

**MARGARET SPILLANE**  
**margaret.spillane@yale.edu**

Courses taught at Yale:

Spring 2019                      Coordinator, Writing Concentration, Yale

1997 - present                  Lecturer in English, Yale University  
ENGL 419/HSAR 460/HUMS 185 - Writing About  
Contemporary Figurative Painting  
ENGL 423/FILM 397/THST 228 - Writing About  
The Performing Arts  
ENGL 489 - Writing Concentration Sr. Project  
ENGL 487 - Independent projects in arts  
  Criticism, journalism, food  
  writing, literary nonfiction  
ENGL 469 - Advanced Nonfiction  
  (summer)

ENGL 450 - Daily Themes (tutor)  
ENGL 458 - Reviewing Theater, Film,  
  Dance and Music (summer)

ENGL 121 - The Art of the Review  
ENGL 121 - Painting Humans  
ENGL 120 - Reading and Writing the  
  Modern Essay  
ENGL 116 - Reviewing the Performing Arts  
ENGL 114 - Photography Public and Private  
ENGL 114 - Why Look at Photographs?

1987 - present                  Tutor in Writing, Pierson College, Yale

**Service to Yale College and Yale University:**

2021, Thesis Adviser, Film Studies  
2019 MFA Thesis Adviser, School of Art  
2019 Thesis Adviser, Department of Theater and Performance Studies

2018 Guest Lecturer on Photography Criticism, School of Art  
2016 Search Committee member—evaluating candidates for Deanship of Pierson College, Yale

2017 Search Committee member—evaluating candidates for post of Curator for Education and Academic Outreach, Yale Center for British Art

2006 - 2014 Mentor to graduate student observers in introductory English classes, which included weekly feedback meetings

1997 - present      Second Reader on Senior Essays in:  
                                 Theater Studies  
                                 Comparative Literature  
                                 English (Writing Concentration)  
                                 History of Art

2006 - 2014 Mentor to graduate student observers in introductory English classes, including weekly feedback meetings

1987 - present      First-and Second-year student advisor, (up to 15 advisees per annum).

### **Talks at Yale:**

February 2021: “A Conversation with Sara Holdren: Making Theater in a Pandemic” (Traphagen Fellowship)

November 2020: “Ask Me Anything: A Conversation with New York Times Art Critic Roberta Smith” (Poynter Fellowship)

November 2019: “A Conversation with Vanity Fair Staff Writer Michael Shnayerson” (Poynter Fellowship)

November 2018: “A Conversation with Washington Post Critic Robin Givhan” (Poynter Fellowship)

June 2018: “A Conversation with Sheila Nevins, creator of HBO Documentary Series” (Film Studies)

November 2017: “A Conversation with New Yorker Cultural Critic Vinson Cunningham” (Poynter Fellowship)

June 2017: “A Conversation with Filmmakers Chris Hegedus and D.A. Pennebaker” (Film Studies)

November 2016: “A Conversation with Art Critic Lily Wei” (Poynter Fellowship)

June 2016: “A Conversation with Documentary Filmmaker Alex Gibney”  
(Film Studies Department)

April 2016: “A Conversation with Poet Eleanor Chai” (Creative Writing  
Concentration)

April 2016: “A Conversation with Art Activist Saskia Stoltz” (History of  
Art Department)

November 2015: “A Conversation with Art Critic Deborah Solomon”  
(Poynter Fellowship)

June 2015: “A Conversation with Documentary Filmmaker Alan Berliner”  
(Film Studies Department)

November 2014: “A Conversation with Art Critic Jed Perl” (Poynter  
Fellowship)

November 2013: “A Conversation with Art Critic Jerry Saltz” (Poynter  
Fellowship)

October 2012 “A Conversation with Art Critic Roberta Smith” - (Poynter  
Fellowship)

September 2012 “A Conversation with Actor Julian Sands” - (Yale Center  
for British Art)

April 2012 “A Conversation with Art Critic Sebastian Smee”—(Poynter  
Fellowship)

October 2011 “A Conversation with Actor/Director Guy Masterson” -  
Yale Center for British Art

April 2011 Public reading of Sebastian Barry’s play “The Steward of  
Christendom” with Toni Dorfman and Murray Biggs at “Ireland  
Rediscovered the Great War” Conference, Whitney Humanities Center

September 2006 “The War on Terror: Getting Over Fear of Writing” -  
A Seminar for first-year students in Davenport and Pierson Colleges—“

May 2006 English Department Spring Writing Meeting—  
“Strategies for Workshopping”

