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CV (Dec 2011)

A.B.	Harvard University	1967
M.A.	University of Pennsylvania	1968
Ph.D.	University of Pennsylvania	1971

Fields of Specialization:

Contemporary Fiction; the fantastic elements in fiction; formerly Middle English, Old English, and Old Norse literatures

Positions Held:

1969-73	Lecturer, Cornell University and University of Virginia
1973-77	Assistant Professor, Cornell University
1977-86	Associate Professor, Penn State University
1986-93	Professor, Penn State University
1993-2005	Distinguished Professor, Penn State University
2005-	Edwin Erle Sparks Professor, Penn State University

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

THE OWL AND THE NIGHTINGALE: The Poem and its Critics. Toronto: The University of Toronto Press, 1975. Pp. xiii+139.

Fantasy and Mimesis: Responses to Reality in Western Literature. London: Methuen, 1984. Pp. xvi+213. Translated into Korean (Seoul: PurunNamu, 2000).

Pynchon's Mythography: An Approach to GRAVITY'S RAINBOW. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1987. Pp. xxiv+262.

Calvino's Fictions: Cogito and Cosmos. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992. Pp. [x+] 212.

American Dream, American Nightmare: Fiction since 1960. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2000. Pp. 359. Reprinted in China.

Surviving your Academic Job Hunt: Advice for Humanities PhDs. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2005. Pp. viii + 215.
New and Revised edition, 2010.

Aggressive Fictions: Reading the Contemporary American Novel. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2012.

ARTICLES:

Contemporary Fiction, Fantastic Fiction:

"Romance: A Perdurable Pattern," *College English* 36 (1974): 129-146.

"C. S. Lewis' Trilogy: A Cosmic Romance," *Modern Fiction Studies* 20 (1974-75): 505-517.

"Visionary Allegory in David Lindsay's *A Voyage to Arcturus*," *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 77 (1978): 72-91.

"Robert Coover's Fiction: The Naked and the Mythic," *Novel* 12 (1979): 127-148.

"The Heraclitean Cosmos of Kurt Vonnegut," *Papers on Language and Literature* 18 (1982): 208-224.

"Medieval Romance and Science Fiction: The Anatomy of a Resemblance," *Journal of Popular Culture* 16 (1982): 15-26.

"Science and Imagination in Calvino's *Cosmicomics*," *Mosaic* 15 (December, 1982): 47-58.

"Vonnegut's Self-Projections: Symbolic Characters and Symbolic Fictions," *Journal of Narrative Technique* 12 (1982): 177-190.

"Kurt Vonnegut and the Myths and Symbols of Meaning," *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 24 (1982): 429-447.

"The Hidden Dynamics of *The War of the Worlds*," *Philological Quarterly* 62 (1983): 279-292.

- "The Edifice Complex: Motive and Accomplishment in Arthur C. Clarke's *The Fountains of Paradise*," *Extrapolation* 24 (1983): 380-388.
- "Italo Calvino's Cosmic Comedy: Mythography for the Scientific Age," *Papers on Language and Literature* 20 (1984): 80-95.
- "Orpheus and the Orphic Voice in *Gravity's Rainbow*," written in collaboration with Thomas J. Knight, *Philological Quarterly* 64 (1985): 299-315.
- "Pynchon's Orchestration of *Gravity's Rainbow*," written in collaboration with Thomas J. Knight, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 85 (1986): 366-385.
- "Calvino's Framed Narrations: Writers, Readers, and Reality," *Review of Contemporary Fiction* 6.2 (1986): 71-80.
- "*Gravity's Rainbow*: Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Mythology," in *Intersections: Fantasy and Science Fiction*, ed. George E. Slusser and Eric S. Rabkin (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1987), pp. 190-200.
- "La commedia cosmica di Italo Calvino: una mitografia per l'età della scienza," *Nuova Corrente* 34 (1987): 85-106 (a translation of "Italo Calvino's Cosmic Comedy: Mythography for the Scientific Age").
- "Calvino's *La memoria del mondo*: The Forgotten Record of Lost Worlds," in *Calvino Revisited*, ed. Franco Ricci, University of Toronto Italian Studies 2 (Ottawa: Dovehouse Editions, 1989), pp. 85-102.
- "Views from Above, Views from Below: The Perspectival Subtext in *Gravity's Rainbow*," *American Literature* 60.4 (1988): 625-642.
- "Eat or be Eaten: H. G. Wells's *Time Machine*," *Philological Quarterly* 69.2 (1990): 233-251.
- "Grains of Sand in a Sea of Objects: Italo Calvino as Essayist," *Modern Language Review* 87.1 (1992): 72-85.
- "Sensuality and the Senses in Calvino's Fiction," *MLN* 107 (1992): 160-177.
- "Repetition and the Construction of Character in *Gravity's Rainbow*," *Critique* 33.4 (1992): 243-254.
- "Ishmael Reed and the Problematics of Control," *PMLA* 108.3 (1993): 506-518.

