

JAMES F. ENGLISH

Fisher-Bennett Hall
3340 Walnut St
Philadelphia PA 19104-6273
jenglish@english.upenn.edu
www.english.upenn.edu/people/james-english

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, Stanford University, 1988
M.A. in English, University of Chicago, 1981
B.A., Summa Cum Laude in English, Amherst College, 1980

EMPLOYMENT

John Welsh Centennial Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, 2011-
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

Founding Faculty Director, Price Lab for Digital Humanities, 2015-
Director, Wolf Humanities Center / Penn Humanities Forum, 2010-2018
Board Member, Penn Program in Environmental Humanities, 2015-
Director of English for Pre-Freshman Program, 1998-
Member, SAS Personnel Committee, 2022-
Chair, Committee on Data Science, Formal Reasoning, and Computation, 2019-21
Member, SAS Committee on Data Driven Discovery, 2019-
Member, SAS Committee on New Directions in Humanities, 2019-
Judge, President's Innovation Prize, 2019-20
Judge, Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell Prizes, UPenn 2019-
Member, SAS Planning Committee, Quantitative Exploration of Evolving Systems, 2015-
Founding Director, Digital Humanities Forum, 2012-2014
Chair, SAS Planning Committee, Humanities in the Digital Age, 2013-15
President, Penn 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, Cinema Studies Program, 2000-01
Chair of Graduate Program in English, 1996-99
Founder of Modernist Studies Seminar (MODS), 1993

Profession at Large

Member, Digital Scholarship Board, American Philosophical Society, 2018-
Chair of Judges, National Book Award for Fiction, 2016
Member, Executive Committee, MLA Forum on Digital Humanities, 2014-17
Chair, Executive Committee, MLA Division on Methods of Literary Research, 2014-15
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
Editorial Board, *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, 2018-
Manuscript Reader for Harvard, Oxford, Chicago, Princeton, Cambridge, others
Referee, Promotions and Appointments, for Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, UCLA, others

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 Hurst Lecturer, Washington University St. Lewis
- 2017 Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Iowa
- 2016 Ira Abrams Award for Distinguished Teaching, University of Pennsylvania
- 2011 John Welsh Centennial Professorship in English, University of Pennsylvania
- 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, Penn Research Foundation
- 1995 Mortar Board Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award, University of Pennsylvania
- 1994 Research Grant, Penn Research Foundation
- 1992 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Yale University
- 1989 Research Grant, Penn Research Foundation
- 1982 Doctoral Fellowship, Stanford University
- 1981 Dean of Humanities Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 1980 Rice-Whicher Prize for Best Senior Thesis, Amherst College
- 1980 Summa Cum Laude in English and Phi Beta Kappa, Amherst College

TEACHING

20C-21C British Literature
 British Cinema and Television
 Sociology of Literature
 Digital and Empirical Methods
 Theories of Cultural Globalization

Dissertations Directed: 25
Dissertation Committees, Director or Reader: 63

WORK IN PROGRESS

Beauty by the Numbers. A history of rating and ranking systems in literature and the arts. Book project, in preparation.

Literary Eclecticism on Goodreads. A digital project in collaboration with the Price Lab, this research involves data on 800,000 contemporary novels, 3500 highly active amateur reviewers, and millions of Goodreads reviews and ratings. It focuses on the idea and the practice of “eclectic” reading in the 21st century.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Literary Studies and Human Flourishing. Co-edited with Heather Love. (Oxford UP, 2023.)

The Global Future of English Studies. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012).

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

The Economy of Prestige: Prizes, Awards, and the Circulation of Cultural Value. (Harvard UP, 2005). Paperback edition 2008; Czech edition 2011; Polish edition 2012; abridged edition in Russian 2013; Chinese edition, 2024. 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*. Named Best Academic Book of 2005 by *New York* magazine.

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

Special Issues of Academic Journals

With Ted Underwood, *Scale and Value: New & Digital Approaches to Literary History.* *Modern Language Quarterly* 77.3 (Fall 2016).

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

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

Articles and Book Chapters

“Five Star Stories: Readers and Ratings.” *Literary Judgment and the Fora of Criticism.* Ed. Mats Jansson, Sandra Richter, and Gisele Sapiro. Nobel Pamphlet: Symposium 187. Nobel Foundation 2024. Forthcoming.