1997-2014 Presentations to English 120 faculty on teaching cultural  
criticism; interviewing techniques; approaches to writing about place;  
writing humor and satire

2000-2004 Presenter -- Faculty Readings, Summer Writing Program

2008--present Mentor/Panel Moderator -- Yale Playwrights Festival

1997—2012 Coordinating Judge -- Wallace Nonfiction Prize

1997- 2010 Pierson Summer Research Fellowship Committee (with PC Head of College and Dean)

2007 Pierson Film Production Fellowship Committee

2007 Four Short Plays by Harold Pinter, a staged reading at the Yale Center for British Art Center

2006 With Dudley Andrew, team taught a class in Murray Biggs' Modern Irish Drama course

**Invitations to speakers:**

For Pierson College Teas—Writers including: Pete Hamill, Mary Gordon, Moya Cannon, Katie Donovan, Ian Williams, Michael Patrick McDonald, Lisa Sanders, Jack Hitt, Emily Bazelon, Rachel Zucker, Katha Pollitt

Editors: Jim Motavalli, Siobhan Kilfeather

Photojournalists: David Handshuh, Lori Grinker

Actors/directors: Tim Roth, Doug Hughes, Henry Wishcamper, James Bundy

Human rights activists: Allan Nairn, Jonathan Schell, Sunita Sandosham, Naomi Klein

For Summer Writing Program—Pete Hamill, Katha Pollitt, Fintan O'Toole, Angela Bourke, April Bernard, Joan Acocella, Luc Sante

For Schlesinger Visiting Writer Series—Edna O'Brien

For Poynter Fellowship—Robin Givhan  
Vinson Cunningham  
Sara Holdren  
Chloe Veltman  
Terry Teachout  
Sebastian Smee

Roberta Smith  
Jerry Saltz  
Jed Perl  
Deborah Solomon  
Lily Wei

Guests to my own writing classes (ENGL 114, 116, 120, 121,244, 419, 423, 458, 469) have included:

actor Tonya Pinkins  
Brooklyn Museum board member Victoria Rogers  
author Anthony Bourdain  
documentary filmmaker Zachary Fuhrer  
New York Times dance critic Brian Seibert  
actor Raymond Keane  
composer Martin Bresnick  
artistic director Annie-B Parson  
playwright Donald Margulies  
producer Lara Hickey  
composer Aaron Jafferis  
pianist Lisa Moore  
critic David Denby  
dancer Emily Coates  
writer Jack Hitt  
New Neighborhood founder Steven Padla  
actor Ingrid Craigie  
New York Times columnist Lisa Sanders M.D.  
playwright Meg Miroshnik  
critic Terry Teachout  
art activist Victoria Rodgers  
composer Hannah Lash  
playwright Aditi Brennan Kapil  
playwright Jen Silverman  
violinist Martin Hayes  
critic John Rockwell  
poet and author Cynthia Zarin  
actor Kathleen Chalfant  
librettist J.D. McClatchy  
composer and critic Andrew Ford  
cornettist Taylor Ho Bynum  
director Henry Wishcamper  
actor/singer Tonya Pinkins  
actor Delroy Lindo  
director Ciaran O'Reilly  
actor Giancarlo Esposito

director Rachel Chavkin  
dramaturg Amy Boratko

2006 Organized student journalists meeting with Nation Editor  
Katrina vanden Heuvel, at the Yale Writing Center

Advisor to student publications  
Yale Herald 1991-1992  
Manifesta 2005-2006

Introductory remarks for invited speakers: Pete Hamill, Katha Pollitt,  
Angela Bourke, Fintan O'Toole, Edna O'Brien, Lori Grinker, Henry  
Wishcamper, Joan Acocella, Sebastian Smee

**Other employment:**

2004-2005 (May and June)	Guest Curator, John Millington Synge House, Inis Meain, Aran Islands, Ireland
1998 - 2002	Theater critic, AOL Digital Cities
1998 - 2002	Contributing Writer, Salon.com
1990 - present	Contributing Writer, The Nation Magazine
1982 - present	Writer/editor: articles on visual art, theater, education, politics, diplomacy and other subjects in a wide range of publications (see below)  Guest Editor, "The Battle for Public Schools," special issue of The Nation, September 1992  Editor, "Docket Report" and "The Ginsberg Gazette," Supreme Court Watch, New York  Writing and editing of outreach and public education materials, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

1991-1994                      Journal Editor and Writer,  
Yale Child Study Center  
School Development Program  
New Haven, CT

