler, Stanford University Press, 2009: 1-14.

- “[A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction](#),” *Art and Ethical Criticism*, ed. Garry Hagberg, Oxford: Blackwell, 2008, 63-94.
- “Mallarméan Magic: Retrospective Necessity, Lucid Illusion, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” *Symbolism* 8 (2008), 259-78.
- “[Philosophical Training Grounds: Socratic Sophistry and Platonic Perfection in \*Symposium\* and \*Gorgias\*](#),” *Arion* 15:1 (2007): 63-122.
- “[Proust, his Narrator, and the Importance of the Distinction](#),” *Poetics Today* 25:1 (2004): 91-135.
- “[Nietzsche, Proust, and Will-to-Ignorance](#),” *Philosophy and Literature* 26:1 (2002): 1-23.
- “[The Texture of Proust’s Novel](#),” *The Cambridge Companion to Proust*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001: 117-34.
- “[Les moi en moi: The Proustian Self in Philosophical Perspective](#),” *New Literary History* 32:1 (2001): 91-132.
- “Introduction.” *Thematics: New Approaches* (with Claude Bremond and Thomas Pavel), Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995: 1-6.
- “[Music, Letters, Truth and Lies: ‘L’Après-Midi d’un Faune’ as an \*ars poetica\*](#).” *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature* 42 (1994): 57-69.

#### Journalism:

- “[Five Best: Books on Memory](#),” *The Wall Street Journal*, November 11, 2022.

#### Responses and occasional pieces:

- “[Why Read Proust in 2023?](#)” Oxford University Press blog, March 27, 2023.
- “[The World According to Proust: Five Big Ideas](#),” Next Big Idea Club, January 2023.
- “[Sobre uma recensão estranha na \*Forma de Vida\*](#),” *Forma de Vida* 3 (2013), online.
- “Μια ωραία ζωή” [“A Beautiful Life”], trans. Chrysoula Mentzalira. *The Athens Review of Books*, July-August 2011, 14-18.
- “[Il falso di sacre teorie](#),” an interview with Remo Ceserani. *Il Manifesto*, May 22, 2011: 10-11.
- “[Secular Magic in a Rational Age](#).” *The Human Experience* (<http://humanexperience.stanford.edu/thinkingtwice-enchantment>), February 2010.
- “Re-Enchantment” (with Michael Saler), *The American Scholar, Summer 2009*: 10-11.
- “[A Beatrice for Proust?](#)” *Poetics Today* 28:4 (2008): 607-18.
- “[Treason of the Readers: Karl Heinz Bohrer and the Autonomy of the Aesthetic](#),” *Stanford Presidential Lectures Forum*, October 1998.

#### Reviews:

- “[The Point of the Pyramid: Michael Fried’s \*Flaubert’s ‘Gueuloir\*](#),” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, July 20th, 2013.
- “[Proust Among the Psychologists](#)”: Review of Edward Bizub, *Proust et le moi divisé: La Recherche, creuset de la psychologie expérimentale (1874-1914)*, *Philosophy and Literature* 35:2 (2011): 375-387.
- “[Philosophy to the Rescue](#)”: Review of Mark William Roche, *Why Literature Matters in the Twenty-First Century*, and Frank B. Farrell, *Why Does Literature Matter?*, *Philosophy and Literature* 31:2 (2007): 405-19.
- “[The Paradox of Perfection](#)”: Review of Thomas G. Pavel, *La pensée du roman*, *Poetics Today* 26:1 (2005): 161-68.
- “[Accidental Kinsmen: Proust and Nietzsche](#)”: Review of Duncan Large, *Nietzsche and Proust: A Comparative Study*, *Philosophy and Literature* 27:2 (2003): 450-55.
- “[Philosophy as Self-Fashioning: Alexander Nehamas’s \*Art of Living\*](#),” with R. Lanier Anderson. *Diacritics* 31:1 (2001): 25-54.
- “Pearson on Mallarmé,” Review of Roger Pearson, *Unfolding Mallarmé: The Development of a Poetic Art*, *Nineteenth Century French Studies* 26:3-4 (1998): 463-65.