- "Taking a Stand while Lacking a Center: Rushdie's Postmodern Politics," *Philological Quarterly* 74.2 (1995): 209-230.
- "William Burroughs's Phantasmic Geography," *Contemporary Literature* 40.1 (1999): 111-135.
- "Vonnegut's Melancholy," *Philological Quarterly* 77 (1998): 221-238.
- "Books of the Dead: Postmortem Politics in Novels by Mailer, Burroughs, Acker, and Pynchon," *Modern Philology* 97.3 (2000): 417-444.
- "The Semiotics of Fantasy in William Kennedy's Fiction," *Philological Quarterly* 79.4 (2000): 523-548.
- "Brautigan's Psychomachia," *Mosaic* 34.1 (2001): 75-92.
- "Voice in Kathy Acker's Fiction," *Contemporary Literature* 42.3 (2001): 485-513.
- "Robert Coover: The Metaphysics of Bondage," *Modern Language Review* 98.4 (2003): 827-841.
- "Quest Romance in Science Fiction," in *A Companion to Romance*, ed. Corinne Saunders (Oxford: Blackwells Publishing, 2004): 488-501.
- "'Dimensions' and John Edgar Wideman's Mental Cosmology." *Contemporary Literature* 44.4 (2003): 697-726.
- "Black Urban Utopia in Wideman's Later Fiction," *Race and Class* 45.3 (2004): 19-34.
- "Narrative Speed in Contemporary Fiction." *Narrative* 13.2 (2005): 105-124.
- "Speed, Rhythm, Movement: A Dialogue on K. Hume's Article 'Narrative Speed'." With Jan Baetens. *Narrative* 14.3 (2006): 349-355.
- "Gerald Vizenor's Metaphysics." *Contemporary Literature* 48.4 (2007): 580-612.
- "Diffused Satire in Contemporary American Fiction." *Modern Philology* 105.2 (2007): 300-325.
- "The Religious and Political Vision of Pynchon's *Against the Day*," *Philological Quarterly* 86.1-2 (2007): 163-187. Reprinted as "The Religious and Political Vision of *Against the Day*," in *Pynchon's AGAINST THE DAY: A*

Corrupted Pilgrim's Guide, ed. Jeffrey Severs and Christopher Leise (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2011), pp. 167-189.

"Gerald Vizenor on Imagination," accepted for a collection on the Native American Renaissance edited by Alan Velie and A. Robert Lee.

a chapter on Pynchon's *Mason & Dixon* for the *Cambridge Companion to Thomas Pynchon*, (accepted).

"Facing Life's Limits in Robert Coover's Recent Fiction," produced for a festschrift.

"Character Functions and Ethical Aims in the Novels of Richard Powers" (submitted)

"Professionalizing Graduate Students: Ways and Means," produced for a special issue of *Pedagogy*, ed. Leonard Cassuto.

"Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* as Mythic Romance," (submitted)

Professionalism

"Department Politics as a Foreign Language," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 31, 2003, B5.

"The Perils of Publishing your Dissertation Online,"
<http://theprofessorisin.com/2011/08/24/the-perils-of-publishing-your-dissertation-online/>

Middle English (and Anglo-Latin)

Leprosy or Syphilis in Henryson's *Testament of Cresseid*?" *English Language Notes* 6 (1969): 242-245.

"Why Chaucer Calls the *Franklin's Tale* a Breton Lai," *Philological Quarterly* 51 (1972): 365-379.

"The Pagan Setting of the *Franklin's Tale* and the Sources of Dorigen's Cosmology," *Studia Neophilologica* 44 (1972): 289-294.

"*Amis and Amiloun* and the Aesthetics of Middle English Romance," *Studies in Philology* 70 (1973): 19-41.

"The Formal Nature of Middle English Romance," *Philological Quarterly* 53 (1974): 158-180.

"The Composition of a Medieval Romance: Walter Map's *Sadius and Galo*,"
Neuphilologische Mitteilungen 76 (1975): 415-423.

Old English

"The Function of the *hrefn blaca*: *Beowulf* 1801," *Modern Philology* 67 (1969):
60-63.

"The Concept of the Hall in Old English Poetry," *Anglo-Saxon England* 3 (1974):
63-74.