“Reassembling the Positive: Literary Studies and the Discourse of Human Flourishing.” In James Pawelski, ed. *Humanities and Human Flourishing.* Oxford UP 2024. Forthcoming.

“The Nobel and the Price of Prestige in the 21st Century.” *Journal of World Literature* 8.4 (Nov 2023).

“Introduction” (with Heather Love). In James F. English and Heather Love, eds, *Literary Studies and Human Flourishing.* Oxford UP 2023.

“Bad Habits on Goodreads? Eclecticism and Genre-Intolerance Among Online Readers” (with Scott Enderle and Rahul Dhakecha). In James F. English and Heather Love, eds, *Literary Studies and Human Flourishing.* Oxford UP 2023.

“Nobel Prize: The Dramaturgy of Consecration.” In Brian Hosmer and Sean Latham, eds., *The World of Bob Dylan.* Cambridge UP 2021. 299-313.

“Teaching the Novel in the Era of the Audiobook.” *PMLA* 135.2 (March 2020): 419-427.

“Transnational Strategies in British Cinema: The Example of *Slumdog Millionaire*.” In John Hill, ed., *Blackwell Companion to British and Irish Cinema.* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2019. 545-565.

“Shifting Scales: Between Literature and Social Science.” Co-authored with Ted Underwood. Introduction to special Issue on “Scale and Value: New and Digital Approaches to Literary History.” *Modern Language Quarterly* 77.3 (September 2016). 277-296.

“Now, Not Now: Counting Time in Contemporary Fiction.” *Modern Language Quarterly* 77.3 (September 2016). 395-418.

“Prestige, Pleasure, and the Data of Cultural Preference: Quality Signals in an Age of Superabundance.” *Western Humanities Review* 70.3 (Fall 2016): 119-139.

“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, 2013. 119-144.

“Cultural Capital and the Revolutions of Literary Modernity, From Bourdieu to Casanova.” In Jean-Michel Rabaté, ed. *Handbook of Modernist Studies.* Critical Theory Series. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. 263-278.

“20th Century Satire: The Politics and Poetics of Negativity.” Robert Caserio, ed., *Cambridge History of the English Novel.* Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2012. 856-871.

“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. Spanish translation: "En todas partes y en ninguna: la sociología de la literatura después de "la sociología de la literature." Trans. Hernán Maltz. *Revista de la Carrera de Sociología* 12 (2022).
- "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 Auteurism 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, Moralizer, 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.

Shorter Articles, Reviews, Interviews, Journalism, and Occasional Pieces

- "Genre Juggernaut: Measuring 'Romance.'" Co-authored with J.D. Porter and Angelina Eimannsberger. *Public Books*. November 10, 2023.
- "Preface to the Chinese Edition." *The Economy of Prestige*. Trans. Xiaohe Rui. *Nanjing University Press*. 2023.
- "Literary Studies at the Intersection of Economics and Sociology: An Interview with James English." With Xiaohe Rui. *Foreign Literature Studies* 43, October 2021.
- "Literature as a Matter of Policy." Review of S. Brouillette, *UNESCO and the Fate of the Literary Novel*. May 2021.
- "Gap Year in Stockholm." *Public Books*. December 2018.

- "So What Difference Does It Make?" Panel Contribution. Kasia Boddy, David Winters, et al. *Critical Quarterly*. October 2017. 76-78.
- "Three Questions on Judging the National Book Award." Interview. *Omnia*. May 2017.
- "Judging America's National Book Award." Interview. Special Issue on International Culture. *China Reading Weekly*. April 2017.
- "License to Fail." *Almanac* (Univ of Pennsylvania). April 2017.
- "The Resistance to Counting," *Representations*. January 2015. Np.
- "What is Data in Literary Studies?" *Arcade*. January 2014. Np.
- "Triple Crown." Forum on Stephen Greenblatt's *The Swerve*. *Exemplaria* 25.4 (Winter 2013). 362-67.
- "Moretti Picaresque." Symposium on Franco Moretti, *Distant Reading*. *Los Angeles Review of Books*. 27 June 2013. Np.
- "Who Says English Is a Dying Discipline?" *Chronicle of Higher Education*. *Chronicle Review*. (21 September, 2012): B4-5.
- "Introduction," John Guillory, *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation*, Chinese Edition (Nanjing: Nanjing University Press, 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.