## Radio Appearances as Guest

- “[Football frenzy, foie gras alternatives, Proust forever](#),” *Radio France Internationale* podcast, December 15, 2022.
- “[In Search of Proust’s Philosophy](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 13, 2022.
- “A Philosophical New Year” (Open Air, KALW), January 7, 2021.
- “[What’s It All About?](#)” (*To Be Or Not To Be: Lockdown Shakespeare*, episode 5), October, 2020.
- “[Your Legal Rights: Ethics in a Time of Pandemic and Protest](#),” (Your Legal Rights, KALW), June 17, 2020.
- “[Fiction and Morality](#)” (To the Best of Our Knowledge, NPR), May 4, 2014.
- “[Haunting](#)” (The Stanford Storytelling Project, Episode 407), October 29, 2012.
- “[How Fiction Shapes Us](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, recorded October 10, 2012.
- Interview with Melissa Culross, KCBS San Francisco, July 15, 2012.
- *Peninsula Report*, KZSU Stanford, July 13, 2012.
- Interview with Scott Lettieri, KGO San Francisco, July 11, 2012.
- “[Haunting](#),” Stanford Storytelling Project, October 31, 2012 (30:00-38:30).
- “[Thinking Inside the Box](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 28, 2011 (34:40-40:50).
- “[Reading, Narrative, and the Self](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 28, 2010.
- “[The Uses of Literature](#),” *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, April 20, 2010.
- “[The Art of Living](#)” (with Lanier Anderson), *Forum*, KQED, May 4, 2009.
- “[Serious Fun](#)” (The Stanford Storytelling Project, Episode 206), January 29, 2009.
- “[The Language of Fiction](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 22, 2005.
- “[Marcel Proust](#),” *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, November 8, 2005.

## Radio Appearances as Host

- (152) “[Iris Murdoch](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 13, 2025.
- (151) “[Judith Jarvis Thomson](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 16, 2025.
- (150) “[The 2025 Dionysus Awards](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 2, 2025.
- (149) “[The Philosophical Worlds of Borges](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 16, 2025.
- (148) “[Alan Turing and the Limits of Computation](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 9, 2025.
- (147) “[Elizabeth Anscombe](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 13, 2025.
- (146) “[The Examined Year: 2024](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 29, 2024.
- (145) “[Crisis and Creativity in Mayan Mythology](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 15, 2024.
- (144) “[What’s so Special about Humans?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 1, 2024.
- (143) “[Emma Goldman](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 17, 2024.
- (142) “[Simone Weil](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 27, 2024.
- (141) “[Anna Julia Cooper](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 6, 2024.
- (140) “[Marx and Morality](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 22, 2024.
- (139) “[How to Do Things with Your Mind](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 8, 2024.
- (138) “[Hildegard von Bingen](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 25, 2024.
- (137) “[Who Speaks for You?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 21, 2024.
- (136) “[Nísia Floresta](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 7, 2024.
- (135) “[Daniel Dennett Retrospective](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 30, 2024.
- (134) “[Summer Reading List 2024](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 9, 2024.
- (133) “[Logic for Everyone](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 26, 2024.
- (132) “[Mary Wollstonecraft](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 12, 2024.
- (131) “[Why is the World so Weird?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 28, 2024.
- (130) “[Mind-Sharing](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 31, 2024.
- (129) “[Margaret Cavendish](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 24, 2024.
- (128) “[The 2024 Dionysus Awards](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 10, 2024.
- (127) “[Im Yunjidang](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 25, 2024.
- (126) “[Can A.I. Help Us Understand Babies?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 4, 2024.

