**Walter Cohen**

**Curriculum vitae**

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**Publications**

Books

*Drama of a Nation: Public Theater in Renaissance England and Spain*.  Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell UP, 1985. 416 pp. Rpt. pp. 302-22 as “Aristocratic Failure.” In *Shakespearean Tragedy*. Ed. John Drakakis. London: Longman, 1992, pp. 96-117.

*Citations*: 538.[[1]](#footnote-1)

*Reviews*: *The Year’s Work in English Studies* 66 (1985) 94?; JoséM. Ruano de la Haza, *The Year’s Work in Modern Language* Studies 47 (1985): 333; Leo Salingar, *Renaissance Quarterly* 39 (1986) 812-16; John Timpane, *Shakespeare Bulletin* (March-April 1986): 20-21; Charles Frey, (*SEL*) *Studies in English Literature 1500-1800* 26 (1986): 359-61; John Wilders (*TLS*) Times *Literary Supplement* (July 18, 1986) 790; *Bibliothèque d’Humanisme et Renaissance* 49 (1987): 195-98; David Mills, *Review of English Studies* 38: 2 (Feb. 1987): 70-72; Wolfgang Wicht, *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* (Weimar) 123 (1987): 195-96; Steven Mullaney, *Shakespeare Quarterly* 38 (1987): 512-16; Maria Shevstova, *Theatre Journal* 39 (1987): 266-67; John Beverley, *boundary 2* 15: 3 (1988): 27-39; J. E. Varey, *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* 67 (1989): 416-19; Bruce Wardropper, Foreword, *“Comedias del siglo de oro” and Shakespeare*, ed. Susan L. fischer (Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell UP, 1989) 11-15;Edward H. Friedman, *Comparative Literature Studies* 26 (1989): 362-65; Jonathan Dollimore, *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* 4 (1989): 231-37; Harmut Stenzel, *Romanische Forschungen* 101 (1989): 369-73; David Scott Kastan, *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* 5 (1989?), 350-51; Jonathan Hart, *Canadian Review of Comparative literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée* Special Issue (June/Sept. 1991): 365, 372-81.

*The Norton Shakespeare*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt (General Editor), Walter Cohen, Suzanne Gossett, Jean E. Howard, Katharine Eisaman Maus, and Gordon McMullan. New York: Norton, 1997; 2nd ed. 2008; **3rd ed. 2015**. See also #32 below.

*Citations*:

1. Introductions
   1. *Love’s Labor’s Lost*: 14.
   2. *Merry Wives of Windsor*: 12.
   3. The sonnets: 10.
   4. *Troilus and Cressida*: 8.
   5. *Othello*: 7.
   6. *Antony and Cleopatra*: 13.
   7. *Pericles*: 20.
   8. *Henry VIII*: 4.
   9. *The Two Noble Kinsmen:* 4*.*

*Reviews*: Dinitia Smith, *New York Times* April 22, 1997, C12; Brian Vickers, *TLS* Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 1998, 933.

*A History of European Literature: The West and the World from Antiquity to the Present.* Oxford: Oxford UP, 2017. 612 pages.

*Translation*: Hangzhou, China: Zhejiang UP, forthcoming 2025, with my Foreword to the Chinese edition.

*Citations*: 64.

*Reviews*: Ritchie Robertson, *TLS* “Books of the Year” (November 14, 2017), p. 21: %20TLS%20contributors%20decide%20(2).pdf; Osman Durrani, *Modern Language Review* 113(2018) 361-3: <https://www-jstor-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/stable/10.5699/modelangrevi.113.2.0361>; Ben Hutchinson, *TLS* (January 26, 2018): <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/private/global-influences-classical-tradition-european-literature/>; Paulo de Medeiros, *Journal of European Studies* 48:1 (January 2018) 76-8: <https://journals-sagepub-com.proxy.lib.umich.edu/doi/abs/10.1177/0047244118756213>; Svend Erik Larsen, *Comparative Critical Studies*, 16: 1 (March 2019) 120-5; Ian Ellison, *Modern Language Review* 114 (2019) 848-9: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5699/modelangrevi.114.4.0848>; Russell E. Martin, *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 55 (2021) 91-4.

Works in Progress

*The World of Literary History: Ecology, Geography, Language, and Social Change.* This volume seeks to elucidate and explain patterns in comparative literary history. The essays follow a trajectory from literature as response to external forces, through the internal history of literature and literary forms, to language and literature as social forces in their own right.

