

Thomas Oliver Beebee

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University Park, PA 16802
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EDUCATION

1973-77 B.A. Dartmouth College (Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) Major: Comparative Literature (German & Music)
1977-78 M.A. University of Michigan Field: Comparative Literature (German & Spanish)
1978-84 Ph.D. University of Michigan Field: Comparative Literature,
Thesis: "Clarissa Betrayed: Continental Translations of Richardson's Novel"

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

1984-86 Assistant Professor of German, Bowdoin College
1986-92 Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University
1992- Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University
Fall, 1993 Visiting Scholar (Fulbright), Department of English, Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil
2000- Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University
2000-01 Visiting Scholar, Romance Languages, The Johns Hopkins University

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Clarissa on the Continent: Translation and Seduction. University Park, PA: Penn State Press, 1990. xi + 228 pp.

The Ideology of Genre: A Comparative Study of Generic Instability. University Park: Penn State Press, 1994. viii + 303 pp.

Epistolary Fiction: in Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. x+277 pp.

Translation:

With Qing-yun Wu. *The Remote Country of Women.* By Bai Hua. Honolulu: U of Hawaii P, 1994. 369 pp.

Completed: *True Imaginary Places: Landscapes of Nation in Modern European and American Fiction* (250 pp.) Accepted for the Purdue UP Series in Comparative Cultural Studies, to appear 2007.
Eschatechnologies: Representations of Millenniaumin the Americas (350 pp. Oxford UP, to appear 2008.

In Progress: *Transmesis: Inside Translation's Black Box* (130 pp. completed)

Edition:

With Steven R. Cerf and James L. Hodge. Introduction, notes, and glossary for Richard von Weizsäcker's *Zum 40. Jahrestag der Beendigung des Krieges in Europa und der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft.* Cherry Hill, NJ: American Association of Teachers of German, 1987. 32 pps.

Selected Journal Articles (all refereed):

"Orientalism, Absence, and the Poème en Prose." *Rackham Journal of the Arts and Humanities*, 2 (1980): 47-71.

"Kafka's Law: A Recursive Definition." *Kennesaw Review* 2.1 (Fall 1989): 39-54.

"Doing Clarissa's Will: Samuel Richardson's Legal Genres." *The International Journal of Law and Semiotics*, 2.5 (1989): 159-182.

"Ballad of the Apocalypse: Another Look at Bob Dylan's 'Hard Rain.'" *Text and Performance Quarterly* 11 (1991): 18-34.

"Johann Jakob Dusch and the Genealogy of Epistolary Fiction." *JEGP* 91.3 (July 1992): 360-82.

"The Letter Killeth: The Pli of Death in Jean-Paul Marat's Epistolary Fiction." *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, Philosophy of History* 21.3 (Spring 1992): 217-41. Translated into Chinese as "Huoxing baocang: Lun Mala xiaoshuo zhong de siwang heihan." *Zhongwai Wenxue* 263 (April 1994): 33-56.

"The Fiction of Translation: Abdelkebir Khatibi's Love in Two Languages." *Sub-stance* 23.1 (1994): 63-78.

"Talking Maps: Region and Revolution in Juan Benet's *Volverás a Región* and Euclides da Cunha's *Os Sertões*." *Comparative Literature* 47.3 (Summer 1995): 193-214.

Articles in journals (cont.):

"The Rifled Mailbag: Robber as Reader in Epistolary Fiction." *Revue de Littérature Comparée* (Jan.-Mar. 1996): 14-36.

Joshua M. Getz and Thomas O. Beebee. "The Epistolary Politics of Amos Oz's *Black Box*." *Prooftexts* 18.1 (January 1998): 45-65.

"Tryptichs of Solipsism: *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner and *Fogo Morto* by José Lins do Rego." *The Comparatist* (1999): 63-88.

Thomas O. Beebee and Beverly Weber. "A Literature of Theory: Christa Wolf's *Kassandra Lectures* as Feminist Anti-Poetics." *German Quarterly* 74.3 (Summer 2001): 257-77.

"They Built Millennium: Jesuits and Guaraní 1610-1768." *Zeitsprünge* 6 (2002): 101-19.