- (125) "[20th Anniversary Quiz Night](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 28, 2024.
- (124) "[American Futures](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 31, 2023.
- (123) "[In Awe of Wonder](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 3, 2023.
- (122) "[Mary Astell](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 19, 2023.
- (121) "[Zhuangzi: Being One with Ten Thousand Things](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 5, 2023.
- (120) "[Elisabeth of Bohemia](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 22, 2023.
- (119) "[Can Architecture be Political?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 8, 2023.
- (118) "[Are we Living in a Simulation?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 17, 2023.
- (117) "[Weird Wants](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 20, 2023.
- (116) "[Making a Better World](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 13, 2023.
- (115) "[Hypatia of Alexandria](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 23, 2023.
- (114) "[Mexican Philosophy](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 25, 2023.
- (113) "[Summer Reading List 2023](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 9, 2023.
- (112) "[What is Gender?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 18, 2023.
- (111) "[Can Art Save Us?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 28, 2023.
- (110) "[True Contradictions](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 21, 2023.
- (109) "[The Power of Prediction](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 30, 2023.
- (108) "[Derek Parfit and your Future Self](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 16, 2023.
- (107) "[The Philosophy of Smell](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 26, 2023.
- (106) "[The 2023 Dionysus Awards](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 5, 2023. (In 2024, the Roving Philosophical Report for this episode, written/produced by Holly McDede, Angela Johnston, and Devon Strolovitch, won an award from the San Francisco Press Club.)
- (105) "[Cancel Culture](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 19, 2023.
- (104) "[Why Trust Science](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 22, 2023.
- (103) "[The Examined Year: 2022](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 1, 2023.
- (102) "[How to Create Virtuous Leaders](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 30, 2022.
- (101) "[Liberty and Justice for Who?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 16, 2022.
- (100) "[Climate Change and Collective Action](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 2, 2022.
- (99) "[Who Owns Culture?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 18, 2022.
- (98) "[Effective Altruism](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 28, 2022.
- (97) "[What is Political Inequality?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 14, 2022.
- (96) "[Is Optimism Rational?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 24, 2022.
- (95) "[Summer Reading List: Banned Books Edition](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 10, 2022.
- (94) "[The Changing Face of Antisemitism](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 19, 2022.
- (93) "[The Scandalous Truth about Memoir](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 29, 2022.
- (92) "[What is Ideology?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 8, 2022.
- (91) "[What Would Kant Do?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 17, 2022.
- (90) "[Why Poetry Matters](#)" (with Louise Glück), *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 10, 2022.
- (89) "[The 2022 Dionysus Awards](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 20, 2022.
- (88) "[#METOO: Retribution, Accountability, and Justice](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 6, 2022.
- (87) "[Akan Philosophy and Personhood](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 20, 2022 (earlier version: October 24, 2021).
- (86) "[Righteous Rage](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 6, 2022. (In 2024, the Roving Philosophical Report for this episode, written/produced by Holly McDede, Angela Johnston, and Devon Strolovitch, [won](#) an "excellence in journalism award" from the Society of Professional Journalists.)
- (85) "[Marcus Aurelius](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 30, 2022.
- (84) "[Could Robots be Persons?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 9, 2022.
- (83) "[The Examined Year: 2021](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 26, 2021.
- (82) "[What Can Virtual Reality \(Actually\) Do?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 12, 2021.
- (81) "[Should All Ages Be Equal?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 28, 2021.