1986-1989                      Associate Editor and Columnist,  
New Haven Independent  
New Haven, CT

1988                              Instructor in English as a Second Language,  
Yale University

1984-1985                      Business Manager,  
New Haven Chorale  
New Haven, CT

1982                              Instructor in Visual Art,  
Southern Connecticut State University  
New Haven, CT

1981-1982                      Instructor in French,  
Northeastern University  
Boston, MA

1980-82                         Instructor in French,  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

Education:

Boston University  
College of Fine Arts  
Boston, MA  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, 1980  
Teaching Assistant to Reed Kay (Painting)  
and Elizabeth Jackson Barker (English)

**Conference Papers:**

April 2007 -- "John Millington Synge and the 'Parisians' of Inis Meain,"  
keynote lecture at **Culture and Singularity: Alterity, Exposure, Dissent**  
symposium at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

July 2001 -- “Asphalt over Teakettle: Rural and Ecclesiastical Myths of the Irish City,” invited lecture at Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland, July 2001

February 2001 -- “Inhospitable Landscapes: Proletarian Irish Images for the Transnational Era,” at The Theater of Irish Cinema Conference, Yale University

### **Public Talks:**

June 2011 -- “An Irish State of Mind: A Conversation with Fintan O’Toole” At the Yale University Art Gallery Auditorium; International Festival of Arts and Ideas

June 2010 -- “Adapting *Moby Dick* for the Stage: An Interview with director Judy Hegarty Lovett and actor Conor Lovett” at the Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven; International Festival of Arts and Ideas

June 2009 -- “Interpreting Samuel Beckett: An Interview with Actor Conor Lovett” at Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven ; International Festival of Arts and Ideas

June 2008 -- “Contemporary Irish Voices: A Conversation with Paul Muldoon and Sebastian Barry,” at Yale Center for British Art; International Festival of Arts and Ideas

### **Theater Productions**

“All Dressed Up to Go Dreaming” presented at the Dublin Theatre Festival – October 2008

“All Dressed Up to Go Dreaming” presented at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival Fringe -- August 2008

### **Selected Publications:**

Chapters in:



The Informed Argument (Heinle and Heinle, 2006)  
Brushes with History: Writing on Art from The Nation, 1865-2001  
(Thunder's Mouth Press, 2001)  
The Engaged Reader (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993)  
The War and Peace Reader (Allyn and Bacon, 1993)  
Culture Wars (New Press, 1992)  
Piwnica Pod Baranami/Theater Under the Ram (Theater Press, 1988)

### **Selected Articles:**

“Why You Should Be Watching the Film ‘Z’ Right Now”—The Nation (03 Nov 2020)

“Eavan Boland, Pillar of Irish Poetry”—The Nation, (06 May 2020)

“Leo Varadkar, Ireland’s Fortunate Son—The Nation, (16 June 2017)

“How the U.S. and Israel Almost Caused Global Computer Catastrophe” –  
The Nation, 08 July 2016

“How The Irish Became the World’s Leading Gay Activists” -The Nation,  
27 May 2015

“The Contrarian Poet (Seamus Heaney)” – The Nation, 04 Sept 2013

“The Democratic Paintbrush of Lucian Freud” – The Nation, 01 Aug 2011

“Tony Kushner’s Intelligent Homosexuals” – The Nation, 27 Apr 2011

“Pinter: Bare-Knuckled Citizen Playwright” – The Nation, 26 Dec 2008

“The Deportees” (book review) – The Yale Review, Spring 2008

“A Director Prepares” (book review) – New Haven Review of Books,  
Summer 2007

“Beckett at 100” -- The Nation, 15 May 2006

“Cracking the Code by Measuring the Skull: Friel’s ‘The Home Place’  
Examines Nineteenth Century Homeland Security”  
-- National Catholic Reporter, 06 May 2005

“The People’s Church”  
-- The Nation, 06 January 2003

“The Witch Hunt Against Archbishop Weakland”  
- Salon.com, 25 May 2002

“Law’s the Law in Boston”  
- The Nation, 25 March 2002

“Now It’s Ulster’s Turn”  
- The Nation, 19 November 2001

“Leaders Like Robinson Hard to Find”  
- National Catholic Reporter, 13 April 2001

“The V-Word is Heard”  
- The Nation, 05 March 2001

“What Made Peace Possible in Ireland?”  
-- Salon.com, 06 December 99

“Life of a Salesman (Arthur Miller)”  
- The Nation, 06 March 1999

“Theater Ed as Shakespeare Would Have Done It” -  
The Chronicle of Higher Education, Spring 1998

