

Curriculum Vitae

R. CLIFTON SPARGO

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Iowa Writers' Workshop, May 2013

Ph.D., English, Yale University, 1995

M.A.R., Biblical Studies, Yale Divinity School, M.A.R., 1993 (*cum laude*)

M.Sc., Literature, Edinburgh University, 1989

B.A., Creative Writing and English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1987

(Bronze Tablet, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co-creator of Writing Program, The Voices and Faces Project, 2011-present

Lecturer in Creative Writing, Yale University, 2017-19.

Dixon Professor of Creative Writing, Wittenberg University, 2014-15

Instructor, International Writers Program, Fall 2014

Provost's Postgraduate Writer in Fiction, University of Iowa, 2013-14

Visiting Associate Professor of English, Yale University, 2009

Asst., Assoc., and Professor of English, Marquette University, 1995-2011

PUBLICATIONS (FICTION)

Novel

Beautiful Fools (New York & London: Overlook/ Duckworth Press, May 2013); paperback (New York: Overlook, April 2014).

Short Stories

- "The Misfortunes of Others," *The Antioch Review* 76:1 (Winter 2018), 113-133.
- "The Third World is Just Around the Corner," *Kenyon Review* 32:4 (Fall 2010), 173-85.
- "These Are Not the Ways of Passion," *The Antioch Review* 68:3 (Summer 2010), 521-36.
- "American Women," *Fiction* 55 (Summer 2009), 195-210.
- "The Empty Center," *The Antioch Review* 66:3 (Summer 2008), 523-36.
- "Second Sorrow," *The Connecticut Review* (Spring 2006), 85-92.

- “Bluefish, South of Plymouth,” *Glimmer Train Stories* 54 (Spring 2005), 135-156.
- “The Death of Animals,” *Glimmer Train Stories* 52 (Fall 2004), 155-179.
- “Sincerity,” *Fiction* 19:1 (Winter 2004), 256-272.
- “Anne, Afterward,” *SOMA* (Nov. 2002), 26, 83; *North Atlantic Review* 11 (1999), 253-64.
- “A History of Minor Trespasses,” *Glimmer Train Stories* 41 (Winter 2002), 96-120.
- “The Duck Pond,” *Green Mountains Review* 14:1 (Summer 2001), 80-88.

PUBLICATIONS (NONFICTION)

Essays and Interviews on Popular Music

- “Lasting Power: Teenage Fanclub, Then, Now, and Next,” co-authored with Anne K. Ream, *Newcity*, Feb. 25, 2019.
- “Oh, to Be a Violent Femme: The Outsider Origins of an Iconic Band,” *Newcity*, Oct 26, 2018.
- “Resurrected: The Dead Boys Revisit Their Debut,” *Newcity*, June 17, 2018.
- “Music in Review” on The Libertines and Peter Doherty, *The Yale Review* 106:2 (Spring 2018), 166-78.
- “Forever Stamped on Our Memory: Janis Joplin,” *Huffington Post*, Jan. 21, 2014.
- “A New Jazz Age?: Jazz Legend Ramsey Lewis on *The Great Gatsby* Soundtrack, Hip Hop, and the Future of Jazz” (Interview), *Huffington Post*, June 30, 2013.
- “JD McPherson: An Old-Fashioned Success in the New Media Musical World” (Interview), *Huffington Post*, Dec. 26, 2012.
- “The Ramones: Tommy Ramone on *Rocket to Russia*, Rockaway, and the Beauty of Simplicity” (Interview), *Huffington Post*, Nov. 20, 2012.
- “The Fixx: Lead Singer Cy Curnin on Rock, Resilience and Beautiful Friction” (Interview), *Huffington Post*, Aug. 10, 2012.
- “Tom Cruise in ‘Rock of Ages’: Which Hair Metal Vocalist Inspired His Performance?” *Huffington Post*, June 28, 2012.
- “Taking the Streets by Song: A Playlist for the 99%,” co-authored with Anne K. Ream, *Newcity*, May 16, 2012.
- “Alabama Shakes: Rehashing the Past or Reinventing the Blues?” *Huffington Post*, May 14, 2012.
- “Spotify This: A Rock ‘n’ Roll Holiday Playlist for the Ages,” co-authored with Anne K. Ream, *Newcity*, Nov. 30, 2011.
- “Their Time: Why Arctic Monkeys May Be the World’s Best Band,” co-authored with Anne K. Ream, *Newcity*, Aug. 1, 2011.
- “Bob Dylan and Religion,” co-authored with Anne K. Ream, *The Cambridge Companion to Bob Dylan*, ed. Kevin J. H. Dettmar (Cambridge UP 2009), 87-99.