The opening chapter argues that ecological catastrophe delegitimizes the old order and thus opens the way for the new. Literacy and literature are shaped by a recurrent historical alternation. In one era, climate change, epidemics, or other natural disasters generate social dislocation and demographic decline. Literacy and literature correspondingly recede. In the other, environmental conditions are more favorable, literacy and literature thrive, a new cultural age dawns, and the literary network again expands. Thus, the ecologically influenced extinction of some literary and cultural forms allows for their eventual replacement by others.

This discussion then provides a partial explanatory framework for an account of the patterns of European literary history. That account begins with those features that Europe shares with other regions of the world, before proceeding to its main topic—the distinctive, even unique, characteristics of the literature of the continent. Three in particular are singled out: intra-vernacular leadership, expansionist vocation, and the amalgam of competitiveness and systematicity.

The implicit connection here between formal features and historical processes is next exemplified at the level of the individual author by analysis of Shakespeare’s romances and sonnets. The internal logic of these two genres is situated within continental and inter-continental traditions. Attention is paid not only to Shakespeare’s well-known influence, including the deployment of his works in social and political conflicts, but also to his less familiar but deep indebtedness to an oral and written heritage that spans much of the Old World and a bit of the New.

An attempt to generalize from the European focus of the two previous chapters is undertaken with respect to Africa. The approach in this instance is to override standard academic distinctions by viewing the continent’s 5,000-year literary history as a unity—on the model of, say, how we treat Near Eastern or European (or even Western) culture. This history, which concludes with a review of its diaspora, revises common positions in two respects. It gives more weight to literacy than many orally-oriented approaches to the continent grant, and it suggests some ways African literary history inflects our understanding of world literary history.

The multilingualism that one finds in African literary history is accorded additional importance in a survey of the languages of Jewish literature. That literature is often seen as an anomaly, the writings of a people without a land. By contrast, the claim here is that this characteristic of Jewish literature is in fact not the exception but the norm of global literary history. Only the nationalist bias of recent centuries has obscured the overwhelming evidence of the routine disjunctions among literature, language, and polity—disjunctions that persist to the present day.

The concluding survey of the social agency of literature balances the opening review of the external forces that help create the conditions of possibility for literary invention and response. It steers clear of assertions for the impact of individual texts or writers, gives somewhat greater weight to literary genres, and attributes still more influence to language, writing system, and literary language. This review culminates in an assessment of contemporary world English. The argument is that written language sometimes acts as a causal agent comparable in significance to such standard explanatory categories as economics, politics, technology, armaments, religion, and ideology.

Articles

1. “U.S. Foreign Policy: A Radical Study Guide.” *Pacific Research and World Empire Telegram* (Palo Alto, CA),3:3 (1972), 1-19.
2. “The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism: A Reply.” *Socialist Review* 38 (March-April 1978), 98-103.
3. “*King Lear* and the Social Dimensions of Shakespearean Tragic Form, 1603-1608.” In *Shakespeare: Contemporary Critical Approaches*.  Ed. Harry R. Garvin. Lewisburg, Pa.: Bucknell UP, 1980, pp. 106-18.

*Citations*: 5.

1. “Shakespeare and Calderón in an Age of Transition.” *Genre*, 15 (1982), 123-37.  Published simultaneously in book form as *The Power of Forms in the English Renaissance.* Ed.Stephen Greenblatt. Norman, Ok.: Pilgrim Books, by arrangement with *Genre* and the U of Oklahoma P, and Woodbridge, England: Boydell and Brewer, 1982.

*Citations*: 8.

1. “*The Merchant of Venice* and the Possibilities of Historical Criticism.” *ELH*, 49 (1982), 765-89. Rpt. in a) *Materialist Shakespeare: A History*. Ed. Ivo Kamps. London: Verso, 1995, pp. 71-92; b) *The Merchant of Venice*. Ed. Martin Coyle. New Casebooks. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: MacMillan, 1998, pp. 45-72; c) *Shakespeare Criticism*, Vol. 77. The Gale Group, 2003?; d) *The Norton Critical “Merchant of Venice.”* Ed. Leah Marcus. New York: Norton, 2005, pp. 245-52 (excerpt: pp. 197-203 of *Drama of a Nation)*.

*Citations*: 180.

1. “Marxist Literary Critics: Problems and Proposals” (with Peter U. Hohendahl). *Humanities in Society*, 6 (1983), 161-77.

*Citations*: 1.

1. “Calderón in England: A Social Theory of Production and Consumption.” *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, 35 (1983), 69-77.

*Citations*: 10.

1. “The Making of Nabokov's Fiction.” *Twentieth Century Literature*, 29 (1983), 333-50.

*Citations*: 21.

