

# JAMES F. ENGLISH

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, Stanford University  
M.A. in English, University of Chicago  
B.A., Summa Cum Laude in English, Amherst College

## EMPLOYMENT

Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, 2003-  
Visiting Professor of English, Kings College London, 2007-08  
Associate Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, 1995-03  
Assistant Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, 1988-94

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

### University of Pennsylvania

Director, Penn Humanities Forum, 2010-15  
Program Director, "Virtuality," PHF 2010-11  
President, UPenn Phi Beta Kappa, 2009-10  
Director, Penn English Program in London, 2007-08  
Chair of English, 2004-07  
Moderator, University Council, 2004-06  
Associate Chair of English, 2001-03  
Placement Officer in English, 2000-03  
Director of Cinema Studies, 2000-01  
Chair of Graduate Program in English, 1996-99  
Director of English for Pre-Freshman Program 1998-2009  
Founder of Modernist Studies Seminar 1993

### Profession at Large

Chair, MLA First Book Prize Jury, 2010-2011  
Advisory Board, Euro Festival Project, Austria, 2009-2011  
Judge, MLA First Book Prize Jury, 2009-2010  
Co-Editor, *Postmodern Culture*, 1999-2005. Review Editor 1991-1996  
Manuscript Reader for Harvard, Cornell, Oxford, Polity, Chicago, Blackwell, SUNY, Wayne State, Verso, Princeton, Continuum, Palgrave  
Referee, Promotions and Appointments, most recently for Stanford, Columbia, NYU, UCLA, Vanderbilt, Tulsa, Kentucky, Miami, York, Boston U, UC Irvine, U Virginia  
Postdoctoral Fellow, English Department, Yale University. 1992-93

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2011 George Watson Visiting Fellow, University of Queensland, April-May 2011  
2005 Best Academic Book of 2005 (*Economy of Prestige*), New York Magazine Culture Awards  
1999 Research Grant, Research Foundation of University of Pennsylvania

- 1995 Mortar Board Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award, University of Pennsylvania
- 1994 Research Grant, Research Foundation of University of Pennsylvania
- 1989 Research Grant, Research Foundation of University of Pennsylvania
- 1982 Doctoral Fellowship, Stanford University
- 1981 Dean of Humanities Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 1980 Rice-Whicher Prize for Senior Thesis, Amherst College
- 1980 Summa Cum Laude in English and Phi Beta Kappa, Amherst College

## TEACHING

20<sup>th</sup>-Century British Literature and Culture  
 Modernism  
 Critical Theory  
 Globalization and World Literature  
 Sociology of Literature  
 British Cinema and Television

**Dissertations Currently Directing: 2**  
**Dissertations Directed / Completed: 17**  
**Dissertation Committees, Director or Reader: 49**

## WORK IN PROGRESS

*The Global Future of English.* A global overview of literary study in English and a fresh assessment of its prospects in a rapidly transforming higher educational system. Forthcoming from Blackwell, Spring 2012.

*Translated From the English.* A study of the mediations and translations that occur when British cultural products (literary, scholarly, cinematic, televisual) are exported to or coproduced with other nations in the sphere of “global English” culture, with particular emphasis on the problems of translating race and class. In preparation.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*The Economy of Prestige: Prizes, Awards, and the Circulation of Cultural Value.* (Harvard UP, 2005; paperback edition 2008; Czech edition 2010; Polish edition 2012). Reviewed in more than 50 journals, including *New Yorker*, *NY Times Book Review*, *LA Times*, *TLS*, *TES*, *London Times*, *Guardian*, *Modernism/modernity*, *Journal of Cultural Economics*.

*Concise Companion to Contemporary British Fiction.* Editor. (Blackwell, 2006).

*Comic Transactions: Literature, Humor, and the Politics of Community in Twentieth-Century Britain.* (Cornell UP, 1994).

### Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“The Economics of Cultural Awards.” In David Throsby and Victor Ginsberg, eds., *Handbook of the Economics of Art and Culture*. Handbooks of Economics Series. Amsterdam and New York: Elsevier. Forthcoming.

“20<sup>th</sup> Century Satire: The Politics and Poetics of Negativity.” Robert Caserio, ed., *Cambridge History of the English Novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2012. Forthcoming.

"Festivals and the Geography of Culture: African Cinema in the 'World Space' of its Public." In Gerard Delanty, Liana Giorgi, and Monica Sassatelli, eds., *Festivals and the Cultural Public Sphere*. London: Routledge, 2011. 63-78.

