

LANGDON HAMMER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Language and Literature, Yale University, 1989
B.A., English Major, *summa cum laude*, Yale University, 1980

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Current appointment: Niel Gray, Jr. Professor of English, Yale University, since 2016
Previous appointments in the Yale English Department: Lecturer Convertible, 1987; Assistant Professor, 1989; Associate Professor with tenure, 1996; Professor, 2001; Department Chair, 2005-2008, Acting Department Chair, Fall 2011 and Fall 2013, Department Chair, 2014-19

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Elizabeth Bishop: Life & Works, A Critical Biography (in progress; under contract with Farrar Straus Giroux)

A Whole World: Letters from James Merrill, selected, edited, and annotated by LH and Stephen Yenser (Alfred A. Knopf, 2021), 736 pp. *New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2021. Times Literary Supplement Books of the Year 2021.*

Selected reviews: *Wall Street Journal* (March 5); *New Criterion* (April); *The Day* (April 9); *Commonweal* (April 9); *New York Times Book Review* (April 18); *New York Times Book Review Recommended Books* (April 22); *Times Literary Supplement* (May 7); *Poetry Foundation* (June 7); *New York Review of Books* (June 10); *Harvard Review* (October); *American Review* (October 14); *Hudson Review* (Fall 2021); *Hopkins Review* (Fall 2021); *Twentieth-Century Literature* (January 2022)

James Merrill: Poems, Everyman's Library Pocket Poets, selected and edited with a foreword by LH (Penguin RandomHouse, 2017), 256 pp

James Merrill: Life and Art (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 944 pp, 32 pp images, and jamesmerrillweb.com, a website companion for the book with images, bibliography, documents, reviews, and blog. Winner, Lambda Literary Award for Gay Memoir/Biography, 2016. Finalist for the Poetry Foundation's Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism, 2015. *Times Literary Supplement Book of the Year 2015. New York Times Top Books of 2015.*

Selected reviews: *New Yorker* (April 13); *New York Times* (April 15); *Biographile* (April 15); *Commonweal* online (April 16); *The Economist* (April 18); *Wall Street Journal* (May 2-3); *New York Times Book Review* (May 17); *Boston Edge* (May 18); *Barnes & Noble Review* (May 22); *Los Angeles Review of Books* (May 23); *Twentieth-Century Literature* (June 15); *Nation* (November 17); *Journal of Modern Literature* (Fall 2015); *Yale Review* (January 2016); *Modernism/Modernity* (January 2016); *Times Literary Supplement* (February 3, 2016); *Australian Book Review* (February 2016); *London Review of Books* (March 31, 2016); *Raritan* (Spring 2016); *Wallace Stevens Journal* (Spring 2016); *New York Review of Books* (December 22, 2016); *New Yorker* (February 2, 2017)

The Collected Poems of May Swenson, edited by LH (Library of America, 2013), 755 pp. Selected reviews: *Poetry Magazine* (December 2013); *Yale Review* 102 (January 2014) 1: 161-82

Hart Crane: Complete Poetry and Selected Letters, edited by LH (Library of America, 2006), 854 pp
Selected reviews: *New Yorker* (October 9, 2006): 82-86; *Bookforum* (December/January 2007): 33-37; *Wall Street Journal* (October 14-15, 2006): 10; *Nation* (January 1, 2007): 28-30; *New York Times Book Review* (January 28, 2007): 18-19 and letters by LH and four others (February 11, 25, 2007); *Commonweal* (April 6, 2007): 24-26; *New York Review of Books* (April 17, 2008): 36-40

O My Land, My Friends: The Selected Letters of Hart Crane, edited by LH and Brom Weber; introduction, chapter commentaries, letter selection, text preparation, and annotation by LH (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1997), 562 pp
Selected reviews: *Nation* (July 21, 1997): 33-36; *Boston Globe* (July 29, 1997): E3; *Boston Phoenix* (August 1997): 3; *Times Literary Supplement* (September 19, 1997): 27; *New York Review of Books* 46 (October 23, 1997) 16: 32-34; *New Republic* (January 5 and 12, 1998): 36-41; *London Review of Books* (September 30, 1999): 45-46

Hart Crane and Allen Tate: Janus-Faced Modernism (Princeton UP, 1993), 277 pp
Selected reviews: *Times Literary Supplement* (September 24, 1993) 4271: 9; *Sewanee Review* 102 (1994) 1: viii-xi; *Lesbian and Gay Studies Newsletter* 21 (July 1994) 2: 32-33; *JEGP* (October 1994): 601-03; *Journal of American Studies* 28 (December 1994) 3: 454; *Modernism/Modernity* [review-essay] 2 (April 1995) 2: 81-84; named a “Breakthrough Book” in modernist studies by *Lingua Franca* 10 (2000) 2: 14

Essays

“Plath’s German,” *English Literary History* (in production)

“Bagman” [memoir-essay], *Raritan* (in production)

“The Talking Board: Ouija, Wordplay, Poetics,” *Chicago Review* 66 (2022) 2: 119-40