Essays, Reviews, Interviews in Trade Press and Online

- “The Dangerous Math of Ethan Canin” (Interview), *Huffington Post*, Feb. 29, 2016.
- Review of *Careless People* by Sarah Churchwell (Penguin, 2014), *The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 14, 2014.
- “One Woman’s Struggles with Fertility, Adoption, and Grief,” *Huffington Post*, Feb. 14, 2014.
- “An Interview with Don Waters,” *Bookslut*, Jan. 2014.

- “The 12 Weirdest Stories of Christmas,” *Huffington Post*, Dec. 18, 2013.
- “An Espionage Thriller Set in World War I Era: Interview with Robert Olen Butler on his New Novel *Star of Istanbul*,” *Huffington Post*, Nov. 26, 2013.
- “Why Write Historical Fiction?” *Glimmer Train Bulletin* 81, Oct. 1, 2013.
- “An Interview with Tim Parrish,” *Bookslut*, Sept. 2013.
- “The Great Gatsby Line That Came from Fitzgerald’s Life — and Inspired a Novel,” *The Atlantic*, July 2, 2013.
- “Meet the Muses: The Most Inspiring ‘It’ Girls of All Time,” *Glo*, July 2013.
- “Scenes from a Marriage: 12 Things You Didn’t Know about F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald,” *Huffington Post*, May 6, 2013.
- “11 Love Lessons from the Real Gatsby and His Golden Girl: Should You Take Relationship Advice from Zelda and Scott Fitzgerald?,” *Glo*, May 2013.
- “Why Every American Should Read *The Great Gatsby*, Again,” *Huffington Post*, Apr. 9, 2013.
- “The Illuminator: Helen Benedict and the Journalistic Investigation That Inspired *The Invisible War*” (Interview), *Huffington Post*, Apr. 3, 2013.
- “A Day for Beautiful and Not-So-Beautiful Fools: F. Scott Fitzgerald, the Practical Joker,” *Huffington Post*, Apr. 1, 2013.
- “The Reluctant Irishman: F. Scott Fitzgerald and Me,” *Huffington Post*, Mar. 14, 2013.
- “Fiction in Review,” Edmund White’s *Hotel de Dream*, *The Yale Review* 96:3 (Jul. 2008), 147-61.
- “Prostitution Looks Chic, But Truth is Ugly,” co-authored with Anne K. Ream, *Chicago Tribune* (Apr. 27, 2008), 2:1-2.
- “The Spring of His Discontent,” review of Robert Stone’s *Prime Green: Remembering the Sixties*, *Commonweal* 134:3 (Feb. 9, 2007), 25-6.

Scholarly Monographs

- *Vigilant Memory: Emmanuel Levinas, the Holocaust, and the Unjust Death* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 2006), 311 pp.
- *The Ethics of Mourning* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 2004), 314 pp.

Edited Collections

- Co-editor with Robert M. Ehrenreich, *After Representation?: The Holocaust, Literature, and Culture* (Rutgers UP and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Press, 2010).
- Co-editor with Kevin Dunn and Alan Velie, “The Bible as Literature,” *Genre* XL (Fall/Winter 2007).

Scholarly Essays

- “Toward a Theory of Apolitics,” *The Returns of Antigone: Interdisciplinary Essays*, eds. Tina Chanter and Sean D. Kirkland (SUNY Press, 2014), 241-60.
- “The Contemporary Anti-Elegy,” *The Oxford Handbook to Elegy*, ed. Karen A. Weisman (Oxford UP, 2010), 413-29.
- “The Ethical Ambiguity of the Image: Abu Ghraib, Levinas, and the Scandalous Image of Torture,” *MonoKL* 8-9, ed. by Volkan Celebi (Fall 2010), 550-575.