"Everywhere and Nowhere: The Sociology of Literature After 'the Sociology of Literature.'" In James F. English and Rita Felski, eds., Special Issue on New Sociologies of Literature, *New Literary History* 41.2 (Spring 2010): v-xxxiii.

"Literary Studies." In Tony Bennett and John Frow, eds., *Handbook of Cultural Analysis*. London: SAGE, 2008. 126-144.

"Hazards of the Higher Debunkery." Colloquium on Stefan Collini's *Absent Minds*. *Journal of the History of Ideas* 68 (July 2007): 363-69.

"Local Focus, Global Frame: Ken Loach and the Cinema of Dispossession." In Lester Friedman, ed., *Fires Were Started: British Cinema and Thatcherism*. 2nd Edition. London and New York: Wallflower/Columbia University Press, 2006. 259-281.

"Literary Authorship and Celebrity Culture." (Co-authored with John Frow.) In James F. English, ed., *Concise Companion to Contemporary British Fiction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005. 39-57.

"Introduction: British Fiction in a Global Frame." In James F. English, ed., *Concise Companion to Contemporary British Fiction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005. 1-18.

"Academic Journals in the Global Age: New vs Old Forms of Inquiry." *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 37 (October 2005): 8-18.

"The Literary Prize Phenomenon in Context." In Brian Shaffer, ed., *A Companion to the British and Irish Novel, 1945-2000*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004. 160-177.

"Winning the Culture Game: Prizes, Awards, and the Rules of Art." *New Literary History* 33 (Winter 2002). 109-135.

"Poetry Prizes." *Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Twentieth Century*, ed. Eric Haralson. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2001.

"Bastard Auteurs and Academic Auteurs." In *Directed by Allen Smithee*, ed. Jeremy Braddock and Stephen Hock. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001. 269-289.

"Radway's 'Feelings' and the Reflexive Sociology of American Literature." *Modernism/Modernity* 6.3 (September 1999): 39-50.

"Anarchy in the Flesh: Conrad's 'Counterrevolutionary' Modernism and the Witz of the Political Unconscious." *Modern Fiction Studies* 38 (Fall 1992): 615-630.

"Modernist Joke-Work: Pale Fire and the Mock-Transcendence of Mockery." *Contemporary Literature* 33 (Spring 1992): 74-90.

"The Laughing Reader: A New Direction for Studies of the Comic," *Genre* 19 (Summer 1986): 129-54.

"Scientist, Moralist, Humorist: A Bergsonian Reading of The Secret Agent," *Conradiana* 19 (Summer 1987): 139-56.

Ibid. Reprinted in Keith Carabine, ed. *Critical Assessments of Joseph Conrad*, 4 Vols. Critical Assessments Series (London: Helm, 1992). 3:139-56.

## Reviews, Interviews, Journalism, and Occasional Pieces

"Introduction," John Guillory, *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation*, Chinese Edition (Beijing: 2011).

“Akutagawa Prize,” “Bestseller Lists,” “Bollingen Prize,” “Carnegie Medal,” “Cholmondeley Prize,” “Commonwealth Writers Prize,” “Literary Prizes,” “National Book Award,” “National Book Critics Circle Awards,” “Nobel Prize in Literature,” “Pulitzer Prizes,” and “Scott Moncrieff Prize.” In Michael F. Suarez and H.R. Woudhuysen, eds. *The Oxford Companion to the Book*. London: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Russian translation of “Strategies of Condescension, Styles of Play” from *The Economy of Prestige* (2005), *Inostrannaya Literatura* (June 2009).

“Bright Light, Dim City.” *The Atlantic*. Online Edition, October 2008.

“Everyone’s a Winner.” *Guardian Review*. 21 April 2007.

“Oh Please, Forget the Envelope,” *Washington Post*, 5 March 2006.

“Judging Oscar,” *Variety*, 27 February 2006.

“His Eyes Are On the Prize,” interview with Scott Timberg, *Los Angeles Times*, 26 February 2006.

“Eyes Off the Prize,” *New York Times*, Op-Ed Page, 12 January 2006.

“We Are the Champions,” *Harpers*, vol 312, January 2006.

“The Economy of Prestige,” interview, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 28 October 2005.

Review. Joe Moran, *Star Authors: Literary Celebrity in America* and Rosemary A. Coombe, *The Cultural Life of Intellectual Properties*. *Textual Practice* 14.3 (December 2000): 53-59.

Review. Richard Todd, *Consuming Fictions: The Booker Prize and Fiction in Britain Today*. *Modern Fiction Studies* 45 (Summer 1999): 529-33.