- (80) "[The Social Lives of Robots](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 14, 2021.
- (79) "[Frege and the Language of Reason](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 7, 2021.
- (78) "[The Mysterious Timelessness of Math](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 10, 2021.
- (77) "[The Ethics of Awesomeness](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 29, 2021.
- (76) "[Microaggressions](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 15, 2021.
- (75) "[Referring to the World: Ken Taylor's Final Work](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 25, 2021.
- (74) "[Your Brain on Literature](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 11, 2021.
- (73) "[Summer Reading List 2021](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 20, 2021.
- (72) "[Nonduality and the Oneness of Being](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 6, 2021.
- (71) "[The Lives and Ideas of the Vienna Circle](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 23, 2021.
- (70) "[What has Replaced Freud?](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 28, 2021.
- (69) "[The Rhetoric of Big Tech](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 31, 2021.
- (68) "[Democracy by Numbers](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 17, 2021.
- (67) "[The Examined Year: 2020](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 27, 2020.
- (66) "[Minds and Matter](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 13, 2020.
- (65) "[The Arts for All?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 29, 2020.
- (64) "[Are we All to Blame?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 15, 2020.
- (63) "[What's in a Game?](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 25, 2020.
- (62) "[Why We Hate](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 18, 2020.
- (61) "[Science and Skepticism](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 4, 2020.
- (60) "[Citizenship and Justice](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 13, 2020.
- (59) "[The Merits of Meritocracy](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 30, 2020.
- (58) "[Can Streets Discriminate?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 9, 2020.
- (57) "[The Ethical Jerk](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 26, 2020.
- (56) "[Walter Benjamin and the Re-Enchanted World](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 12, 2020.
- (55) "[Pet Ethics](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 28, 2020.
- (54) "[Time for Summer Reading](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 14, 2020.
- (53) "[Covid Conundrums And Moral Dilemmas](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 31, 2020.
- (52) "[Comforting Conversations Part Two](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 24, 2020.
- (51) "[Comforting Conversations Part One](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 17, 2020.
- (50) "[\(Why\) Money Matters](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 26, 2020.
- (49) "[Philosophy and the Superhero](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 12, 2020.
- (48) "[The 2020 Dionysus Awards](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 15, 2020.
- (47) "[Is the Self an Illusion?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 23, 2020.
- (46) "[Death of the Sentence](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 26, 2020.
- (45) "[Comedy and the Culture Wars](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 12, 2020.
- (44) "[A Tribute to Ken Taylor](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 19, 2019.
- (43) "[Sanctuary Cities](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 17, 2019.
- (42) "[Hobbes and the Ideal Citizen](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 3, 2019.
- (41) "[Conscious Machines](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 20, 2019.
- (40) "[The Allure of Authoritarianism](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 6, 2019.
- (39) "[Explanation at its Best](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 29, 2019.
- (38) "[Changing Minds on Climate Change](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 8, 2019.
- (37) "[Reading the Troubled Past](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 11, 2019.
- (36) "[Summer Reading \(and Misreading\)](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 7, 2019.
- (35) "[What is Religious Belief?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 5, 2019.
- (34) "[Is Philanthropy Bad for Democracy?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 28, 2019.
- (33) "[Is Postmodernism Really to Blame for Post-Truth?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 21, 2019.
- (32) "[Hacking the Brain: Beyond the Five Senses](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 14, 2019.
- (31) "[Immigration and Multiculturalism](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 10, 2019.
- (30) "[Envy: Vice or Virtue?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 27, 2019.

- (29) "[The 2019 Dionysus Awards](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 17, 2019.
- (28) "[What do we Owe Future Generations?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 10, 2019.
- (27) "[The Examined Year 2018](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 30, 2018.
- (26) "[Foucault and Power](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 2, 2018.
- (25) "[The Creative Life](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 25, 2018.
- (24) "[Does Reputation Matter?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 11, 2018.
- (23) "[Can Reason Save Us?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 21, 2018.
- (22) "[The New Golden Age of Television](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 30 2018.
- (21) "[The Psychology of Cruelty](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 16, 2018.
- (20) "[The Athlete as Philosopher](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 26, 2018.
- (19) "[The Ethics of Algorithms](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 12, 2018.
- (18) "[Does Science Overreach?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 22, 2018.
- (17) "[Summer Reading List](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 1, 2018.
- (16) "[Are We Alone?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, April 29, 2018.
- (15) "[Trolling, Bullying, and Flame Wars](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, April 15, 2018.
- (14) "[Monstrous Technologies?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, April 8, 2018.
- (13) "[The Culture Industry](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, March 25, 2018.
- (12) "[How to Humbly Disagree](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, March 11, 2018.
- (11) "[The 2018 Dionysus Awards](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, February 18, 2018.
- (10) "[Frantz Fanon and the Violence of Colonialism](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 28, 2018.
- (9) "[Fractured Identities](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 21, 2018.
- (8) "[The Examined Year 2017](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 31, 2017.
- (7) "[Can Speech Kill?](#)" *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 19, 2017.
- (6) "[Midlife and Meaning](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 3, 2017.
- (5) "[The Philosophy of Retirement](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 10, 2017.
- (4) "[The Internet of Things](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 15, 2017.
- (3) "[Post-Truth Politics](#)," *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 10, 2017.
- (2) "[Summer Reading List 2017](#)" (as guest host), *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 2, 2017.
- (1) "[Should Our Beliefs Aim at Truth?](#)" (as guest host), *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 14, 2017.