"Ways of Seeing Italy: Landscapes of Nation in Goethe's *Italienische Reise* and its Counter-Narratives." *Monatshefte* 94.3 (2002): 322-45.

Thomas O. Beebee and Lenka Pankova. "Milorad Pavic's *Dictionary of the Khazars* as Translational Fiction." *Serbian Studies* 18.2 (2004): 339-59.

"The Canudos Phenomenon: Three Early Factions." *Brazil/Brasil*, to appear. 6500 words.

"Carl Schmitt and the Myth of Benito Cereno." *seminar* 42.2 (May 2006): 114-35.

"Publicity, Privacy, and the Power of Fiction in the Gunning Letters." *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 20.1 (2007): 61-88.

"Inside the Black Box of Literary Translation: Transmesis." *Expressions* (Mishima, Japan) 3 (2007): 24-44.

Selected Book Chapters:

"Letters of the Law: Rhetoric and Fiction in the *Artes Dictaminis*." In *Action and Agency: Fourth Round Table on Law and Semiotics*. Ed. Roberta Kvelson. New York: Peter Lang, 1991. 33-64.

"Bertolt Brecht's Legal Theater." In *Law and Aesthetics*. Ed. Roberta Kvelson. New York: Peter Lang, 1992. 37-67.

"Kant, Goethe, Benjamin, and the Law of Marriage." In *Worldmaking*. Ed. William Pencak. NY: Lang, 1996. 193-210.

"Epistolary Novel." In *Encyclopedia of the Novel: Vol. 1: A-L*. Ed. Paul Schellinger. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998. 384-8.

"Cathartic Thinking: Semiotics and Tragic Theory." In *A Handbook of Semiotics*. Ed. Roberta Kvelson. New York: Lang, 1998. 173-90.

"Rebellion in the Backlands." In *World Literature and Its Times, Vol. 1: Latin-American Literature and its Times*. Detroit: Gale Research Press, 1999. 431-43.

"The *Öffentlichkeit* of Jürgen Habermas: The Frankfurt School's Most Influential Concept?" In *Rethinking the Frankfurt School*. Ed. Jeffrey Nealon and Karin Irr. Albany: SUNY Press, 2002. 187-204.

"Beyond Lecture and Discussion: The World's Oldest Approaches to Literature." In *Teaching World Literature*. Ed. David Damrosch. To appear 2007 MLA Press. 6000 words.

Translation:

Co-translator with Qing-yun Wu. "I Think" By Zhan-chun Geng. *Yearbook of General and Comparative Literature*, 38 (1989): 120--33.

Book Reviews and Review Essays in: *Biography*; *Clio*; *Comparative Literature Studies*; *German Quarterly*; *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*; *Luso-Brazilian Review*; *Yearbook of General and Comparative Literature*

SELECTED PAPERS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Writing as Ruling in Aphra Behn and Claude Lévi-Strauss." Annual Convention of the American Comparative Literature Association, Atlanta, GA, April 1987.

"Recursivity and Narrative/Life." International Conference on Narrative, Columbus, Ohio, March 1988.

