

## JAMES BERGER

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### EDUCATION

1987-94 Ph.D. University of Virginia  
1980-81 M.A. Teachers College, Columbia University  
1972-76 B.A. Columbia College, Columbia University

### EMPLOYMENT

Jan. 2009-present Yale University, Senior Lecturer in American Studies and English  
Sept. 2007-July 2008 Hofstra University, Professor of English  
2001-2007 Hofstra University, Associate Professor of English  
Spring 2002 Boston University, Visiting Associate Professor  
1997-2001 Hofstra University, Assistant Professor of English  
1994-96 George Mason University, Visiting Assistant Professor  
1989-94 University of Virginia, Graduate Instructor  
1985-86 Hostos Community College (Bronx, NY), Adjunct Instructor  
Teachers and Writers Collaborative (New York), Creative  
Writing Teacher Usdan Center (Huntington, NY) Head of Creative  
Writing Department  
1981-84 International School Moshi; Tanzania--Third grade class teacher

### ACADEMIC HONORS

2002-03 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship  
1996-97 Charles Phelps Taft Postdoctoral Fellowship, University  
of Cincinnati  
1988-92 Dupont Graduate Fellowships, University of Virginia  
1989 Educational Press Association of America Distinguished  
Achievement Award

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS:

*The Disarticulate: Language, Disability, and the Narratives of Modernity.* New York: New York University Press, 2014.

*Prior* (poems). Buffalo: BlazeVox, 2013

*After the End: Representations of Post-Apocalypse.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999.

#### EDITED BOOK:

*Helen Keller, The Story of My Life: The Restored Edition.* New York: The Modern Library/Random House, 2003.

#### EDITED JOURNAL

*Twentieth Century Literature* 47 (2000): special issue on apocalyptic literature.

#### ARTICLES:

“Propagation and Procreation: The Zombie and the Child.” *Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Post-Apocalyptic TV and Film*. Ed. Barbara Gurr. Houndmills U.K. and New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015. 149-63.

“‘The Voice of the Bridegroom and the Bride Shall be Heard No More’: Apocalypse, Critique, and Procreation.” *Frame: Journal of Literary Studies*. 26 (2013): 125-42.

“Zombies and the End of Society.” *E-International Relations*. February 13, 2013. Online.

“The Hitchcock Symptom: Duster Flight Patterns around ‘Production Values.’” *Postmodern Culture*. 20.3 (2011). Online.

“Irony at the Opera: The Case of *The Secret Agent*.” *The New Haven Review*. 9 (2011): 90-103.

“Alterity and Autism: Mark Haddon’s Curious Incident in the Neurological Spectrum.” *Autism and Representation*, ed. Mark Osteen. New York and Oxford: Routledge, 2007. 271-88.

“Which Prosthetic? Mass Media, Narrative, Empathy, and Progressive Politics.” *Rethinking History* 11 (2007): 597-612.

“Falling Towers and Postmodern Wild Children: Oliver Sacks, Don DeLillo, and Turns Against Language.” *PMLA* 120 (2005): 341-61.

“Trauma Without Disability, Disability Without Trauma: A Disciplinary Divide.” *JAC: A Quarterly Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Rhetoric, Writing, Multiple Literacies, and Politics* 24 (2004): 563-82.

“There’s No Backhand to This.” *Trauma at Home: After 9/11*. Ed. Judith Greenberg. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. 52-59.

“Holocaust Testimony and Post-Holocaust Fiction: Cynthia Ozick’s The Messiah of Stockholm.” *Thresholds of Western Culture: Identity, Postcoloniality, Transnationalism*. Ed. John Burt Foster Jr. and Wayne Jeffrey Froman. New York and London: Continuum, 2003. 69-82.

“Testing Literature: Helen Keller and Richard Powers’ Implementation H[elen].” *Arizona Quarterly* 58 (2002): 109-37.

“Twentieth Century Apocalypse: Forecasts and Aftermaths,” *Twentieth Century Literature* 47(4) (2000): 1-10.