### Radio Appearances as Guest Host

- "On Beauty," parts [one](#) and [two](#) (with Alexander Nehamas), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, February 15 2011.
- "[The Uses of Philosophy](#)" (with John Perry and Kenneth Taylor), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, February 13 2011.
- "[The Re-Enchantment of the World](#)" (with Michael Saler), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, May 19 2009.
- "[Language and Thought](#)" (with Lera Boroditsky), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, November 4, 2008.

## Invited Lectures

- “Cognitive Biases are a Writer’s Best Friend.” Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, Monday October 7, 2024.
- “Zinger, Clunker, Clanger, Flunker: On Two-Point Comparisons, and Why we Love them.” The Annual Solomon Lecture. Department of Philosophy, University of Auckland (New Zealand), April 17, 2024.
- “Boiled Frog Fictions.” English Department, University of Auckland (New Zealand), April 16, 2024.
- “In Search of Marcel Proust.” The Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, March 21, 2024. (Video [here](#).)
- “Wolf-Proof Sheep” (guest lecture). Claremont McKenna, Monday November 27, 2023.
- “Cognitive Biases are a Writer’s Best Friend.” LSU, Monday November 13, 2023.
- “Teaching a Tiny Bit of Proust.” Apgar Workshop on Teaching European Civilization, LSU, Monday November 13, 2023.
- “Two Ways of Looking at Metaphor.” Poetics Workshop, Stanford, 19 October 2023.
- “[What do we See when we Read?](#)” The Annual Lecture In memory of Sheila and Yossi Carmel, Tel Aviv University, 17 May 2023.
- “Plato’s Use of Irony: How does Plato *Really* Teach us?” The Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, February 24, 2023. (Podcast [here](#); video [here](#).)
- “The World According to Proust.” Topping & Co. Bookshop, Bath UK, November 19, 2022.
- “Why a Novel?” *In Celebration of Marcel Proust* conference, CRPLA, Warwick University, UK, November 18, 2022.
- “Cognitive Biases are a Writer’s Best Friend.” *Art and Science of Thinking* conference, Cornell, October 21, 2022.
- “I’m like a Helicopter: For a Two-Point Theory of Creative Imagery.” Keynote lecture, Duke-Stanford Philosophy and Literature Grad Student Conference, Duke, September 16, 2022.
- “I’m like a Helicopter: For a Two-Point Theory of Creative Imagery.” Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins, September 13, 2022.
- “[I’m like a Helicopter: For a Two-Point Theory of Creative Imagery](#).” London Aesthetics Forum, June 15, 2022.
- “I’m like a Helicopter: For a Two-Point Theory of Creative Imagery.” Philosophy and Literature Colloquium, Bilkent University [remotely], May 10, 2022.
- “How to Be a Participant.” *Geography of Taste* event, University of Toronto, April 30, 2022.
- “Life as a Story, Self as a Poem.” Marin Philosophical Society, July 19, 2021. [Virtual]
- “The Pragmatics of Fiction: Why There Isn’t Always a Message.” Apgar Workshop on Teaching European Civilization, Louisiana State University, November 20, 2020. [Virtual]
- “Why Proust’s Novel Isn’t Just a Big Mess, and Why It Matters.” “Philosophical Angles on Proust” conference, University of Glasgow, May 16, 2019.
- “Ni Montaigne ni Musil: Proust non-essayiste.” *Proust essayiste* conference, Collège de France, May 14, 2019.
- Response to John Gibson, “Metaphor & the Aesthetics of Insight.” Philosophy and Literature Workshop, University of Chicago, May 9, 2019.
- “In Praise of Depth.” London Aesthetics Forum, June 14, 2017.
- “Saving the Self from Stories: Resistance to Narrative in Primo Levi’s *Periodic Table*.” ‘Inscribed Identities’ Conference, Stanford University, May 13, 2017.
- “In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden.” Comparative Literature, Yale University, March 27, 2017.
- “Formative Fictions.” Comparative Cultures and Literature Forum, Cornell University, March 24, 2017.
- “In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden.” Comparative Cultures and Literature Forum, Cornell University, March 23, 2017
- “In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden.” Philosophy and Literature Workshop, University of Chicago, January 5, 2017.
- “Formative Fictions.” *Law and Imagination* Conference, Queen Mary University, London, June 15, 2016.
- “To Thine Own Selves be True-ish: Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* as Formal Model.” Workshop on the Philosophy of Literature, University of York, June 8, 2016.
- “To Thine Own Selves be True-ish: Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* as Formal Model.” Royal Conference: Philosophy and Literature, UT Austin, February 26, 2016.