Media Appearances

Interview, "Fifty Years of the Booker Prize," BBC TV. October 2018. Interview, "The Culture of Prize-Giving," Weekend Arts Program, Radio National, Australia, April 2013. 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, WHYY 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

"Literature By the Numbers: The Rise of Star-Rating Systems." Invited Lecture. Nobel Symposium on Literary Judgment and the Fora of Criticism. Stockholm, Sweden. June 2023.

Literary Studies and Human Flourishing." Keynote Lecture. ELLAK Annual Convention. Seoul, South Korea. December 2022.

The Prize as a Judgment Device." Keynote Lecture. Conference on the 100th Anniversary of Willa Cather's Pulitzer Prize. Nebraska. June 2022.

"Crisis by the Numbers: Measuring Decline in the Humanities." Mellon Humanities and the University of the Future. USC. March 2022.

"The Creative Writing Workshop and its Digital Discontents." Keynote Lecture. Annual Conference on Creative Writing. Moscow. September 2022. (online)

"The Nobel and the Economy of Prestige in the 21st Century." Keynote Lecture. Nobel Foundation Conference. Marbach, Germany. August 2021. (online)

"Dylan as Literary Laureate." World of Bob Dylan conference. Tulsa. May 2021. (online)

"Literature in the Nobel Era. Keynote Lecture. Deutsche Literaturarchive Marbach. Marbach Germany. August 2020. (postponed)

"Taste, Value, Judgment." University of Oxford. Oxford, UK. June 2020. (cancelled)

"Autosociology for the Anthropocene." Quantitative Aesthetics Seminar. ACLA. February 2020. (cancelled)

"Quantifying Eclecticism." University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. February 2020.

"Underwood's Long Arc of Prestige." Workshop. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. February 2020.

"Contemporary Economies of Prestige." MLA Convention. Seattle WA. January 2020.

- "Experiment, Chance, and Surprise in Literary Studies." Plenary Speaker. Dickinson College. Carlisle PA. October 2019.
- "Tarrying with the Negative." Humanities and Human Flourishing Conference. Positive Psychology Center. Philadelphia PA. October 2019.
- "Five Stars: Ratings and Esteem in the Digital Age." Keynote. Deutscher Anglistenverband, University of Leipzig, Germany. September 2019.
- "Literary Lists and Rankings in the Algorithmic Age." Center for Cultural Analysis. Rutgers University, New Jersey. February 2019.
- Popular Fiction Portfolios." Baden-Württemberg Lecture. Center for American Studies, University of Heidelberg. Germany. November 2018.
- "Separate Worlds: Genre and Reception in the Age of Literary Superabundance." Novel Worlds Conference. McGill University. October 2018.
- "Big Data and the Neighborhoods of Reception." Literature and Well-Being Workshop. Co-organizer. Shawnee, PA. September 2018.
- "New Platforms for Publishing Humanities Research." STM Annual Convention. Philadelphia. April 2018.
- "Literary Reception, World Scale: Mining Goodreads." Symposium on Modernism, World Literature, and Totality. Yale. New Haven, CT. November 2017.
- "New Consilience: DH and the Role of the Interdisciplinary Center." Keynote Address. Online. Colombo, Sri Lanka. October 2017.
- "The Digital." A conversation with Patrick Spero. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. July 2017.
- "University Affiliated Awards." Roundtable, International Congress of Distinguished Awards. Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. June 2017.
- "Digital Approaches to Literary Historiography." Keynote address. CHLEL Conference. St Andrews, Scotland. June 2017.
- "Reception Studies at Scale: Mining Goodreads." By invitation. Novel Institutions. Center for the Novel, Stanford. Palo Alto, CA. May 2017.
- "Numbers in the Novel." By invitation. Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard. Cambridge, MA. May 2017
- "What is British Cinema?" Ida Beam Lecture. By invitation. University of Iowa. March 2017.
- "Making it New: Criticism and Method in a Global Textual Ecosystem." Roundtable, MLA Convention. Philadelphia, PA. January 2017.
- "Disrupting the Faculty-Administrative Divide." MLA Convention. Philadelphia, PA. By Invitation. January 2017.
- "The Prize as a Judgment Device." 31st Annual Holloway Lecture in Literature. McDaniel College. Westminster, MD. October 2016.
- "Humanities and its Others: The DH Lab and "Second-Wave Consilience." The Humanities Laboratory. National Endowment for Humanities. Washington DC. July 2016. By invitation.
- "Predictive Platforms and Reading Publics." Society for the Study of the Novel conference. Invited paper. Pittsburgh, May 2016.
- "Revisiting the 'Great Divide': The Past, the Future, and the Contemporary Novel." Plenary Address. Books in the Making conference. Cambridge Center for Research in Arts, Social Science, and Humanities. University of Cambridge, UK. April 2016.
- "Translated from the English." Invited Lecture, Year of Europe university lecture series. University of Kentucky. April 2016.