1. “The Artisan Theatres of Renaissance England and Spain.” *Theatre Journal* 35 (1983), 499-518.

*Citations*: 11.

1. “The Reformation and Elizabethan Drama.” *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* (Weimar), 120 (1984), 45-52.

*Citations*: 8.

1. “Intrigue Tragedy in Renaissance England and Spain.” *Renaissance Drama*, NS 15 (1984), 175-200. Rpt. in *Renaissance Drama as Cultural History*. Ed. Mary Beth Rose. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern UP, 1990, pp. 429-54.

*Citations*: 7.

1. “Plays and Playhouses in Renaissance Spain: A Historical Approach.” *Ideologies and Literature*, NS 1 (1985), 7-30.

*Citations*: 3.

1. “*Heinrich IV.* und die Revolution.” *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* (Weimar), 121 (1985), 57-63.

*Citations*: 1.

14. “Shakespeares Realität und Shakespeares Realismus: Neue politische Interpretationen.” *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* (Weimar), 122 (1986), 59-64.

15. “The Politics of Golden Age Spanish Tragicomedy.” In *Renaissance Tragicomedy: Explorations in Genre and Politics*. Ed. Nancy Ann Maguire.  New York: AMS Press, 1987, pp. 155-76.

*Citations:* 10.

*Reviews*: John D. Cox, *Comparative Drama* (1988?), 379-80; Eugene M. Waith, *Renaissance Quarterly* 42 (1989): 378.

16. “Political Criticism of Shakespeare.” In *Shakespeare Reproduced: The Text in Ideology and History*. Ed. Jean Howard and Marian O'Connor. London: Methuen, 1987, pp. 18-46.

*Citations:* 196.

*Reviews*: Terence Hawkes, *Times Higher Education Supplement* (March 18, 1988); R. P. Griffin, *Choice* (April 1988).

17. “‘None of woman born’: Shakespeare, Women and Revolution.” *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* (Weimar), 124 (1988), 39-51.

18. “The Novel and Cultural Revolution.” *Potsdamer Forschungen: Wissenschaftliche Schriftenreihe der Pädagogische Hochschule “Karl Liebknecht” Potsdam*, 32 (1988), 29-47.

19. “Afterword: Comparative Studies of Renaissance Drama in England and Spain.” In *"Comedias del Siglo de Oro" and Shakespeare*. Ed. Susan L. Fischer. Lewisburg, Pa.: Bucknell UP, 1989, pp. 142-51.

*Citations*: 1.

20. “The Concept of World Literature.” In *Comparative Literature East and West: Traditions and Trends*. Ed. Cornelia N. Moore and Raymond A. Moody. Honolulu: The College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature, U of Hawaii, and the East-West Center, 1989, pp. 3-10.

*Citations*: 9.

21. “The Subject of Shakespeare and the Subject of History.” *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* (Weimar), 126 (1990), 60-64.

22. “Prerevolutionary Drama.” In *The Politics of Tragicomedy: Shakespeare and After*. Ed. Jonathan Hope and Gordon MacMullan. London: Routledge, 1991, pp. 122-50.

*Citations*: 45.

23. “Interview: Who's Afraid of Martin Bernal?” *Bookpress*, Vol. 1, no. 3 (Nov. 1991), pp. 1, 8, 11. Expanded version: "An Interview with Martin Bernal." *Social Text*, No. 35 (Summer 1993), pp. 1-24.

*Citations*: 18.

24. “Marxist Criticism.” In *Redrawing the Boundaries: The Transformation of English and American Literary Studies*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt and Giles Gunn. New York: MLA, 1992, pp. 320-48.

*Citations*: 21.

25. “The Discourse of Empire in the Renaissance.” In *Cultural Authority in Golden Age Spain*. Ed. Marina S. Brownlee and Hans-Ulrich Gumbrecht. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins UP, 1995, pp. 260-83.

*Citations*: 21.

26. “The Economics of Doctoral Education in Literature.” *PMLA*, 115 (2000), 1164-87.

*Citations*: 10.

27. “The Uniqueness of Spain.” In *Echoes and Inscriptions: Comparative Approaches to Early Modern Hispanic Literatures*. Ed. Barbara Simerka and Chris B. Weimer. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell UP, 2000, pp. 17-29.

*Citations*: 2.

28. “The Undiscovered Country: Shakespeare and Mercantile Geography.” In *Marxist Shakespeares*. Ed. Jean E. Howard and Scott Cutler Shershow. London: Routledge, 2001, pp. 128-58.

*Citations*: 53.

29. “The Literature of Empire in the Renaissance.” *Modern Philology* 102:1 (August 2004), 1-34.

