

MARK JAMES MCGURL

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Academic Employment

2011-present

Professor of English, Stanford University

fields of specialization: 20th and 21st century literature and culture with emphases on fiction, media and institutions, sociological, aesthetic and literary theory, science and literature; the history of the novel; film.

1997-2011

Professor of English, UCLA

hired as Assistant Professor in 1997; promoted to Associate with tenure 2004; promoted to Full Professor 2009.

Education

Ph.D. The Johns Hopkins University, Comparative Literature, 1998

A.B. Harvard University, *summa cum laude* in Literature, 1989

Books

“The Posthuman Comedy: Literature After Big Science” (book ms. in progress)

examines the relation of literary and educational institutions to various specters of the inhuman produced by modern science.

The Program Era: Postwar Fiction and the Rise of Creative Writing, Harvard 2009

--paperback 2011

--Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism, 2011 [awarded 2012]

--Chinese translation 2012

--Reviewed in The New Yorker; New York Times, Bookforum, Contemporary Literature, Catholic Herald UK, Irish Times, London Review of Books, TLS, Rain Taxi, Times Higher Education UK, die Tageszeitung, Twentieth Century Literature, Michigan Quarterly Review, et al.

The Novel Art: Elevations of American Fiction after Henry James, Princeton 2001

examines the transformation of the status of the novel beginning in the late-19th century, mapping the upward mobility of the genre to period discourses of social class and to emergent conception of mental labor and social space.

Articles

“The Institution of Nothing: David Foster Wallace in the Program” forthcoming winter 2013, Boundary 2

Review Essay: “Dark Times: On the 21st Century Gothic” Los Angeles Review of Books (Sept 22, 2012)

“Timing” in Jeffrey Williams et al eds. The Critical Pulse: 36 Credos by Contemporary Critics (Columbia UP, Sept, 2012) 252-257.

“The New Cultural Geology” Twentieth Century Literature (Fall/Winter 2011) pp. 380-390 [first published Aug. 2012]

“The Posthuman Comedy” Critical Inquiry Vol 38 no. 3 (Spring 2012) pp. 533-553

“The MFA Octopus: Four Questions about Creative Writing” Los Angeles Review of Books (May 11, 2011).

“Ordinary Doom: Literary Studies in the Waste Land of the Present” New Literary History Spring 2010.

Review Essay: “The Zombie Renaissance” in n+1 #9 (April 2010)

“The Novel, Mass Culture, Mass Media” in Leonard Cassuto, Claire Eby eds., The Cambridge History of the American Novel, forthcoming 2010

“Understanding Iowa: Flannery O’Connor, B.A., M.F.A.” American Literary History, Summer 2007
“The Program Era: Pluralisms of Postwar American Fiction” Critical Inquiry, Fall 2005

“Learning from Little Tree, or, The Political Education of the Counterculture,” Yale Journal of Criticism Winter 2006

“Social Geometries: Taking Place in Henry James,” Representations, Fall 1999

"Making 'Literature' of it: Hammett and High Culture," American Literary History Nov. 1997

"Making It Big: Picturing the Radio Age in King Kong," Critical Inquiry, Spring 1996

Reviews, Replies, Interviews

“ ‘Neither Indeed Could I Forebear Smiling at Myself’: A Reply to Wai Chee Dimock” in Critical Inquiry, Spring 2013, pp. 632-638

Interview with Mark McGurl (by M.S. Atwell) Fiction Writers Review (December 2009)
Micro-Interview with Mark McGurl (by Lee Konstantinou), The Believer Magazine,
May 2009
On-screen presenter, "Inside the Handy Writers' Colony," PBS documentary 2008
Review of Schurman and Johnson, eds, Scorned Literature: Essays on the History and Criticism
of Popular Mass-Produced Fiction in America, Paradoxa: Studies in World Literary Genres
(No. 20) 2006
"Framing Truth: Reply to Nick Sharp," Critical Inquiry winter 1997
"Excluded Middle: Janice Radway's A Feeling for Books" (Review Article) Lingua Franca,
October, 1997
"Green Ideas Sleep Furiously: Andrew Ross on Ecocriticism," (Interview) Lingua Franca,
December, 1994

Awards and Fellowships

The Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism, 2011 [awarded 2012]
Hurst Visiting Professor, Washington University St. Louis, September 2009
UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, Departmental Nominee 2006; 2008
Stanford Humanities Center Fellowship, 2002-03
UC President's Research Fellowship in the Humanities, 2002-03
Irving Cooper Fellowship for Biographical and Literary Historical Studies, 2000
Owen Fellowship in the Humanities (Johns Hopkins), 1991-1994
Thomas J. Watson Memorial Scholarship, 1985-89
Hoopes Prize for Outstanding B.A. Thesis (Harvard), 1989
Ford Foundation Grant, summer 1988
Phi Beta Kappa, 1988

Invited Lectures and Keynotes

Keynote Speaker, University of Heidelberg June 2013

Faculty Seminar on my recent work, Williams College English Dept., April 18-19
2013

Invited Speaker, UNC, November 2012

Keynote Speaker, Paris VIII June 28, 2012: [one day conference devoted to discussion of The
Program Era]

Invited Speaker, Arkansas Literary Festival, Little Rock, April 14, 2012
Award Acceptance Lecture, Truman Capote Award Ceremony Oct. 6, 2011
Invited Speaker, University of Iowa English Department Oct. 7, 2011
Invited Participant, Arizona Quarterly Symposium, March-April 2011
Invited Speaker, Carnegie Mellon University, March 2011
Invited Speaker, "The Futures of Literature" MOCA Los Angeles, October, 2010
Invited Speaker, Northwestern University, April 2010