Review, Christopher GoGwilt, *The Invention of the West*, and Geoffrey Harpham, *One of Us*. *Modern Philology* 96 (February 1999): 402-06.

“Jameson’s Postmodernism,” review of *Postmodernism, or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*, by Fredric Jameson. *Postmodern Culture* 1.3 (Summer 1991).

“That’s Entertainment: Media Coverage of the Gulf War,” *Lies of Our Times* (April 1991): 5-6.

“Vacation Notes: Haute-Tech in the Hautes-Montagnes,” Popular Culture column, *Postmodern Culture* 1.1 (Fall 1990).

“Nathanael West, Nathanael West,” review of two books on Nathanael West, *Arizona Quarterly* 42 (Summer 1986): 188-90.

“Flesh and Bones,” review of *Cathedral* by Raymond Carver, *Sequoia* 28 (Spring 1984): 80-83.

### **Edited Journals (Special Issues)**

With Rita Felski. *New Sociologies of Literature*. *New Literary History* 41.2 (Spring 2010).

*Reviewing Postmodernism*. *Postmodern Culture* 2.2 (January 1992).

### **Media Appearances**

Interview, “The Economy of Prestige,” Vremja I Mir, Radio Free Europe Russia, October 2011

Interview, Marketplace, National Public Radio, December 2010

Interview, The Book Show, ABC Radio, Australia, October 2008.

Lecture and Discussion, “History and Meaning of Book Awards” WHYY TV, Philadelphia, December 2007.

Interview, The Book Show, National Public Radio, Australia, July 2006.  
 Interview, The Business, KCRW Public Radio, Los Angeles, March 2006.  
 Interview, Noonday, CBC National Radio, Canada, February 2006  
 Interview, ABC National Public Radio, Australia, January 2006  
 Interview, Radio Times with Marty Moss-Cowane, WHY Radio, Philadelphia, January 2006  
 Interview Radio 1010, Toronto, January 2006  
 Interview, Night Waves, BBC-3 Radio. London, December 2005.  
 Interview, Extension 720 with Milt Rosenberg, WGN Radio, Chicago, December 2005.  
 Interview, "And the Winner Is," Amir Amirani producer, BBC 2 Television, 2001.

## INVITED LECTURES and CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Writing the Not Now: David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas*," Novel Worlds conference. Society for Novel Studies, Durham, NC. April 2012.  
 "Fault Lines: Literary Studies and Sociological Method." Literature and the Extended Present Lecture Series, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. By invitation. October 2011.  
 "Literary Studies and Sociological Method." SHARP Conference on the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Book. Brisbane, Australia. Keynote. By invitation. April 2011.  
 "Masterclass: A World Republic of Letters?" Queensland County Library. Brisbane, Australia. By invitation. April 2011.  
 "Documentary After England." Brisbane, Australia. By invitation. May 2011.  
 "Sociology and Close Reading." MLA Convention. Los Angeles CA. January 2011.  
 "The EuroFestival Project." Creativity and Democracy in Art Festivals. Bologna, Italy. November 2010. Co-chair, Special Session. By invitation.  
 "Virtual Geography of Culture." Mellon Seminar, Penn Humanities Forum. Philadelphia, PA. September 2010.  
 "The Cold Hard Cash of Culture: New Sociologies of Literature." Nanjing University, Nanjing, China. May 2010. By invitation.  
 "The Buying and Selling of Honors: Material Objects, Cultural Value, and 'Mere Commerce.'" Material Texts Seminar. Philadelphia PA. April 2010. By invitation.  
 "The Reality Format in Transatlantic Exchange." Special Session on Ameritopias. MLA Convention. Philadelphia PA. December 2009.  
 Introduction to Special Session on "New Sociologies of Literature." MLA Convention. Philadelphia PA. December 2009.  
 "Art, Money, and the Status of the Trinket." Law and Literature Conference, USC. Los Angeles. April 2009. By invitation.  
 "Festivals and the Geography of Culture." Workshop on Public Culture and Festivals. Vienna. February 2009. By invitation.  
 "Danny Boyle's 'Millionaire Realism.'" New India Forum. Humanities Center of Temple University. February 2009. By invitation.  
 "British Screen Culture and (Trans)National Media." Seminar. Modernist Studies Association

Conference, Nashville, TN. November 2008. Lead Organizer.

“Documentary After England.” Cinema Studies Colloquium. UPENN, Philadelphia PA. October 2008. By invitation.