*Citations*: 27.

30. “*Don Quijote* and the Intercontinental History of the Novel.”  *Early Modern Culture*, No. 4, 2004. <http://emc.eserver.org/1-4/cohen.html>.

*Citations*: 6.

31. “Humanistic Explanation.” In *Do the Humanities Have to be Useful*? Ed. Biddy Martin, Mohsen Mostafavi, and Peter LePage. Cornell University, 2006, pp. 19-23.

32. “Lynching, Visuality, and Empire.” *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art* 20 (Fall 2006): 118-21.

*Citations*: 2.

33. “Eurasian Fiction.” *The Global South*, 1: 2 (Fall 2007), 100-119.

*Citations*: 9.

34. “Shakespearean Romance.” *The Norton Shakespeare Based on the Oxford Edition*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt (General Editor), Walter Cohen, Suzanne Gossett, Jean E. Howard, Katharine Eisaman Maus, and Gordon McMullan. New York: Norton, 1997; 2nd ed. 2008: *Romances and Poems*. 103-17. 3rd ed. 2015. 121-37.

*Citations*: 4.

35. “Fault Lines and Coherence in Language and Literature Departments.” *ADFL Bulletin*, 41, No. 1 (2009): 53-58.

*Citations*: 2.

36. “World Literature and Contemporary Fiction.” a) Portuguese trans.: “Literatura mundial e ficção contemporânea”. *Terceira* *Margem* (Brazil) No. 23 (July-Dec. 2010), 15-23; <http://www.letras.ufrj.br/cienciali3t/index_terceira_margem.htm>; b) *Shawangunk Review* 23 (2012): 7-20.

37. “The Rise of the Written Vernacular: Europe and Eurasia.” *PMLA* 126 (2011), 719-29.

*Citations*: 6.

38. “Eurasian Literature.” In *Comparative Early Modernities,* *1100-1800*. Ed. David Porter. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. 47-72.

*Citations*: 9.

39. “The Ecology of Globalization: Environmental Catastrophe and the History of Literature.” *Globalization and Literary Studies.* Ed. Joel Evans. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2022. 21-34. <https://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/literature/literary-theory/globalization-and-literary-studies?format=HB#contentsTabAnchor>.

40. “Afterword: Around the World in 154 Poems, or, How to Do Things with Shakespeare’s Sonnets.” *Shakespeare’s Global Sonnets: Translation, Appropriation, Performance.* Ed. Jane Kingsley-Smith and W. Reginald Rampone, Jr. London: Palgrave, 2023. 381-98.

41. “The Europe of European Literary History.” *Europe in Law and Literature: Transdisciplinary Voices in Conversation.* Ed. Laura A. Zander and Nicola Kramp-Seidel. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2023. 27-41.

42. “Foreword to the Chinese Edition” of *A History of European Literature.* Forthcoming: Hangzhou, China: Zhejiang UP.

[1379 citations in all as of June 9, 2025]

Book Reviews

1. Fitter, Chris, ed. *Shakespeare and the Politics of Commoners: Digesting the New Social History.* Oxford: Oxford UP, 2017. *Modern Philology* 116, 2 (2018). E86-8.
2. Ball, Rachael. *Treating the Public: Charitable Theater and Civic Health in the Early Modern Atlantic World*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2016. Pp. xii + 212. *Journal of Modern History* 90 (2018) 906-8.

Blogs

1. “World Literature: What’s in a Name?” *OUP Blog*. October 3, 2017. <https://blog.oup.com/2017/10/world-literature-definition/>.
2. “Giving to ‘The Life You Can Save.’”*“The Life You Can Save” Supporter Stories*. May 25, 2020. <https://www.thelifeyoucansave.org/supporters-stories/giving-to-the-life-you-can-save/>.

Translation

1. Virgil. *Aeneid*. 2.42-9 (“Greeks . . . bearing gifts”). *The Trojan Horse: A Radical Look at Foreign Aid.* Steve Weissman et al. 2nd ed. Palo Alto, CA: Ramparts Press, 1975. P. 7.