- “The Center and Beyond: Expansion of the Global English Department.” Roundtable, MLA Convention. Austin, TX. January 2016. By invitation.
- “DH on the Borders.” Organizer and Chair. MLA Convention. Austin TX. January 2016.
- “The Economy of Prestige: A Conversation with Jim English, Michael Kelleher, and Al Filreis.” Kelly Writers House. Philadelphia PA. December 2015.
- “Literary Prestige as Data.” Keynote Address. Western Humanities Alliance Conference on “Prestige: History and Affect.” November 2015.
- “Book of the Year? A Conversation with Michael Wood, Chair of Judges, 2015 Man Booker Prize.” Princeton University. October 2015.
- “What Counts as Contemporary Fiction?” Maryland Institute for Humanities and Technology. UMD. By invitation. October 2015.
- “The Metrics of Literary Value.” University of Heidelberg. By invitation. June 2015.
- “What Counts as Contemporary Fiction? Scale, Value, and Field.” Conference on Scale and Value: New & Digital Approaches to Literary History. Simpson Humanities Center, Seattle. Co- organizer. May 2015.
- “Past and Present in the Contemporary Anglophone Novel.” English Department. University of Southern California. November 2014.
- “CFDB: The Contemporary Fiction Database Project.” Stanford Literary Lab. Palo Alto, California. October 2014.
- “Contemporary Fiction as a Dataset.” Plenary Address, Conference of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary and Comparative Literature. University of St. Andrews, Scotland. September 2014.
- “Creative Writing and the Creative Humanities.” HAIKU Conference, University of Pennsylvania. September 2014.
- “British Literature and the Prize System.” Keynote Address. Conference on Muslim Writers and Prize Culture. Muslims, Trust, and Cultural Dialogue Project. University of York. May 2014.
- “What’s English Good For?” University of Tulsa. By invitation. March 2014.
- “Global Anglophone, Specifically British.” George Washington University. By invitation. March 2014.
- “What is Data in Literary Studies?” Organizer and Chair. Roundtable on Literary Research Methods. MLA Convention, Chicago. January 2014.
- “Between the Canon and the Slaughterhouse.” University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. By invitation. December 2013.
- “Having Our Literature and Quantifying It, Too.” English Department and Writers House, Franklin and Marshall College, PA. By invitation. November 2013.
- “Contemporary Fiction, Field Theory, and the Dataset.” Stanford Literary Lab, Palo Alto. By invitation. October 2013.
- “Global Institutions and the Production of Local Culture.” International Conference on Reimagining Communities and Civil Society. University of Guelph. Canada. Keynote Address. October 2013.
- “Texts, Tastes, Trendlines: Mapping the Field of Contemporary Fiction.” University of Heidelberg, Germany. Keynote Address. June 2013.
- “Global Vectors of Change in Undergraduate English Studies.” ADE Summer Seminar. Pittsburgh, PA. By invitation. May 2013.
- “Any Time But Now: Default Temporality in Contemporary Fiction.” Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. By invitation. March 2013.
- “Any Time But Now: Default Temporality in Contemporary Fiction.” Yale University, New Haven. By invitation. March 2013.
- “Some Possible Futures for English.” Stockton College. New Jersey. By invitation. February 2013.

- “Some Possible Futures for English.” Villanova University, Pennsylvania. By invitation. January 2013.
- “Numbers and Letters: Empirical Method in Literary Studies.” Organizer and Chair. MLA Convention, Boston MA. January 2013.
- “Any Time But Now: Default Temporality in Post-1960s Fiction.” CUNY Graduate Center, New York. By invitation. September 2012.
- 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 20th-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. Co-chair, Special Session. By invitation. November 2010.
- “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.
- “Economies: Prestige and Our Image of the Other.” WALTIC Conference, Stockholm Sweden. June 2008.
- “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. April 1987.