“Global Economies: Prestige and Our Image of the Other.” WALTIC Conference, Stockholm Sweden. June 2008. By invitation.

“The Economy of Prestige.” Seminar Series. University of Virginia. March 2008. By invitation.

“Documentary Culture and its Transnational Limits.” Centre for Modernist Studies. University of Sussex. February 2008. By invitation.

“Documenting Habitus.” English Research Seminar. Kings College London. January 2008. By invitation.

“Winning Words: The History and Meaning of Book Awards.” National Book Foundation symposium. The Library Company, Philadelphia PA. October 2007. By invitation.

“Limits of Transnational Realism.” Twentieth Century Colloquium. Princeton University. May 2007. By invitation.

“The World Republic of Letters: Centers of Power.” Comparative Literature Symposium. Penn State University, State College PA. March 2007. By invitation.

“UK America: Centers of Power and Problems of Translation in the Empire of Global English.” University of Wisconsin, Madison. February 2007. By invitation.

“The Global Economy of Prestige.” Contemporary Literature Colloquium. University of Wisconsin, Madison. February 2007. By invitation.

“From Economic to Social Capital (and Back Again): The Turner Tomorrow Award.” Cosmopolitan Club, Philadelphia. January 2007. By invitation.

“The Slought Award for Rogue Thought.” Panel Discussion. Slought Gallery. Philadelphia. December 2006.

“The Global Diaspora of Realism.” Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. November 2006. By invitation.

“The Economy of Prestige.” History and Sociology of Science Graduate Forum. University of Pennsylvania. October 2006. By invitation.

“British Realism and the Global Cinema: Ken Loach in Los Angeles.” University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2006. By invitation.

“The Economy of Prestige.” Economic History of the Book in America Colloquium. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, March 2006. By invitation.

“More Bookers than Books.” Special Session on the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Modern Language Association Convention, Washington D.C., December 2005. By invitation.

“Culture on the Move: Importation, Relocation, Translation.” Seminar conducted with Jean-Michel Rabaté. Modernist Studies Convention, Chicago, November 2005.

“The World System of Literary Prestige.” English Department, Princeton, March 2005. By invitation.

“Academic Journals in the Digital Age: Old and New Forms of Inquiry.” Keynote Address. Council of Editors of Learned Journals. Philadelphia, December 2004. By invitation.

“Ken Loach and the European Turn in British Realism.” Britain in Europe panel, MLA Convention, Philadelphia, December 2004.

"Literary Competition in the Global Age." Modernist Studies Group, Philadelphia, February 2004.

"Book Prizes and the *Republique Mondiale des Lettres*." Plenary Address, International Conference on Culture and the Literary Prize, Oxford, U.K., October 2003. By invitation.

"Bourdieu's American Future." Memorial Conference on Pierre Bourdieu, Philadelphia, March 2003. By invitation.

"Placing Salman Rushdie on the Field of 'World Literature.'" Rushdie Events Series. Philadelphia, February 2003. By invitation.

"The Competitive Paradigm and its Cultural Institutions." Speaker and organizer, panel on Modernism and Competition, Modernist Studies Association, Madison, October 2002.

"Pierre Bourdieu and the Study of Modernism." Panel Chair, Modernist Studies Association, Madison, October 2002. By invitation.

"The K Foundation and the Art of Hostile Philanthropy." *The Art of Money*. MLA Convention, New Orleans, December 2001.

"The Politics of the Film Festival." Speaker and Organizer, panel on *The Politics of Prestige*. Modern Studies Association Convention, Houston, October 2001.

"The Ethics of Difficulty." Panel Chair, Modern Studies Association Convention, Houston, October 2001. By invitation.

"The Bookerization of Culture." 20th-Century English Literature panel: *Narratives of the Booker Prize*. MLA Convention, Washington, D.C. December 2000.

"Modernism and Prestige." Organizer and seminar leader. Modernist Studies Association, University of Pennsylvania. October 2000.

"From Gift to Game: Prizes in Contemporary Culture." Theorizing in Particular lecture series. Kelley Writers House, University of Pennsylvania. April 2000. By invitation.

"Winning at Art: Some New Rules of the Culture Game." Literary and Cultural Studies Lecture Series. College of William and Mary. February 2000. By invitation.

"Pound's Bollingen and the Economy of Prestige." Panel on "The New Economic Criticism and the Old Canon." Modernist Studies Association. Penn State Univ. October 1999.

"Literary Modernism in the American Grain." Chair. Modernist Studies Association. Penn State Univ. October 1999. By invitation.