**Papers**

1. "*King Lear* and the Social Dimensions of Shakespearean Tragic Form, 1603-1608." Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, December 1977.
2. "The Ideology of Nabokov's Fiction." MLA Convention, December 1978.
3. "The Social and Ideological Context of Contemporary Literary Criticism." Comparative Literature Department, Cornell University, October 1980.
4. "Marlowe's *Edward II*: The Intersection of Authorial and Generic Ideology." MLA Convention, December 1980.
5. "Calderón and Shakespeare." Calderón Tercentenary Conference, Cornell University, March 1981.
6. "Calderón in England: A Social Theory of Production and Consumption."  Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, April 1981.
7. "The National History Plays of Shakespeare and Lope de Vega." International Shakespeare Association Conference, Stratford-upon-Avon, August 1981.
8. "Late Medieval Drama and the Crisis of Feudalism." Conference on Popular Unrest in the Later Middle Ages, SUNY Binghamton, October 1981.
9. "*The Merchant of Venice* and the Problem of Interpretation." English Department Literature Club, Cornell University, March 1982.
10. "Was the English Renaissance Playhouse a Capitalist Playhouse?" Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Minneapolis, April 1982.
11. "Golden Age Fiction and the Origins of the Novel." Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, April 1982.
12. "Marxism and Feminism." Telluride Summer Program, Cornell University, July 1982, and July 1984.
13. "The Ideology of Soliloquy: *Othello* and *The Double Dealer*." MLA Convention, December 1982.
14. "The Novel and Cultural Revolution." Literature Department, University of California, San Diego, January 1983, and Renaissance Colloquium, Cornell University, February 1983.
15. "Proletarian Culture in Imperial Germany: Respondent." Conference on the Origins of Mass Culture in Imperial Germany, Cornell University, April 1983.
16. "Die Reformation und das elisabethanische Drama." Die Deutsche Shakespeare-Gesellschaft Conference, Weimar, GDR, April 1983.
17. "Marxism and Metafiction." NEH Summer Seminar on Metafiction, Cornell University, August 1983.
18. "Political Theory." Comparative Literature and Contemporary Literary Theory Conference, SUNY Binghamton, October 1983.
19. "History and Class Consciousness: Shakespeare, Lope de Vega, and the Enterprise of Marxism." MLA Convention, December 1983.
20. "*Henry IV* and Revolution." Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Cambridge, Ma., April 1984, and Die Deutsche Shakespeare Gesellschaft Conference, Weimar, GDR, April 1984.
21. "Language, Literature, and the Formation of National Consciousness in Renaissance Europe." Government Department, Cornell University, September 1984.
22. "Habermas and Foucault: Respondent." Habermas Conference, Cornell University, March 1985.
23. "Marlowe and Shakespeare." Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Nashville, TN, March 1985.
24. "The Politics of Theory in Contemporary America." Sektion Slawistik/Anglistik, Pädagogische Hochschule "Karl Liebknecht" Potsdam, Potsdam, GDR, April 1985; English Department, Humboldt University, GDR, April 1985.
25. "Shakespeare's Reality and Shakespeare's Realism: New Political Interpretations." Die Deutsche Shakespeare-Gesellschaft Conference, Weimar, GDR, April 1985.
26. "Shakespeare and the Politics of Criticism." English Department, Johns Hopkins University, November 1985; English Department, University of Hawaii, January 1986.
27. "Drama of a Nation: Public Theater in Renaissance England and Spain" (a session devoted to my book of the title). Midwest MLA Convention, November 1985.
28. "Golden Age Prose Fiction and the Linguistic Politics of International Canon Formation." MLA Convention, December 1985.
29. "Shakespeare and Politics." Telluride Association Winter Program (three-day seminar), Cornell University, January 1986.
30. "Shakespeare and Ideology." International Shakespeare Association Conference, West Berlin, April 1986.
31. "Literature, Popular Culture, and Revolution in European History." Western Societies Program, Cornell University, April 1986.
32. "`None of woman born': Shakespeare, Women, and Revolution." Die Deutsche Shakespeare-Gesellschaft Conference, Weimar, GDR, April 1987; MLA Convention, San Francisco, December 1987; Renaissance Society of America Convention, March 1988; Conference on Civilization and Its Others, Comparative Literature Department, University of Wisconsin, April 1988; English Department, Yale University, October 1990; Comparative Literature Department, Harvard University, November 1990; English Department, University of Virginia, November 1990; Renaissance Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, November 1990; International Shakespeare Association Conference, Tokyo, August 1991.
33. "Marxist Criticism." English Department, Johns Hopkins University, October 1987; English Department, Yale University, October 1990; Comparative Literature Department, Harvard University, November 1990; English Department, University of Virginia, November 1990.
34. "The Concept of World Literature." Conference on East-West Studies, Comparative Literature Department, University of Hawaii, January 1988.
35. "Prerevolutionary Drama." Conference on English Drama, 1610-1650, Wadham College, Oxford, June 1988.
36. "Renaissance Drama: Reception and Revolution." English Department, Columbia University, November 1988.
37. "The Subject of Shakespeare and the Subject of History." Die Deutsche Shakespeare-Gesellschaft Conference, Weimar, GDR, April 1989.
38. "The Discourse of Empire in The Renaissance." Conference on Cultural Authority, Spanish Department, University of Pennsylvania, October 1991; New England Renaissance Society Conference, Yale University, November 1991; Entralogos Conference, Romance Studies Department, Cornell University, February 1992; English Department, SUNY Binghamton, February 1992; Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Kansas City, April 1992.