"The Theme and Structure of *Beowulf*," *Studies in Philology* 72 (1975): 1-27.

"The 'ruin-motif' in Old English Poetry," *Anglia* 94 (1976): 339-360.

Old Norse

"Structure and Perspective: Romance and Hagiographic Features in the Amicus
and Amelius Story," *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 69 (1970):
89-107.

"Beginnings and Endings in the Icelandic Family Sagas," *Modern Language
Review* 68 (1973): 593-606.

"The Thematic Design of *Grettis saga*," *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*
73 (1974): 469-486.

"From Saga to Romance: The Uses of Monsters in Old Norse Literature," *Studies
in Philology* 77 (1980): 1-25.

"*Grettis saga Ásmundarsonar*," an entry in the *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, vol.
5 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1985).

BOOK REVIEWS:

Eyrbyggja saga, translated by Hermann Pálsson and Paul Edwards, *Journal of English
and Germanic Philology* 73 (1974): 576-578.

The Laxdoela Saga: Its Structural Patterns by A. Margaret A. Madelung, *Speculum* 50
(1975): 516-520.

The Secular Scripture: A Study of the Structure of Romance by Northrop Frye, *Style* 11 (1977): 212-213.

Modern Fantasy: Five Studies by C. N. Manlove, *Yearbook of English Studies* 7 (1977): 286-287.

Curiosity and Pilgrimage: The Literature of Discovery in Fourteenth Century England by Christian K. Zacher, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 76 (1977): 123-125.

Miðaldaæventýri Þýdd úr Ensku, ed. Einar G. Pétursson, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 77 (1978): 130-131.

Erex saga and Ivens saga, translated, with an introduction, by Foster W. Blaisdell, Jr., and Marianne E. Kalinke, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 77 (1978): 310-311.

The Happening Worlds of John Brunner: Critical Explorations in Science Fiction, ed. Joe De Bolt, *Modern Language Review* 74 (1979): 192-193.

The Game of the Impossible: A Rhetoric of Fantasy by W. R. Irwin, *Modern Language Review* 74 (1979): 680-681.

Eilhart von Oberge's TRISTRANT, translated, with an introduction, by J. W. Thomas, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 78 (1979): 86-88.

American Visionary Fiction: Mad Metaphysics as Salvation Psychology by Richard Finholt, *Modern Language Review* 75 (1980): 638-639.

Strengleikar: An Old Norse Translation of Twenty-one Old French Lais, eds. Robert Cook and Mattias Tveitane, *Scandinavian Studies* 53 (1981): 468-469.

Metamorphoses of Science Fiction: On the Poetics and History of a Literary Genre by Darko Suvin, *Yearbook of English Studies* 12 (1982): 347-348.

Icelandic Enterprise: Commerce and Economy in the Middle Ages by Bruce E. Gelsinger, *Scandinavian Studies* 54 (1982): 259-261.

Karlamagnus saga Branches I, III, VII, et IX, Norse text edited by Agnete Loth; French translation by Annette Patron-Godefroit, and editorial study by Povl Skarup, *Scandinavian Studies* 54 (1982): 256-257.

The Literature of Terror: A History of Gothic Fictions from 1765 to the present day by

- David Punter, *Modern Language Review* 78 (1983): 152-153.
- The Life and Works of David Lindsay* by Bernard Sellin, *Yearbook of English Studies* 15 (1985): 335-336.
- Robert Coover* by Richard Andersen, *Modern Language Review* 80 (1985): 150.
- Four Contemporary Novelists: Angus Wilson, Brian Moore, John Fowles, V.S. Naipaul* by Kerry McSweeney, *Modern Language Review* 82.3 (1987): 726-727.
- In Defence of Fantasy* by Ann Swinfen, and *Magical Thought in Creative Writing* by Anne Wilson, *Modern Language Review* 83.1 (1988): 179-180.
- Robert Coover's Fictions* by Jackson I. Cope, *Novel* 22.1 (1988): 122-123.
- The Style of Connectedness: GRAVITY'S RAINBOW and Thomas Pynchon* by Thomas Moore, *Pynchon Notes*, 18-19 (1986), 116-117.
- War Stars: The Superweapon and the American Imagination* by H. Bruce Franklin, *American Literature* 61.3 (1989): 469-470.
- The Gnostic Pynchon* by Dwight Eddins, *American Literature*, 63.2 (1991): 358-359.
- The Politics of Postmodernism* by Linda Hutcheon, *University of Toronto Quarterly*, 61.1 (1991): 117-118.
- Constructing Postmodernism* by Brian McHale, *American Literature* 66.1 (1994): 206-207.
- The Play of the Double in Postmodern American Fiction* by Gordon E. Slethaug, *Modern Fiction Studies* 40.4 (1994): 859-861.
- Late Imperial Romance* by John McClure, *American Literature* 67.1 (1995): 175-176.
- Painting with Words, Writing with Pictures: Word and Image Relations in the Work of Italo Calvino* by Franco Ricci, *University of Toronto Quarterly* 72.1 (Winter, 2002/03): 545-546.
- Glorificemus: A Study of the Fiction of Walter M. Miller, Jr.* by Rose Secret. *Utopian Studies* 14.1 (2003): 258-259.
- Amy Tan* by Bella Adams. *MELUS* 30.4 (2005): 181-184.