“Ghosts of Liberalism: Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and the Moynihan Report.” *PMLA* 111 (1996): 408-20. Reprinted in *Beloved: Modern Critical Interpretations*, ed. Harold Bloom. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 1998. 177-92.

“Gerald Green.” *Contemporary Jewish-American Novelists*, ed. Joel Shatzky and Michael Taub. Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 1997. 140-44.

“From ‘After’ to ‘Until’: Post-Apocalypse, Postmodernity, and Wim Wenders’ *Until the End of the World*.” *Genre* 28 (1995): 1-16.

“Cultural Trauma and the ‘Timeless Burst’: Pynchon's Revision of Nostalgia in *Vineland*.” *Postmodern Culture* 5 (1995). Online.

“Whitman's Rejection of ‘Respondez!’” *Essays in Literature* 19 (1992): 221-230.

“A Review of Two Operas: *The Secret Agent/The Secret Agent*. *Joseph Conrad Today*. 39 (2014).

Review: Rene Dietrich. *Revising and Remembering (After) the End: American Post-Apocalyptic Poetry since 1945 from Ginsberg to Forche*. *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 59 (2014). Online

Review: Joanna Klink. *Circadian. Rain Taxi* 13 (2008). Online.

Review: Nancy Kuhl. *The Wife of the Left Hand*. *Rain Taxi Summer* (2007). Online.

Review: Moise Postone and Eric Santner (eds.). *Catastrophe and Meaning: The Holocaust and the Twentieth Century*. *Kritikon Litterarum* 33 (2006): 134-39.

Review: “Models of Uncaring.” Cris Mazza. *Disability*. *American Book Review* 26.6 (2006): 8-9.

Review Essay: “‘Is It Fascism Yet?’ Philip Roth’s *The Plot Against America*.” *Jewish Currents* March-April 2005. 14-21.

Review Essay: “A War of Ghosts: Trauma Theories, Traumatic Histories, and the Middle East.” *Tikkun* 18.1 (Jan./Feb. 2003): 72-75.

Review Essay: “Trauma and Literary Theory.” *Contemporary Literature* 38 (1997): 567-82.

Review Essay: “Ends and Means: Contemporary Theorizations of Apocalypse and Culture.” *Postmodern Culture* 6 (2) May, 1996.

Review: Malcolm Bull, ed. *Apocalypse Theory and the Ends of the World*; Richard Dellamora, ed. *Postmodern Apocalypse: Theory and Practice at the End*. *Modern Fiction Studies* 42 (1996): 925-29.

### JOURNALISM/OP-EDS:

“Polls are Bad for Democracy.” *U.S. News and World Report*. November 22, 2016. Online.

“This is the Media’s Real Bias: Pro-Business, Pro-Corporate, Pro-CEO.” *Salon*. October 30, 2015. Online.

“Can We See Beyond Black and White?” *New Haven Independent*. October 2, 2013. Online.

“Democracy for Sale?” *New Haven Independent*. June 17, 2013.

“Zombies and World War Z: An Apocalypse for Liberals.” *The Washington Spectator*. July 19, 2013. Online.

“From “Walking Dead” to “Doomsday Preppers,” What’s Behind TV’s Post-Apocalypse Fantasies?” *The New Republic*. December 21, 2012. Online.

### POEMS:

“Someone Else Might Like This.” *Epiphany* Fall/Winter 2016. 158-60.

“I Fell for the Bread Nurse,” “Now It’s Night,” “Is Your Mirror Up to the Task?” “Place the Columns in Their Places,” “Time is Passing and I’m not in the Groove.” *Marsh Hawk Review* Fall 2016. Online.

“The Fragilist.” *Word For/Word* Spring 2011. 36-42.

“Civilization Credits.” *Critical Sociology* 37.2 (2011): 198.

“The Enclosure,” “In the Shape of Breathing.” *Drunken Boat* #13, Winter 2010-11. Online.

### INTERVIEWS:

“15 Questions: An Interview with James Berger.” May 14, 2014. BlazeVox.org

Interview with Julia Novitch. *Graphic* 22 (2012): 318-21.