- "The Voice of the Translator." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Convention, Waltham, MA, March 1989.
- "The Fiction of Translation: Abdelkebir Khatibi's *Love in Two Languages*" Annual Convention of the American Comparative Literature Association, State College, PA, March 1990.
- "Death and the Letter in Jean-Paul Marat's Epistolary Novel." Invited lecture, Dartmouth College, October 1991.
- "Region and Revolution in Juan Vincent Benet's *Volverás a Región* and Euclides da Cunha's *Os Sertões*." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Convention, Columbia University, April 1992.
- "A Mulher como escritora de cartas em várias literaturas." X Semana de Estudos Germânicos, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil, October 1993.
- "The Lettered Woman: Variations on a Metaphor." Invited lecture, California State University at Los Angeles, 12 May 1994.
- "Is it Science? Some Mental Maps in Modern Literature and Criticism." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Convention, Athens, GA, March 1995.
- "Between Word and Text: The Translating Fictions of Borges, Brossard, and Khatibi" American Comparative Literature Association Annual Convention, University of Notre Dame, April 1996.
- "Cultural Memory and the Narrativization of Space." The International Comparative Literature Association Triannual Convention, Leiden, The Netherlands, August 1997.
- "Desert Landscape with Woman: Mary Austin, Nicole Brossard, and Joy Harjo Translate the American Southwest" ACLA Annual Convention, Austin, Texas, March 1998.
- "The Y2K Bug, *Caesar's Column*, Canudos, Waco, *Apokalypsis* -- and You: Premillennarianism as a Transnational American Phenomenon." ACLA Annual Convention, Montreal, April 1999.
- "They Built Millennium: Jesuits and Guaranis 1610-1768." The Fifth Annual Conference on Millennial Studies, Boston University, October 2000.
- "Golden Flying Saucers: Ernesto Cardenal and Millennial Ufology." The Sixth Annual Conference on Millennial Studies, Boston University, November 2001.
- "Kingdoms of This World: Defeated Millennium, Pseudo-Millennium, and Dystopic Millennium in Fiction of the Americas." The Seventh Annual Conference on Millennial Studies, Boston University, November 2002.
- "Transmisis and Postcolonial Reason." ACLA Annual Convention, Ann Arbor, MI, April 2004.
- "Inside Translation's Black Box." Conference on Critical Inquiry, Tsinghua University, Beijing, June 2004.
- "Comparative Literature in the United States Today." Remin University Conference on Chinese Studies, Beijing, June 2004.
- "Creole Nation: Angola in the Fiction of José Eduardo Agualusa." MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, December 2004.
- "Colonial Letters: Towards a Taxonomy." MLA Annual Convention, Washington, D. C., December 2005.
- "From E-pistles to E-mail." ACLA Annual Convention, Princeton, NJ, April 2006.
- "What is Comparative Literature?" Series of five lectures delivered to the College of International Relations, Nihon University, Mishima, Japan, June 2006.
- "The Four-Square City: The New Jerusalem as Proto-Urban Planning." Talk given at the Symposium on Imaginary Cities, Penn State University, April 2007.

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Journal Boards: *Comparative Literature Studies* (1992-); *Terra Roxa* (State University of Londrina, Brazil)

Editor-in Chief, *Comparative Literatures Studies* (2001-)

Referee for journals: *CLCWeb*; *Comparative Literature Studies*; *College English*; *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*; *Social Dynamics* (U of Capetown)

Reader for presses: Bucknell UP; Cambridge UP; Johns Hopkins UP; Penn State P; Purdue UP

GRADUATE THESES SUPERVISED

Seventeen doctoral dissertations (fourteen in Comparative Literature, three in German), and three master's theses completed under my orientation, with three more in progress. Altogether, I have served on more than 30 Penn State doctoral dissertation committees in Comparative Literature, English, German, Spanish, Speech Communication, Art Education, and Geography.

GRANTS

1987 Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies Grant (Penn State). \$3080
 1988 Research Initiation Grant (Penn State) for research in Wolfenbüttel, Germany. \$7000
 1990 NEH Travel to Collections Grant for research in Paris, France. \$750
 1991 Jacobs Research Fellowship (Penn State); one semester teaching release. \$7000
 1991 Folger Institute Grant-in-Aid (to attend Folger Seminar and conduct research). \$1367
 1993 Fulbright Lecturing/Research Grant, Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil. \$21,000
 1997 Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies Grant (Penn State) for research in Bahia, Brazil. \$1500
 1998-2000 Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies Term Fellowship. \$6000

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

1994-98 NEH Evaluation Committee: Summer Stipend Grants (French, German, and Slavic; again 2005-07)
 1995-97 CIES Disciplinary Advisory Committee for Fulbright Scholar Awards (Comparative Literature)
 2003- President, Phi Beta Kappa Lambda Chapter, Penn State University
 2004- Member, ACLA Advisory Board (3-year term)
 1999- Representative of the ACLA to the Field Committee for the National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage Project

HONORS & AWARDS

1977 Phi Beta Kappa
 1979 Delta Phi Alpha Honor Society for German Scholars, University of Michigan
 1991 Honorary Inductee, Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Language Honor Society
 1992 Class of 1933 Humanities Award, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University
 1993 Eisenhower Award for Excellence in Teaching, Penn State University