- “Redemption, Palliation, and Endurance: Three Modes of Self-Narration.” Bernd Magnus Memorial Conference, UC Riverside, February 13, 2016.
- “Slight Expectations: Literature in (a) Crisis.” Literature and Crisis conference (keynote), Florida International University, April 10, 2015.
- “Fictions that Train Your Brain.” “Raising the Bar,” San Francisco, February 24, 2015.
- “Proust and Consciousness.” Stanford Consciousness Workshop, October 30, 2014.
- “The Value of a Liberal Education.” Stanford Alumni Association of Paris, May 27, 2014.
- “Literature and the Brain: Promises and Perils of the Cognitive Turn.” Closing address, “Impression & Object,” Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, March 28, 2014.
- “Fictions that Train Your Brain.” Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, January 13, 2014.
- “Literature and Cognitive Science in the Classroom.” Learning and the Brain conference, San Francisco, February 16, 2013.
- “Fictions: The Worlds Writers and Artists Create.” aMuse Gallery, San Francisco, January 20, 2013.
- “Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities.” Philosophy and Literature Workshop, University of Chicago, May 10, 2012.
- “Literature, Narrative, and the Shape of a Life,” The Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature, Duke University, 23 February, 2012.
- “Bringing Philosophy To An End: How to do Things with Beckett.” French Cultural Studies Workshop, National Humanities Center, 20 February 2012.
- “Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities.” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins, 13 February 2012.
- “Proust’s *Recherche*: Why a Novel?” Department of German and Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins, 14 February 2012.
- “The Uses of Literature.” East Carolina University, 17 November 2011.
- “The Future of the Humanities.” Department of German and Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins, 10 November 2011.
- “Clarification, Formal Models, and Training-Grounds.” University of San Francisco, 10 April 2011.
- “[Literature, Narrative, and the Shape of a Life](#).” London Aesthetics Forum, 17 March 2011.
- “How I Think about Literature.” Division of Literatures, Cultures and Languages, Stanford University, November 4, 2010.
- “Philosophical Training Grounds: Socratic Sophistry and Platonic Perfection in *Symposium* and *Gorgias*.” Classics Department, UC Berkeley, September 30, 2010.
- “Narrative Form and the ‘Meaning’ of a Life.” Institute for Philosophy and Religion 41st Annual Lecture Series: “Narrative Wisdom—Narrative Meaning.” Boston University, November 4, 2009.
- “The Shape of a Life.” The ‘Last Lecture’ Series, Stanford University, May 18, 2009.
- “Molly Springfield’s ‘Translation.’” Steven Wolf Fine Arts, San Francisco, February 14, 2009.
- “Metaphor and Faith: The Parables of Jesus.” Space, Time, and God Workshop, Stanford University, February 10, 2009.
- “The Devil, the Master-Criminal, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” Aesthetics Workshop, Stanford University, January 21, 2009.
- “Literature, Narrativity, and the Self.” Annual Philosophy and Literature lecture, University of Notre Dame, April 24, 2008.
- “Corrupting Literature.” Keynote Talk, Comparative Literature Graduate Conference (“Corruption”), Stanford, April 5, 2008.
- “‘Un égoïsme utilisable pour autrui’: le statut normatif de l’auto-description chez Proust.” Collège de France, Paris, March 25, 2008.
- “The Parable of the Sower.” Stanford Humanities House, Feb 13, 2008.
- “Literature, Narrativity, and the Self.” Nef Lecture Series, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, Jan 14, 2008.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction,” London Aesthetics Forum, March 21, 2007.