### PEDAGOGICAL ESSAYS:

“Draft of a Mission Counter-Statement,” *Academe* 94.1 (January-February 2008)

“Whitman’s Long Lines,” *The Teachers and Writers Guide to Walt Whitman*, ed. Ron Padgett, NY: T&W Collaborative, 1991. 40-44.

“Repeating Lines,” *Teachers and Writers Magazine*, January 1988. 1-3.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### National Media:

“The Disaster Film.” Panelist on Odyssey. National Public Radio. June 25, 2004.  
“Trauma and Culture.” Panelist on Odyssey. National Public Radio. March 31, 2003.

Featured or Keynote Speaker:

“Articulating Disability: Care, Autonomy, and Desire for the Other.” University of Virginia. November 2016.

“Care, Voice, and Politics in Disability Studies.” “CLOSING THE GAP? Revisiting Health & Employment Disparities for People with Disabilities” Yale University. October 2016.

“Disarticulation from the Bible to Neuroscience.” Hofstra University. March, 2015.

“Reverse Synesthesia: Disarticulation and Revelation.” Columbia University Center for Social Difference. February 2015.

“Dys-/Disarticulation: Language, Impairment, and Some Narratives of Modernity.” University of Missouri. April, 2014.

Cognitive Impairment, Care, and ‘Defenses of Narrative’ in an Age of Neuroscience. University of California-Santa Barbara. February, 2010.

“Outcome Assessment in Higher Education: Corporate Goals and the Humanities.” New York State chapter, American Association of University Professors, Spring Convention. Hofstra University. April, 2008.

“The Miracle Worker and Helen Keller’s Education.” Brooklyn Academy of Music. November, 2003.

“Falling Towers and Postmodern Wild Children: Oliver Sacks, Don DeLillo, and Turns Against Language.” University of Pennsylvania. February, 2003.

“Trauma, Apocalypse, and Culture.” University of Hawaii-Manoa. November, 1999.

“Post-Apocalyptic Representation.” Florida Atlantic University. March, 1997.

“After the End: Living in the Post-Apocalypse.” Charles Phelps Taft Fellowship Address. University of Cincinnati. February, 1997.

Panels:

“Poetics, Agency, and Dis/Dys-articulation.” Disability as Spectacle. UCLA. Los Angeles CA. April 2017.

“Apocalypse and the Problematics of Procreation.” MLA conference. Philadelphia PA. January 2017.

“Conceiving the Future/Inability to Conceive.” Futurities Conference. University of Chicago. November 2016.

“Procreate or Propagate: Zombies and the Crisis of Futurity.” Zombie Apocalypse Conference. University of Windsor. October 2016.

“Disability Scholarship, Disability Politics.” Disability Keywords Conference. Columbia University. September 2015.

“Reflections on Trauma and Disability.” Society for Disability Studies. Atlanta. June 2015.

“Language, Disability, and Desire, in Djuna Barnes’ *Nightwood*.” Modernist Studies Association. Pittsburgh. November 2014.

“Modernism and Disarticulation: Cognitive Impairment, Language and Modernist Narrative.” British Association for Modernist Studies. London. June 2014.

“Recognition, Misrecognition, and the Erotics of Disarticulation.” SAMLA conference. Atlanta GA. November 2013.

“Responsibility and Catastrophe: Titus Kaphar’s ‘Vesper Project.’” Friedman Benda Gallery. New York. June 2013.

“Neurotative Disorders: Trauma, Synapses, and Contemporary Fiction.” Post45 Conference. Cleveland OH. April 2011.

“‘Defenses of Narrative’ in an Age of Neuroscience.” Hofstra University. April, 2011.

“Cognitive Impairment, Neuroscience, and ‘‘Defenses of Narrative.’’ SAMLA Convention. Atlanta. November 2009.

“Stevie, Disability, and the Ethics of Care in Conrad’s *The Secret Agent*.” MLA Convention. Chicago. December 2007.