“Killing ‘The Capeman’”  
-- The Progressive, June 1998

“Cajun Mardi Gras: A Community Performance Tradition”  
-- Salon.com, 27 February 1998

“The U.N. Rights Agenda”  
--- The Nation, 16 June 1997

“The Lass Wave: Women and Irish Cinema”  
The Village Voice, 20 June 1997

“Sects Education: A Leap of Faith” (Northern Ireland documentary film)  
The Village Voice, 03 December 1996

“An Scannan ’96: New Irish Film”  
The Village Voice. 21 May 1996

“Should This Woman Run the World? The Case for Mary Robinson as U.S. Secretary General”

The Nation, 15 April 1996

“Many Irelands, One Theater”

The Nation, 01 April 1996

“Molly Sweeney” (theater criticism)

The Nation, 04 March 1996

“Saving Kids with Sandwiches, Juice and Petty Cash”

The Nation, 08 January 1996

“Nixon’s Nixon” (theater criticism)

The Nation, 11 December 1995

“Northern Exposure: Trade and Investment in Ireland”

The Nation, 19 June 1995

“Slam-Dunked: ‘Hoop Dreams’ and the Academy Awards”

The Nation, 06 February 1995

“Is the NEA for Everyone?”

-- The Progressive, March 1995

“Slavs!” (theater criticism)

-- The Nation, 06 February 1995

“Unplug It! Commercial Television in the Classroom”

The Nation, 21 November 1994

“The Cease Fire” (Northern Ireland)

The Nation, 26 September 1994

“Let’s Make a Deal: Undocumented Irish Immigrants and the FBI”

The Nation, 11 July 1994

“A Small Circle of Friends: The New American Schools Development Corporation”

The Nation, 21 September 1992

“Newhallville Turns It Around”

- The Nation, 21 September 1992

“Dancing at Lughnasa” (theater criticism)  
-- The Nation, 27 January 1992

“Joe Papp: In Memoriam”  
-- The Nation, 01 July 1991

“M\*U\*S\*H: Television Coverage of the Persian Gulf War”  
-- The Nation, 25 February 1991

“Generations of the Dead in the Abyss of Coney Island Madness”  
-- The Nation, 28 January 1991

“The Culture of Narcissism: Karen Finley and the NEA”  
-- The Nation, 10 December 1990

“The Theater of Anne Bogart”  
-- The Nation, 27 August 1990

“An Irish Poet Confronts his Roots: An Interview with Seamus Heaney”  
New Haven Advocate, February 1985

#### Selected Poetry:

The Oxford Literary Review (U.K.)  
Counterpoint (U.K.)  
Spare Rib (U.K.)  
Poetry and Audience (U.K.)  
St. Stephen's (Ireland)  
Criterion (Ireland)  
The Examiner (Ireland)  
Slackwater Review (U.S.)  
Northwoods Review (U.S.)  
Zero: A Journal of Buddhist Thought (U.S.)  
Poetry Australia

#### Selected Exhibitions:

“Small Works Invitational,” Artspace, New Haven, 1992  
“Nancy Graves Chooses Works on Paper,” Artspace, 1990  
“Artists of Erector Square,” New Haven, 1987  
“Artists of Erector Square,” 1986  
“Festival Interceltique,” Lorient, France, 1978  
“Festival Interceltique,” 1977

“Women Exhibiting in Boston,” Boston City Hall, 1973

“Six Women Artists,” Community Art Center, Copley Square, Boston, 1972

Plays Produced:

“All Dressed Up to Go Dreaming,” (as A. M. MacEachern), Edinburgh  
Fringe Festival, August 2008

“All Dressed Up to Go Dreaming.” (as A.M. MacEachern), Dublin Theatre  
Festival Fringe, September 2008

Awards and Professional Recognition:

Grass Roots Reporting Project

New York City

Research grant -- 1992

Fund for Investigative Journalism

Washington, D.C.

Research grant -- 1991

Society of Professional Journalists/Sigma Delta Chi

First Prize, Column -- 1989

Second Prize, News reporting -- 1989

Feis na Gaeilge

Emmanuel College

Boston, Ma

First Prize in spoken Irish - 1980

Eben Demarest Foundation

Pittsburgh, PA

Grant for painting and poetry - 1979

Hugh MacDiarmid Memorial Trophy for Poetry

Scotland -- 1979

First Prize, Scottish Open Poetry Competition

Scotland -- 1979

Finalist, Greenwich Festival Poetry Competition

U.K. - 1979



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