- “The Holocaust and the Economy of Memory, From Bellow to Morrison,” *After Representation?: The Holocaust, Literature, and Culture*, eds. Spargo and Ehrenreich (Rutgers UP and the U.S. Holocaust Museum Press, 2010), 137-78.
- “Introduction: On the Cultural Continuities of Literary Representation,” *After Representation?* (Rutgers UP and the U.S. Holocaust Museum Press, 2010), 1-22.
- “How Telling: Reading Roth/Zuckerman After Irving Howe,” *Philip Roth Studies* 5:2 (Fall 2009), 251-79.
- “Robert Frost and the Allure of Consensus,” *Raritan* 28:3 (Winter 2009): 38-65.
- “How the Media Shapes Attitudes About Rape,” co-authored with Anne K. Ream, *Sexual Assault Report* 12:5 (Spring 2009), 65-6, 74-6; [reprint] in *Family & Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly* 4:4 (Spring 2012), 317-24.
- “The Apolitics of Antigone’s Lament (from Sophocles to Ariel Dorfman),” *Mosaic* 41:3 (Spring 2008), 117-35.
- “*Sophie’s Choice*: On the Pedagogical Value of the ‘Problem Text,’” *Teaching Holocaust Literature and Film*, eds. Robert Eaglestone and Barry Langford (London: Palgrave, 2008), 139-55.
- “The Economy of Blessing in the Book of Genesis,” *Genre XL* (Fall/Winter 2007): 17-58.
- “Toward an Ethics of Literary Revisionism,” *The Salt Companion to Harold Bloom*, eds. Roy Sellars and Graham Allen (Cambridge, UK: Salt, 2007), 66-119.
- “The Rhetoric of Trauma,” *Reading On*, (Dec. 2006), 1-21.
- “1961, Jerusalem: Eichmann and the Aesthetic of Complicity,” *The Edinburgh Companion to Twentieth-Century Literatures in English*, eds. Brian McHale and Randall Stevenson (Edinburgh, U.K.: Edinburgh UP, 2006), 161-72.
- “The Ethical Uselessness of Grief: Randall Jarrell’s ‘The Refugees,’” *PMLA* 120:1 (Jan. 2005), 49-65; reprinted in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism* 177 (Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006), 250-262.
- “Trauma and the Specters of Enslavement in Morrison’s *Beloved*,” *Mosaic* 35:1 (Mar. 2002), 113-131.
- “To Invent as Presumptuously as Real Life: Parody and the Cultural Memory of Anne Frank in Roth’s *The Ghost Writer*,” *Representations* 76 (Fall 2001), 88-119.
- “Begging the Question of Responsibility: The Vagrant Poor in Wordsworth’s ‘Beggars’ and ‘Resolution and Independence,’” *Studies in Romanticism* 19:1 (Spring 2000), 51-80.
- “Jesus Unbound: The Correction of Jesus’s Intentions in Mark 5-8,” *Religion and the Arts* 3:3/4 (Summer/Fall 1999), 303-334.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Finalist, *Narrative’s Fiction Contest*, spring 2018.
- Dixon Professor of Creative Writing, Wittenberg University, 2014-15
- Fellow, Sun Valley Writers’ Conference, June 2014
- Provost’s Fellow, University of Iowa, 2013-14
- Iowa Arts Fellow, Iowa Writers’ Workshop, 2011-13
- Runner-up, Colgate Emerging Writers Contest for story collection, 2011
- Leon Milman Memorial Fellow, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Spring 2010
- Rose H. Jackson Fellowship, Beinecke Library, Yale University, Winter 2009
- Finalist, Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction, collection, 2008 and 2009

- Finalist, Hiett Prize in the Humanities, Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture, 2005
- (Winner) *Glimmer Train's* Fiction Open Contest
- (Winner) *Glimmer Train's* Award for New Writers
- Pearl Resnick Fellow, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2000-01
- Whiting Fellow in the Humanities, Yale University, 1994

LECTURES, TALKS, & INTERVIEWS

Book Festivals, Talks, & Featured Appearances (partial list):

- Featured Speaker, Fairhaven Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Mar. 2015
- Printers' Row Lit Fest Chicago, June 2013, June 2014
- AMUW Book Club, Marquette University, May 2014
- F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum Annual Gala, May 2014
- Miami International Book Festival, Nov. 2013
- F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD, Oct. 2013
- Utah Humanities Book Festival, Salt Lake City, UT, Sept. 29, 2013
- Author Talk with Discussion, moderated by Larry Allums, Dallas Institute for the Humanities and Culture, Sept. 24, 2013
- Master's Tea (on Historical Fiction), Ezra Stiles College, Yale University, Sept. 2013
- The University Club, Chicago, July 11, 2013
- Books in Bloom Literary Festival (Featured Author), Eureka Springs, AK, May 18, 2013

Adapted for Stage

- Waterrshed Theater, Des Moines: Staged Reading of "The Empty Center," followed by "Talk Back" with author, May 17, 2012.
- Chicago Public Radio's Stories on Stage: "Anne, Afterward" Interpreted for the stage by Steppenwolf Theater Actors, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL, Feb. 2011.

Public Lectures, selected

- "Storytelling and Social Conscience: The Role of Testimony in the Movement to End Gender-Based Violence," Wittenberg Univ., Nov. 2014.
- "The Conscience of Literature: Testimony, Historical Fiction, and Social Justice," Augustana College, Jan. 2014; (revised talk) Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Apr. 2014.
- "The Extraordinary Artfulness of Holocaust Testimony," Shenandoah Univ., Oct. 2013.
- "Antigone: Toward a Theory of Apolitics" for "The Year of the Antigones" Conference, hosted by Dept. of Philosophy, DePaul Univ., May 2008.
- (Keynote) "Violence and the Ethical Event," conference: "A Violent Return to Ethics?," Arizona State Univ., Feb. 2007.
- "The Holocaust and the Memory of Injustice in American Literature and Culture," Vassar College, Apr. 2004.
- (Keynote) "Ethics Versus History: Is There Still an *Ought* in Our Remembrance?," Symposium: "Out of Europe: History, Exile and Memory After 1945," Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, Apr. 2004.