“Tics as Metaphors; Metaphors as Tics: Tourettic Theory in Jonathan Lethem’s *Motherless Brooklyn*.” Cognitive Science and Literature Conference, University of Connecticut. April, 2006.

“Alterity and Autism: Mark Haddon’s *Curious Incident in the Neurological Spectrum*.” Society for Critical Exchange, Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland. October 2005.

“Ideologies of Neurology: Cognitive Impairment, Genre, and Politics in Recent American Fiction.” MLA Convention. Philadelphia. December 2004.

“The Two Helens: Richard Power’s Rewriting of Helen Keller as an Artificial Intelligence.” MLA Convention. New Orleans. December, 2001.

“Post-History and Form” (chair). MLA Convention. Chicago. December, 1999.

“Millennium Without Apocalypse: Hauntings and Benedictions of 1999.” Boston University. November, 1999.

“The ‘Beloved’ That is not Beloved: Can There be Ghosts in a Culture of Angels?” University of Louisville. February, 1999.

“Apocalypses and Aftermaths: Directions in Research and Teaching.” University of Tulsa. February, 1999.

“The End, and After the End: Post-Apocalyptic Cinema, 1950-1999.” Florida State University. January, 1999.

“The Absent Referent: Poststructuralism's Turn Toward Theorizing the Holocaust.” Trent University, Ontario. August 1997.

“Spiraling Critiques: Technology in Silko’s Ceremony and Pynchon’s Vineland.” University of Freiburg, Germany. May 1997.

“Forgeries and False Messiahs: Holocaust Testimony and Post-Holocaust Fiction in Cynthia Ozick’s The Messiah of Stockholm.” George Mason University. May 1996.

“Apocalyptic Precipitates: Sam Shepard’s True West, the Properties of Fiction, and the Fictions of Property.” University of Tampere, Finland. April 1995.

“1999: Apocalypse, Post-Apocalypse, and Narrative in Wim Wenders’ Until the End of the World.” Texas A&M University. March 1994.

“The Thanatoids Awake: The Return of the (Repressed) 60s in the Reaganist 80s in Thomas Pynchon’s Vineland.” University of Louisville. February 1994.

“Lot’s Wife at Bitburg: Reaganist History, the Holocaust, and the Sixties.” University of Virginia. April 1992.

### **Courses Taught at Yale**

#### Undergraduate

AMST 466/ENGL 444: Contemporary Historical Novel

AMST 414/ENGL 440: Poetry and Values of Arts and Humanities

AMST 406/ENGL 329: Spectacle of Disability

AMST 358/ENGL 281: Animals in Modern American Fiction

AMST 330/ENGL 236: Dystopic and Utopian Fictions

AMST 257/ENGL 325: Modern Apocalyptic Narratives

AMST 235/ENGL 354: Language, Disability, Fiction

ENGL 127: Readings in American Literature

AMST 020: The Humanities from Plato to the Corporate University (freshman seminar)

Graduate

AMST 655 01 / ENGL 966 01 (F11): Modern Apocalyptic Narratives



## Service

### Yale

Faculty facilitator for the graduate students' Disability Studies Working Group (2015-16 ).

Senior Thesis Director: Colin Groundwater (2014-15); Jennifer DeVito (2013-14); Ashley Whitehead (2011-12); Rachel LaViola (2011-12); Whitney Barlow (2010-11).

Freshmen and Sophomore Advising: I've served as freshman advisor for three to five students each year in Silliman College.

Dissertation Committee: J.Jesse Ramirez (2013).

Orals Committee: Julia Chan (2014).

Outside Dissertation Reader: Briohny Doyle, Murdoch University, Australia (2014).

### Profession

Editorial Boards: *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability* (2007-present ); *Postmodern Culture* (2003-present); *Twentieth Century Literature* (2002-04, 2008-present).

Book Review Editor, *Twentieth Century Literature* (2004-2008).

Manuscript reader (journals): *PMLA*, *Mosaic*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*, *Journal of Literary Disability*; *Postmodern Culture*.

Manuscript reader (books): University of Toronto Press, University of Michigan Press, Cornell University Press, University of Minnesota Press.