39. "What Is European Literature, Anyway?: The ‘Third World’ and the Western Tradition." Comparative Literature Department, University of Maryland, November 1992; English Department, University of California, Berkeley, April 1995; Literature Department, University of California, San Diego, April 1995; Comparative Literature and English Departments, Stanford University, April 1995; Comparative Literature Department, Brown University, November 1995; English Department, SUNY Buffalo, 1996?; English Department, University of Alabama, October 1999.
40. “The Future of Literature Departments.” MLA Convention, New York, December 1992.
41. “‘Like a nightmare on the brain of the living’: Critical and Editorial Trends in Shakespeare and Renaissance Studies.” Program in Renaissance Studies, Yale University, February 1997.
42. “The Economics of Doctoral Education in Literature.” MLA Conference on the Future of Doctoral Education, University of Wisconsin, April 1999; Association of Graduate Schools, Presidential Address, Emory University, September 1999; Cornell-Humboldt Conference on the Fate of the Humanities in the Corporate University, Humboldt University, October 2000.
43. “Metafiction and Intercultural Critique.” Cervantes Conference, Cornell University, April 2005.
44. “The Early Modern English and Spanish Nation: Naturalized Empire, Ideological Conflict, and the International State System.” Conference on Invidious Comparisons: Spain and England, Spanish and Portuguese Department, Princeton University, November 2006.
45. “Hispanic Literature and World Literature.” Spanish and Portuguese Department, Stanford University, April 2007.
46. “Shakespeare and World Literature.” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Dallas, March 2008.
47. “Languages and Nations in Foreign Literature Departments.” ADFL Seminar East, University of Virginia, June 2008.
48. “Out of India.” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 2008; Conference on Comparative Early Modernities: 1100-1800, Global Ethnic Literatures Seminar Program, University of Michigan, April 2009.
49. “World Literature and Contemporary Fiction.” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Boston, February-March 2009; American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Boston, March 2009; SUNY New Paltz English Department Annual Graduate Student Conference, April 2011.
50. “Dehistoricizing Shakespearean Value.” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Washington, D.C., April 2009.
51. “Eurasian Literature.” Conference on Transnational Pasts, English Department, University of Pennsylvania, April 2009; Conference on China and the West in the Early Modern Period, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., September 2009.
52. “Italian Literature and World Literature.” Conference on Italy in the Drama of Europe, Italian Department, University of California, Berkeley, April 2009.
53. “Empires of the (Not-too-far) East.” International Conference on Romanticism, New York, November 2009.
54. “Protestant Baroque?: Aesthetics and Religion in Milton and His Contemporaries,” MLA Convention, Philadelphia, December 2009.
55. “Genre and Geography: Shakespeare and Others.” Conference on Rivalry and Rhetoric in the Early Modern Mediterranean: Imagining the Mediterranean in Early Modern England, Clark Library, UCLA, May 2012.
56. “English Literature, European Literature, World Literature.” English Department, University of Michigan, December 2013.
57. “Transgressing Boundaries: Comparative Epic and Drama.” Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, New York, March 2014.
58. “Renaissance and Early Modern Drama: Europe and Eurasia.” Comparative Literature Department, Indiana University, October 2014.
59. “Realism and Empire” American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, March 2015.
60. “Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust.” Shakespeare Association of America, Vancouver, April 2015.
61. “Shakespearean Adaptation.” American Comparative Literature Association, Boston, March 2016.
62. “Language, Literature, and Power: Here and There, Then and Now.” Colloquium on World Literature: Premises and Problems, Fernand Braudel Center, SUNY Binghamton, April 2016.
63. “The Early Modern Period and the Current Phase of World Literature.” Symposium: Spectrum Ends of World Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick, October 2016.
64. “Latin Literature and World Literature.” Classics Department, University of Michigan, January 2017.
65. “Jewishness and Modernist Fiction.” Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, together with the Modernist Studies Workshop, February 2017.
66. “A History of European Literature.” Roundtable discussing my book of that title, Renaissance Society of America Conference, New Orleans, March 2018.
67. “‘Poor Tom’s a Cold’: Shakespeare and Ecological Catastrophe.” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Los Angeles, March 2018; Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Denver, April 2020 (conference canceled, paper and responses circulated); English Department, Princeton University, February 2023.
68. Discussant, Seminar on Form, Zentrum für Literatur-und-Kulturforschung, Berlin, May-June 2018.
69. “Cultural Power: Language, Writing, and Literature as Agents of Social Change.” Comparative Literature Department, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2018.
70. “Toward an Ecological History of World Literature.” Comparative Literature Department, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2018; English Department, Stockholm University, October 2018; English Department, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2020 (canceled because of COVID).
71. “The Historical Novel of the Early Modern World.” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Austin, April 2021 (virtual conference).
72. “The Europe of European Literature.” Conference on Literature and Law in Europe. Villa Vigoni, Lake Como, Italy, September 2021 (live conference, remote participation).
73. “Shakespeare’s Global Sonnets.” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Jacksonville, April 2022.
74. “5000 Years of African Literature?” English Department, Princeton University, February 2023.
75. “Early Modern African Literature.” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Portland, April 2024.
76. Renaissance Society of America Conference, San Francisco, February 2025.
77. Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Denver, April 2025.