Thomas Pynchon: Reading from the Margins. Ed. Niran Abbas. *Studies in the Novel* 37.1 (2005): 99-101.

Courses Taught (at Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University):

Undergraduate:

- Middle English Literature
- Survey of Old and Middle English Literature (in translation)
- Chaucer
- Theory of the Romance Form
- Fantasy (a multi-section freshman seminar course run under my direction)
- Science Fiction
- Survey of English Literature (*Beowulf* to the Romantics)
- Introduction to Drama
- Introduction to Literature
- Shakespeare and Modern Authors
- Politics and Literature
- The Bible and Ancient Authors
- The Literature of Fantasy (a lecture course)
- Technical Writing (I ran the teacher training program for this multi-sectioned course for two years)
- Freshman Composition
- American Fiction since 1945 (numerous versions)
- The Great Tradition in English Literature
- Three honors seminars on contemporary fiction
- British Fiction since 1945
- Exploring Traditions: Literary Doubles (e.g. *Beowulf* and *Grendel*)

Graduate:

- Advanced Technical Writing
- Thesis Writing/Professional Writing
- Introduction to Old English
- Fiction of the last 20 years (new reading list each time)
- Article Writing Workshop combined with training in Professionalism

Consulting Editor: *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 1988-
 Editorial Board Member: *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 1989-94; 2004-
 Advisory Committee Member: *PMLA* 1994-1997

Journals for which I have served as reader:

Chaucer Review; Clio; Comparative Literature Studies: Contemporary Literature; Critique; Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts; Journal of Narrative Technique; MELUS, Modern Fiction Studies; Modern Language Studies; Mosaic; National Women's Studies Association Journal; Papers on Language and Literature; Philological Quarterly; Poetics Today; PMLA; Review of Politics; Scandinavian Studies; Studies in the Novel; Style; Texas Studies in Literature and Language

Presses for which I have read scholarly and critical manuscripts:

Cornell University Press; Southern Illinois University Press; University of Wisconsin Press; Methuen; Kent State University Press; Princeton University Press; The Pennsylvania State University Press; UMI Research Press; University of Toronto Press, University of Pennsylvania Press; University of Alabama Press; University Press of Florida; Duke University Press; State University of New York Press; University of South Carolina Press; University of Illinois Press; University Press of Virginia

Presses for which I have read technical writing manuscripts:

Scott, Foresman; Wadsworth; Allyn and Bacon; St. Martin's

Awards:

Eaton Award 1986 for *Fantasy and Mimesis*

Distinguished Scholar Award 1988 from the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts

Thesis Students:

1985	Debra Modellmog	Prof, Ohio State University
1987	U. Ramdas Rao	position in India unknown
1991	Amy Elias	Assoc. Prof. University of Tennessee
1995	Daniel Punday	Prof. Purdue University, Calumet
1997	Kelly Marsh	Assoc. Prof. Mississippi State University
1997	Umeeta Sadarangani	Prof. Parkland College
1998	Jamil Khader	Prof. Stetson University
1998	Neill Johnson	admin at PSU
2002	Ylce Irizarry	Assistant Prof. University of South Florida
2003	Marco Abel	Associate Prof. University of Nebraska
2005	Holly Flint	Assistant Prof. University of Alabama, Huntsville

2011 Jeffrey Gonzalez VAP Oberlin College
2011 Sean Moiles FT1 PSU

Books that grew out of these theses:

Moddelmog, *Readers and mythic signs : the Oedipus myth in twentieth-century fiction*
(Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 1993)

Elias, *Sublime Desire : History and post-1960s Fiction* (The Johns Hopkins Univ Press,
2001)

Punday, *Narrative after Deconstruction* (SUNY Press, 2003)

Abel, *Violent affect : literature, cinema, and critique after representation* (Univ of
Nebraska Press, 2007)