- “Passion, Counter-Passion, Catharsis: Beckett and Flaubert on Feeling Nothing.” Nef Lecture Series, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, Feb 1, 2007.
- “Chambres d’hiver / La chambre de ma mère: Home, Self, and Self-Oblivion in Beckett and Proust.” Closing address, “Envisioning Home,” Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, November 4, 2006.
- “How One Becomes What One Is: Finding Yourself in Marcel Proust.” Stanford Alumni Association, Tucson AZ, May 26, 2005.
- “Taketh the Moralitee, Goode Men: on the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction.” Princeton University, April 21, 2005.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: on the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction.” Johns Hopkins University, November 15, 2004.
- “Authors, Writers and Rumors of Death,” Conference on Antoine Compagnon’s *Literature, Theory, and Common Sense*, University of Chicago, November 5, 2004.
- “Self, Deception, and Knowledge: *Philosophy as Fiction* Reconsidered,” Modern France Workshop, University of Chicago, October 15, 2004.
- “Within a Budding Grove,” The Proust Society of America (San Francisco Chapter), September 8 2004.
- “Nietzsche’s Style,” American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), Pasadena, March 26, 2004.
- “The Paradox of Perfection: Thomas Pavel’s *La Pensée du roman*,” Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University, January 15, 2004.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction,” Modern France Workshop, University of Chicago, May 23, 2003.
- “What is behind the Martinville Steeples? Perspective, Knowledge and Imagination in Proust,” UC Berkeley French Department, December 5, 2001.

### Other Talks

- Invited comments on Vincenzo Grasso, “The Self is Present.” ASA Pacific Division conference, March 8, 2025.
- “Literary Narrative and the Temporality of Emotions.” Claremont McKenna College, February 21, 2025. (Invited as part of a one-day conference.)
- “Literature and the Brain.” MLA, New Orleans, January 11 2025. (Invited respondent.)
- “Cognitive Approaches to Unnatural Narrative.” MLA, New Orleans, January 11 2025. (Invited discussion leader.)
- “Saving the Self from Stories.” Aesthetics Reading Group, University of Arizona, Nov 5, 2024. (Invited discussant.)
- “Cognitive Biases are a Writer’s Best Friend.” *American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division)* conference, San Francisco, April 6, 2023. (Invited by Jonathan Weinberg.)
- “Gender Trouble (and Cognitive Science) in Baudelaire.” *Nineteenth Century French Studies* conference, New York, November 5, 2022.
- “I’m like a Helicopter: For a Two-Point Theory of Creative Imagery.” *American Society for Aesthetics* conference, Berkeley, March 19, 2022.
- “Nussbaum and Brecht in the Age of Trump.” *Against Empathy?* panel, MLA Convention, January 6, 2018.
- “Beyond Surface and Depth (response).” *American Society for Aesthetics* conference, New Orleans, November 17, 2017.
- “Ethics in Fiction.” *Panel with George Saunders*, Stanford, May 11, 2017.
- Commentary on Ira Newman, “Beckett’s Bleakness.” *American Society for Aesthetics* conference, Seattle, November 18, 2016.
- “The Dangers of Empathy.” *After Empathy* panel, MLA Convention, January 9, 2016.
- “Teaching Close Reading in the Humanities: Chances and Challenges.” *Center for Teaching and Learning*, Stanford, May 12, 2015.
- “Why Fraud Matters and What It Tells Us about Fiction.” *American Society for Aesthetics* conference, San Diego, November 2, 2013.
- “John on Walton on Thoughtwriting.” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division*, April 6, 2012.