This list does not include panels chaired at conferences; it lists very few of the “service” talks and seminars at Cornell or Michigan (the latter since 2014), and none in the local community.

**Teaching Positions**

2015-2024: Associate, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan

2014-2024: Professor of English, University of Michigan

1996-2014: Member of the graduate field, Theatre Arts, Cornell University

1992-2014: Professor, Comparative Literature, Cornell University

1992-2014: Member of the graduate field, Romance Studies, Cornell University

1991-2014: Member of the graduate field, English, Cornell University

1986-92: Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, Cornell University

1980-86: Assistant Professor and member of the graduate field, Comparative Literature, Cornell University

1976-77: Acting Instructor, Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

1976: Associate, Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

1974-75: Teaching Assistant, Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

**Administration**

Cornell

1981-83: Director of Undergraduate Studies, Comparative Literature

1982-86: Chair, Humanities Graduate Fellowship Board

1987: (with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.) “The Crisis of Minority Faculty at Cornell,” prepared for The Humanities Council of the College of Arts and Sciences and Faculty and Staff against Apartheid

1988-90: Director of Graduate Studies, Comparative Literature

1991-92: Chair, Comparative Literature

1993-98: Dean, Graduate School (with attendant membership in various internal and external organizations)

1998-2001: Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

2001-04: Vice Provost

2006-08: Chair, Romance Studies

2009: Chair, Arts and Sciences Academic Planning Committee

2009-13: Senior Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

External

1993, 1998: Doctoral Review Council of N.Y. State

1994: External review committee, Graduate School, SUNY Buffalo

1995-97: Association of Graduate Schools Steering Committee, Review of Ph.D.’s 10 Years Out

1995-98: Emory University Graduate School External Advisory Board

1996: Chair, Review Committee, Literature Department, University of California, San Diego

1996-2000: Executive Committee, Association of Graduate Schools

1998-99: President, Association of Graduate Schools

1999-2001: Member, NSF panel to review the Survey of Earned Doctorates and Survey of Doctorate Recipient

2000: SUNY Mission Review Stipend Committee

2001: Chair, Review Committee, Comparative Cultural and Literary Studies Graduate Interdisciplinary Program, University of Arizona, Tucson

2002-03: National Research Council doctoral program evaluation methodology committee

2017: Chair, Review Committee, English Department, Brown University

**Editor**

1983-90: *Mediations*, national newsletter of the Marxist Literary Group, an Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association

1985-2000: *Renaissance Drama*, an annual volume; member of the editorial board

1997-2000: *PMLA*, Advisory Committee

2018-: *JOLCEL* (*Journal of Latin Cosmopolitanism and European*

*Literatures*)/RELICS (Researchers of European Literary Identity,

Cosmopolitanism and the Schools), Ghent University, Belgium, member of the advisory board

2019 *The Life You Can Save*, by Peter Singer, 2nd ed., copy editor

**Reader**

1981-: Cornell Society for the Humanities Junior Fellowships

1982-85: Cornell University Press

1984-87: Methuen (Routledge)

1985: Hobart and William Smith Colleges, English Honors Program

1986-87: *Theatre Journal*

1987: University of Wisconsin Press

1989-91: Editorial Board Advisory Committee, *PMLA*

1990: Harvard University Press

1999-2002: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press

2011: University of Pennsylvania Press

2017: Oxford University Press

2018: *Shakespeare Journal*

2019: Wiley-Blackwell

2019: Edinburgh University Press

2020: *JOLCEL* (*Journal of Latin Cosmopolitanism and European Literatures*)