Papers, Talks, and Panels, selected

- Master's Tea: "How Do You Know It's Historical Fiction?" Ezra Stiles College, Yale Univ., Sept. 2013.
- "Next Year in Jerusalem: Artists Respond to Testimony from the Holocaust," panel, Univ. of Southern California, April 2011.
- "The Difficulty of Testimony: Transcendent Art and Atrocity," panel, Center for Jewish History, New York City, Jan. 2010.
- "The Holocaust and the Cultural Economy of Memory," conference: "Genocide, Memory, Justice: The Holocaust in Comparative Contexts," Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Nov. 2009.
- "Reading Roth After Irving Howe," Philip Roth Society, American Literature Assoc., Boston, May 2009.
- "Bob Dylan and the Borderlands," MLA Convention, San Francisco, Dec. 2008.
- "Levinas After Badiou: Violence, Sacrifice, and the Ethical Event," North American Levinas Society, Seattle, Sept. 2008; American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Nov. 2008.
- "The Rhetorical Field of the Trauma, or, the Apolitical Leanings of U.S. Vietnam Literature," MLA Convention, Chicago, Dec. 2007.
- "'The Reason It's a Cliché is Because It's True': An American Rhetoric of Assent in the Modern Period," Modernist Studies Assoc., Long Beach, Nov. 2007.
- "Mourning, Soldiers, and Refugees After 9/11," paper for President's Panel, Midwest MLA Convention, Milwaukee, Nov. 2005.
- "Making Torture Visible: The Ethical Ambiguity of the Image and Abu Ghraib," International Assoc. of Philosophy and Literature, Syracuse Univ., May 2004.
- "Anne Frank's Diaries: A Literary Perspective," panel for opening of exhibition on Anne Frank at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 10th Anniversary Program, June 2003.
- "The Aesthetics of Complicity in American Holocaust Literature," Symposium on Holocaust Literature and Representation, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, May 2001.
- "Ludwig Lewisohn's *Breathe Upon These* and the American Response to the Jewish Refugees of World War II," MLA Convention, Chicago, Dec. 1999.

Radio and Television Appearances

- Guest, "Cultural Memory and Commemoration," World Canvass, host Joan Kjaer, on UITV, KRUI, Iowa City, Jan. 24, 2014 [also TV]
- Host, "The Lit Show," interview of Don Waters, University of Iowa radio, Oct. 22, 2013
- Guest, "The Lives & Times of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald," Halli Casser-Jayne Show, web radio, Jan. 15, 2014
- Guest, "Morning Magazine," host Michael Clish, radio WFAW, 940AM, Fort Atkinson, WI, Nov. 1, 2013
- Guest, Kris Boyd's show, NPR Dallas, KERA, Sept. 24, 2013
- Guest, "The Culture Buzz," host John Busbee," KFMG 99.1, Des Moines, IA, June 24, 2013
- Guest, "The Lit Show," host Deborah Kennedy, University of Iowa radio, May 6, 2013
- Guest, "Talk of Iowa," host Charity Nebbe, Iowa Public Radio, Apr. 22, 2013
- Host, "The Lit Show," interview of Pauls Toutonghi, Aug. 27, 2012
- Guest, Morning Show, Chicago Public Radio, WBW 89.5, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2009

COURSES TAUGHT

Creative Writing

- **The Voices and Faces Project:** “The Stories We Tell” Testimonial Writing Workshops
- **Wittenberg University:** “Writing Historical Fiction,” “Introduction to Creative Writing”
- **University of Iowa:** “Seminar in the Craft of Fiction,” “Fiction Workshop”
- **Marquette University:** “Intermediate Fiction Writing”
- **Yale University:** “Fiction Workshop,” “Literary Nonfiction: The Prose Essay”

Literature Courses

- **Yale University and Yale Summer School:** “Mourning, Memory, & Trauma in Late 20th Century U.S. Poetry,” “American Cultural Memory of the Holocaust,” “Shakespeare’s Histories and Tragedies”
- **Marquette University:** “The Holocaust in American Literature,” “The Cultural Politics of Irony,” “Literary Criticism and Theory,” “Modernism in the United States,” “Edith Wharton and Gertrude Stein,” “Survey of American Literature” (in Gaza City), “The Memory of Injustice in Post-Holocaust America” (graduate), “American Literature During the FDR Presidency” (graduate), “Totalitarianism and the Cold War in U.S. Literature” (graduate), “Elizabeth Bishop, Sylvia Plath, and Jorie Graham” (graduate)