"Modernism and the New Agents of 'Capital Intraconversion.'" Presenter and organizer, Modernism and Popular Culture Seminar. Modernist Studies Association. Penn State Univ. October 1999.

"Philadelphia's Cinematic Icon." Program on "Philadelphia in Film." Presenter and organizer. Celebration of Philadelphia Writers. University of Pennsylvania. March 1999.

"Trash Talk about Prizes." International Congress of Distinguished Awards Convention. Pittsburgh, February 1998. By invitation.

"Toward a Reflexive Sociology of Modern American Culture." Panel entitled "Does Modernity Have a Future? Economies of Constraint," MLA Convention, Toronto, December 1997.

"Academic Publishing in the Digital Age." Roundtable on the Future of Academic Publication, SCMLA Convention, Dallas, October 1997. By invitation.

"Scandalous Currency: Prizes as the Embarrassment of Art." Bard College Lecture Series. April 1997. By invitation.

"The Monstrous Semblance of a Nabokov Novel: Pale Fire and Hypertext." MLA Convention, San Diego, December 1994.

"Contemporary Literature and the Electronic Media." History of the Material Text seminar, University of Pennsylvania, April 1994. By invitation.

"Toward a Critical Cartography." Special Session on "Virtual Spaces / Postmodern Maps," MLA Convention, Toronto, December 1993.

"Nabokov on Campus: The Novel, the Intellectual, and the American University." Panel on Vladimir Nabokov, ALA Convention, Baltimore, May 1993. By invitation.

"Popular Culture in Postwar Britain." Philomathean Society Lecture Series on Popular Culture, University of Pennsylvania, March 1993. By invitation.

"Female Impersonation as the Entertainment of Fascism in Wyndham Lewis's *The Apes of God*." Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville, Louisville KY, February 1993.

"Our Best Weapon': Laughter and the War Between the Sexes." Fall Lecture Series, University of Hartford and Hartford College for Women, Hartford, CT, October 1992. By invitation.

"What to Teach / How to Teach." Forum on Political Correctness, sponsored by Teachers for a Democratic Culture. "Mapping the Boundaries of the Literary: Explorations in Cultural Studies," National Graduate Student Conference, Philadelphia PA, October 1992. By invitation.

"Who's We?' Speaking of Community in *Between the Acts*." Virginia Woolf Conference, New Haven CT, June 1992.

"Anarchy in the Flesh." Annual Collation Address, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, September 1991. By invitation.

"Postmodernism and the Question of Authority in *Between the Acts*." Virginia Woolf Society panel on "Virginia Woolf and Postmodernism," MLA Convention, San Francisco, December 1991.

"Writing Rock 'n' Roll: Popular Music and the Written Word in Contemporary American Culture." Organizer and Chair, Special Session, MLA Convention, San Francisco, December 1991.

"Conrad's Fat Anarchists." Northeast MLA Convention, Hartford Connecticut, April 1991.

"The Media, the Gulf War, and the 'Non-Political' Sphere." Symposium on "Media Representations of the Gulf War," The Philomathean Society, University of Pennsylvania, February 1991. By invitation.

"Free Women? Laughter, Feminism, and the Limits of Transgression Studies." Comparative Literature and Theory Graduate Program Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, November 1990. By invitation.

"Laughter and the Politics of Transgression." Panel on "Transgression" at the Semiotics Association Conference, "Crossing the Disciplines: Cultural Studies in the 1990s," University of Oklahoma, October 1990.

"Salman Rushdie and the American English Department." Symposium on "The Rushdie Debate: Further Reflections," Center for Transnational Cultural Studies, University of Pennsylvania, October 1990. By invitation.

"Women's Laughter and Freedom in 'Free Women.'" Special Session on "Humor / Politics / Postmodernism," MLA Convention, Washington, D.C., December 1989.

"Mastery, Transcendence, and the 'Hegelian Syllogism of Humor' in *Pale Fire*." Vladimir Nabokov Society panel on "New Critical Approaches to Nabokov," MLA Convention, New Orleans, December 1988.

"Standardization and Difference in the Punk 'Cover.'" Popular Culture Association Convention, New Orleans, March 1988.

"Parody, Politics, and the Question of Postmodernity in *The Golden Notebook*." Doris Lessing Society panel, MLA Convention, San Francisco, December 1987.

"Reaction and Resignation in Conrad." English Department Lecture, University of Kansas, February 1987. By invitation.

"'Mental Flypaper': The Joke of Perfect Memory in Philip Roth's *Zuckerman Unbound*." WHIM National Conference on Humor, April 1987