Invited Speaker, Yale 20/21st Century Colloquium, October 2009
Invited speaker, U. Missouri English Department, September 2009
Keynote Speaker, Southland Conference, UCLA, June 2009
Invited Speaker, UC Berkeley English Department, March 2009
Keynote Speaker, “DisJunctions” Conference, UC Riverside April 2008
Invited Speaker, University of Iowa English Department, March 2008
Invited Speaker, Stanford University English Department, May 2007
Invited Speaker, Columbia University Society of Fellows, April 2007
Invited Speaker, UC Irvine English Department Graduate Colloquium, Jan. 2007
Invited Speaker, Yale Department of English, April 2005
Invited Speaker, U. Chicago Department of English, October 2003

Conference and Other Presentations

Conference Organizer: Post-45 at Stanford Nov. 9-10, 2012

--primary organizer of two-day, 20-person conference of the Post-45 Group

“The Institution of Nothing: David Foster Wallace in the Program” Post45 at Stanford Nov 9-10, 2012

“Being and Time Management” Featured Speaker, Narrative Conference, Las Vegas March 15, 2012

“Rethinking Craft” MLA Seattle Jan. 7, 2012

“Philip Roth’s Modest Phase” MLA Seattle Jan. 7, 2012

Respondent, Post45 Conference Nov. 11-12, 2011 CalTech

“Roundtable: A Conversation with Mark McGurl” AWP Convention, Feb. 2011

“Transportopia: Programming a Transnational Turn” UCLA English Department Americanist Colloquium, Nov. 2006

“The Social Construction of Unreality: Creative Writing Way Out West” Southern California Americanist Group, Huntington Library, June 2006

“Our Phonocentrism: Find Your Voice”—UCLA English Department Athenaeum, May, 2006

“Early Warnings: Premonitions of Postmodernism in American Fiction from the 1890s-1930s”—panel chair and respondent, American Literature Association, May 2005

“Modernism’s Other Spaces” panel chair and respondent, Modernist Studies Association, Vancouver, B.C., October 2004

“Understanding Iowa: The Religion of Institutionalization” Southern California Americanist Group, September 2004

“Autobardolatry: Modernist Fiction, Progressive Education, ‘Creative Writing’” Americanist Research Colloquium circulation and discussion, UCLA, May 2004

“Pluralisms of Postwar American Fiction” Stanford Humanities Center, December 2002

“Modernist Education: Theories and Institutions” seminar leader, Modernist Studies Association, Madison WI, October 2002

“Pluralisms of Postwar American Fiction” New York Area Americanist Group, July 2002

“Systematic Excellence: Notes Toward a Belief in the Progress of American Fiction”

Craft, Critique, Culture Conference, U. of Iowa, 2002

“Forrest Carter: Southern Nativism and the Native American” MLA New Orleans, 2001

“Faulkner’s Ambit: Modernism, Regionalism and Mobility” SSSL, Florida, spring 2000
“Does Matter Matter?” Response to Daniel Tiffany, UCLA Humanities Colloq., winter 2000
“Modernism and Mules” Modernist Studies Association, Penn State U. fall 1999
“Feedback to Katherine Hayles” UCLA Communications Studies Forum, May, 1998
“Transient Occupations: Edith Wharton and O. Henry” ALA convention, Baltimore, May, 1997
"Making 'Literature' of it: Hammett and High Culture" MLA Washington, winter 1996

Departmental, University and Professional Service

Graduate Admissions co-chair 2012-13

Graduate Committee, 2012-13

Richard Powers Ad Hoc Hiring Committee 2012-13

Literature Lab 20th Century Unit Leader 2012-13

MLA Narrative Section elected board member (2012-)

Independent Study 2012-13: Cameron Awkward-Rich (MTL): Readings in SF;
Aku Ammah-Tagoe; Paper Revision; Bianca Aguirre: Undrgd Honors Prep

Graduate Advisees: Ben Allen (MTL); Aku Ammah-Tagoe; Lindsey Dolich Felt
(Primary); Allen Frost (Primary); Nate Landry; Josh Mann; Dalglish Chew

Undergraduate Advisees: Chace Hickock, Bianca Aguirre, Abraham Romero,
Katharine Schwab, Ronald Taylor

Stanford Humanities Center Geballe Workshop Selection Committee (2012)

Stanford English Department Graduate Admissions Committee (2011-12)

Stanford English Department Graduate Committee (2011-12)

Stanford English Department Chair’s Advisory Committee (2011-12)

MLA American Literature Section elected board member; awards committee chair (2010)

UCLA 19th Century Americanist Search Committee (Chair) (2010-11)

UCLA Transatlantic pre-1900 Search Committee (2008-09)

UCLA New Media Search Committee (Chair) (2007-08)

English Department Graduate Committee (2003-07)

English Department Executive Committee (1998-99; 2000-01; 2004-05; 2007-08)

UCLA Americanist Search Committee (2000-01)

UCLA Latino/a Chicano/a Search Committee (2001-02) (2003-04) (2005-06)

Advisory Board, Center for Modern and Contemporary Studies (2001-04)

Juror, Cal State Undergraduate Research Competition (2001-02)

Editorial Experience and Journal Readerships

Modern Fiction Studies editorial board member 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