“Eliot Among the Ruins,” *Yale Review* online (December 12, 2022)

“The Century” [memoir-essay], *Yale Review* online (January 19, 2022)

“Shadows Walking: With Wallace Stevens in New Haven” [memoir-essay], *Los Angeles Review of Books* (July 3, 2021); online and in print in the *Trending* issue (May 2021) 30: 11-31; chosen for *Best American Essays 2022, Notable Essays and Literary Non-Fiction*

- “James Merrill, Off the Gold Standard,” in *Evaluations: U.S. Poetry Since 1950, Vol. 1, Language, Form, and Music*, eds. Robert von Hallberg and Robert Faggen (U of New Mexico P, 2021): 69-87
- “Letters,” *Elizabeth Bishop in Context*, eds. Angus Cleghorn and Jonathan Ellis (Cambridge UP, 2021); revised as “[Letters: Elizabeth Bishop’s ‘Art Form or Something’](#)” online for *New York Review of Books Daily* (February 25, 2020); also, [Poetry Foundation](#), Harriet blog (February 27, 2020)
- “[Living in Style: James Merrill with Elizabeth Bishop](#),” *The Bannon McHenry James Merrill Collection: An Exhibition* (Vassar College Libraries, 2020), 31-50; rpr. in “[Poetics of Space: ‘164 East 72nd Street](#),” Washington University Digital Gateway (September 2021)
- “[The Art of Losing](#)” [on *The Dolphin Letters: Elizabeth Hardwick, Robert Lowell, and Their Circle*, ed. Saskia Hamilton, and *The Dolphin: Two Versions, 1972-1973*, ed. Saskia Hamilton], *New York Review of Books* 66 (December 2019) 20: 52-56
- “[Still to Love: For J. D. McClatchy](#)” [memoir-essay], *Yale Review*, 200th Anniversary Issue, 109 (December 2019) 4: 3-16; chosen for *Best American Essays 2021, Notable Essays and Literary Non-Fiction, 2019*
- “[Lyric, the Virtual Poem, and Wallace Stevens](#),” in *The Wallace Stevens Journal* 43 (2019) 2: 179-90
- “[Fantastic Forms](#)” [response to Caroline Levine’s *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network*], *PMLA* 132 (December 2017) 5: 1200-1205
- “[Seeing Through the Eye: Hart Crane’s *The Bridge*, Modern Art, and the Idea of Abstract Form](#),” introduction for a letterpress limited edition of *The Bridge* printed on a scroll with woodblock prints by Joel Shapiro and photographs by Michael Kenna (San Francisco: Arion Press, 2017); revised as “[Hart Crane’s View from the Bridge](#)” online in *New York Review of Books Daily* (November 24, 2017); see “[Books on Books](#)” (August 2021) for commentary on the Project and images
- “[Inside and Underneath Words](#)” [on Susan Howe’s *Debths*], *New York Review of Books* 64 (September 28, 2017) 14: 31-33
- “[Voice and Erasure in Srikanth Reddy’s *Voyager*](#)” in *The Fate of Difficulty in the Poetry of Our Time*, eds. Charles Altieri and Nicholas Nace (Northwestern UP, 2017), 29-45
- “Stevens and Modernism” in *Wallace Stevens in Context*, ed. Glen McLeod (Cambridge UP, 2017): 99-109
- “[The Biographical Container](#),” *Yale Review* 104 (Summer 2016) 3: 19-36
- “James Merrill’s Water Street (1957-1962),” *Parnassus: Poetry in Review* 32 (2011) 1-2: 336-86
- “Poetry in Review” [review-essay on Kay Ryan, *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems*], *Yale Review* 99 (Winter 2011) 1: 176-89
- “[Lost at Sea: Jasper Johns with Hart Crane](#),” *Yale Review* 97 (Fall 2009) 4: 34-53
- “Introduction,” *The Mower: New and Selected Poems* by Andrew Motion (Boston: David R. Godine, 2009), 1-5
- “Recognizing Hart Crane,” *Hiram Poetry Review* (Spring 2008) 69: 76-83
- “[Plath at War](#)” in *Eye Rhymes: Sylvia Plath’s Art of the Visual*, ed. Kathleen Connors and Sally Bayley (Oxford UP, 2007): 145-58
- “Introduction,” *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce, Signet Classic Edition (New York, 2006), 7-18
- “James Merrill’s Double Life: ‘The Thousand and Second Night,’” *Poetica* [University of Tokyo] 64 (2006): 69-85
- “[Hall of Voices: Richard Howard](#),” *Parnassus: Poetry in Review* 29 (2006) 1-2: 97-117