- “The Function of Modernist Reflexivity.” *Modernist Studies Association* conference, Buffalo NY, 7 October 2011.
- “The Shape of a Life.” *Ethics@Noon*, Stanford, 29 April 2011.
- “Valentine’s Day.” “*Deceit, Desire and the Novel Fifty Years Later*,” Stanford, 15 April 2011.
- “Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*.” *Film and Philosophy III*, University of Warwick, July 17, 2010.
- “Proust sans son époque? The Case of *Jean Santeuil*.” *Proust et son époque* conference, University of Illinois, April 10, 2010.
- “Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*.” *Film and Philosophy*, Stanford University, January 16, 2010.
- “Literary Narrative as Formal Model.” “What Is Narrative?” panel, Stanford University, June 4, 2009.
- “Futile Teasers: Beckett, Rorty, and the End of Philosophy.” *Philosophy and Literature* conference, University of Sussex (UK), June 13, 2008.
- “To Have and Have Not: Romantic Irony and Cognitive Science.” *Literature and Cognitive Science Roundtables*, Stanford, February 22, 2008.
- “Futile Teasers: Beckett, Rorty, and the End of Philosophy.” *Beckett at 100* conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee FL, February 11, 2006.
- “The Shape of Faith: Mallarmé, Allegory, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” *Nineteenth Century Studies Association* conference, Austin TX, October 28, 2005.
- “Literature and (Analytic) Philosophy: A Future for the Humanities?” *Third International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities*, New Hall College, Cambridge, August 2, 2005
- “Science and Fiction: Robert-Houdin and Villiers de l’Isle-Adam,” *Rethinking Secularization: International Society for Intellectual History Conference*, UC Davis, April 2, 2005.
- “Perspective and Metaphor (or Metonymy) in Proust,” *Department of French and Italian Lecture Series*, Stanford University, February 19, 2002.
- “Teaching and Fiction,” *Association of Literary Critics and Scholars Conference*, San Francisco, Oct. 27, 2001.
- “A Response to Roger Chartier,” Stanford University Presidential Lecture Series, Stanford, Oct. 17, 2000.
- “Parables and Perplexity,” *The Pious and the Profane: Western Humanities Alliance Conference*, University of Washington, Oct. 14, 2000.
- “Les moi en moi: Self and Selves in Proust,” *Celebrating the Century?: Twentieth Century French Studies Conference*, University of Pennsylvania, March 31, 2000.
- “The Unpurloined Letter: Nietzsche, Proust and a Meta-Will-to-Ignorance,” *Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference*, Marymount University, March 26, 2000.
- “Fictions of the Self,” *Stanford Humanities Center Colloquium Series*, January 18, 2000.
- “Science and Fiction: Robert-Houdin and Villiers de l’Isle-Adam,” *Nineteenth-Century French Studies Conference*, Pennsylvania State University, Oct. 23, 1998.
- “The Game of Skill: Illusions, Delusions and the Mallarméan Poetics,” *Mallarmé: Music, Arts, Letters*, Indiana University, September 1994.