2024: Wiley

2025: Czech Science Foundation (GACR): Department of Social Sciences and Humanities

**Appointment and Promotion Reviews**

1987, 1992: Columbia University, English Department, senior appointment referee

1989: University of Pennsylvania, English Department, promotion referee

1989: University of Rochester, Foreign Languages Department, promotion referee

1990, 1993: Yale University, English Department, promotion referee

1990: Brandeis University, English Department, promotion referee

1990: SUNY Buffalo, English Department, senior appointment referee

1992: University of Minnesota, German Department, senior appointment referee

1992: University of California, Berkeley, English Department, promotion referee

1992: University of Virginia, English Department, senior appointment referee

1993: Stanford University, Spanish and Portuguese Department, senior appointment referee

1997: University of Michigan, English Department, senior appointment referee

1997: University of Stirling, English Department, endowed chair referee

1998: Rutgers University, English Department, senior appointment referee

1998: University of Illinois, English Department, senior appointment referee

1999: University of California, Irvine, English and Comparative Literature Department, promotion referee

1999: University of California, Berkeley, English Department, senior appointment referee

1999: University of Georgia, English Department, senior appointment referee

1999: Duke University, English Department, senior appointment referee

2001: Johns Hopkins University, English Department, senior appointment referee

2002: University of Pennsylvania, English Department, senior appointment referee

2006: Harvard University, Comparative Literature Department, senior appointment referee

2008, 2019: UCLA, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, senior appointment referee

2009: Brown University, Comparative Literature Department, senior appointment referee

2012: NYU, English Department, senior appointment referee

2015: Tufts University, Department of German, Russian and Asian Languages and Literatures, promotion referee

2019: Michigan State University, Department of English, promotion referee

2019: UCLA, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, senior promotion referee

**Conferences**

"Romanticism: Cultural Opposition or Social Integration?" (organizer and moderator of panel).  MLA Convention, December 1979.

"Golden Age Prose Fiction and Contemporary Literary Theory" (organizer of panel).  Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, April 1982.

"The Ideologies of Renaissance Studies" (organizer of conference).  Cornell University, March 1985.

"Rationality and Modern Society: The Recent Work of Jürgen Habermas" (assistant organizer of conference).  Cornell University, March 1985.

"The End of Renaissance Studies" (organizer of three panels under this general rubric). MLA Convention, December 1988.

"Marxism and the Study of English Renaissance Drama: Problems and Methods" (co-organizer and co-leader of seminar). International Shakespeare Association World Congress, Tokyo, August 1991.

"Problems of Method in Renaissance Literary Studies" (organizer of panel). CEMERS Annual Conference, SUNY Binghamton, October 1994.

“Global Early Modernity” (organizer of panel). Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, Philadelphia, November 2008.

“Cities and Empires” (organizer of panel). International Conference on Romanticism, New York, November 2009.

“Disconnected Histories: Towards Cross-Cultural Poetics” (chair of panel). Renaissance Society of America Conference, New Orleans, March 2018.

**Professional Organizations**

1975-: Modern Language Association (MLA; lifetime member)

1975-: Marxist Literary Group (intermittent membership)

1981-: Shakespeare Association of America (intermittent membership)

1985-90: MLA Division on Comparative Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Literature, Executive Committee (1988: President)

1988-: Renaissance Society of America (intermittent membership)

1997-: American Comparative Literature Association (intermittent membership)

**Education**

1974-80:  Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

1972-74:  M.A., Comparative Literature, University of Califor­nia, Berkeley

1967-71:  B.A., English, Great Distinction, Stanford University

Academic Honors

2005-06: Faculty Fellowship, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University

1988-90: Mellon Professorship in Teaching, Cornell University

1986: Clark Distinguished Teaching Award, Cornell University

1983: Humanities Faculty Research Grant, Cornell University

1981: Humanities Faculty Development Summer Grant, Cornell University

1971: Woodrow Wilson Honorary Fellowship

1971: Highest Honors in English, Stanford University

1969: Phi Beta Kappa

**Teaching and Advising**

Teaching: all levels of the curriculum from freshman composition to graduate seminars on a wide range of topics in English and Comparative Literature.

Advising:

Undergraduate. About five-eight undergraduate advisees per year at Cornell, none at Michigan; 2017-2018, 2020-2021: directed an honors essay each year

Graduate. 2020-2021: directed one master’s thesis; currently on doctoral dissertation committees of 2 students; on more than 100 others since 1980.

1. Here and below, from Google Scholar. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)