- “Life into Art: James Merrill’s ‘16.ix.65,’” *Literary Imagination* 7 (2005) 3: 278-85
- “Merrill and Stevens,” *The Wallace Stevens Journal* 28 (2004) 2: 295-302
- Masks of the Poet: James Merrill and Kimon Friar*, American College of Greece, Library Series 17, Athens, 2003, 47 pp [essay and exhibition catalogue]
- “The American Poetry of Thom Gunn and Geoffrey Hill,” *Contemporary Literature* 43 (2002) 4: 644-66; repr. in *Something We Have That They Don’t: Anglo-American Poetic Relations*, eds. Steve Clark and Mark Ford (Iowa UP, 2004)
- “Frank Bidart and the Tone of Contemporary Poetry,” *Southwest Review* 87 (2002) 1: 75-89; rept. in *Fastening the Voice to the Page: On the Poetry of Frank Bidart*, eds. Liam Rector and Tree Swenson (U of Michigan P, 2007)
- “Plath’s Lives,” *Representations* (2001) 75: 61-88
- “Thom Gunn: The Cool Queer Tales of Cupid,” *Raritan* 20 (2000) 2: 114-25
- “Last Words: On Stevens and Apocalypse,” *Wallace Stevens Journal* 23 (1999) 2: 194-96
- “The Letters of Hart Crane,” *Raritan* 17 (1997) 1: 100-20
- “Useless Concentration: Life and Work in Elizabeth Bishop’s Letters and Poems,” *American Literary History* 8 (1996) 2: 162-80
- “Poetry in Review” [review-essay on Allen Grossman and Robert Pinsky], *Yale Review* 84 (1996) 3: 168-78
- “Art and AIDS; or, How Will Culture Cure You?” *Raritan* 14 (1995) 3: 103-18
- “Poetry in Review” [review-essay on May Swenson, Mary Jo Salter, Heather McHugh, and formalist poetry by women poets], *Yale Review* 83 (1995) 1: 121-41
- “The New Elizabeth Bishop,” *Yale Review* 82 (1994) 1: 135-49
- “Who Was Randall Jarrell?” *Yale Review* 79 (1990) 3: 389-405
- “Robert Lowell’s Breakdown,” *Yale Review* 79 (1990) 2: 172-87
- “Modernism in Reverse: Hart Crane, Eliot, and Joyce,” *Western Humanities Review* 43 (1989) 3: 167-87

Book Reviews

- The Poetic Music of Wallace Stevens* by Bart Eeckhout and Lisa Goldfarb, *Wallace Stevens Journal* 47 (2023) 1: pp TK
- Elizabeth Bishop: A Miracle for Breakfast* by Megan Marshall, *New York Times Book Review* (March 1, 2017)
- Invasions [poems]* and *The Modern Element: Essays on Contemporary Poetry* by Adam Kirsch, *New York Times Book Review* (August 31, 2008): 15
- Notes from the Air: Selected Later Poems* by John Ashbery, *New York Times Book Review* (April 20, 2008): 21
- In the Blood [memoir]* by Andrew Motion, *New York Times Book Review* (February 3, 2008): 7
- Horse Latitudes [poems]* and *The End of the Poem: Oxford Lectures* by Paul Muldoon, *New York Times Book Review* (February 25, 2007): 24
- Hart Crane: After His Lights* by Brian M. Reed, *MLQ* 68 (Winter 2007)1: 126-28
- God’s Silence [poems]* by Franz Wright, *New York Times Book Review* (May 14, 2006): 38
- Invisible Listeners: Lyric Intimacy in Herbert, Whitman, and Ashbery* by Helen Vendler, *New York Times Book Review* (October 16, 2005): 8
- Star Dust [poems]* by Frank Bidart, *New York Times Book Review* (July 24, 2005): 11

- Digressions on Some Poems by Frank O'Hara* [memoir] by Joe LeSueur, *New York Times Book Review* (April 13, 2003): 16
- A Short History of the Shadow* [poems] by Charles Wright, *Los Angeles Times Book Review* (August 18, 2002): 6
- James Merrill's Apocalypse* by Timothy Materer, *Modernism/Modernity* 8 (2001) 3: 515-17
- Electric Light* by Seamus Heaney, *New York Times Book Review* (April 8, 2001): 16
- The Boys at Twilight: Poems 1990-1995 and Time's Fool: A Tale in Verse* by Glyn Maxwell, *New York Times Book Review* (November 5, 2000): 26
- Trappings* [poems] by Richard Howard, *New York Times Book Review* (January 23, 2000): 24
- Cleanth Brooks and Allen Tate: Collected Letters, 1933-1976*, ed. Alphonse Vinh, and *Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren: A Literary Correspondence*, ed. James Grimshaw, Jr., *Modernism/Modernity* 7 (2000) 1: 165-68
- The Broken Tower: A Life of Hart Crane* by Paul Mariani, *New York Times Book Review* (July 18, 1999): 9
- The Triumph of Love* [poem] by Geoffrey Hill, *New York Times Book Review* (January 17, 1999): 9-10
- Politics and Form in Postmodern American Poetry: O'Hara, Bishop, Ashbery, and Merrill* by Mutlu Konuk Blasing, *Modern Philology* 96 (1998) 1: 137-42
- From Outlaw to Classic: Canons in American Poetry* by Alan Golding, *Modern Philology* 95 (1998) 3: 433-37
- Desire* [poems] by Frank Bidart, *Nation* 265 (November 24, 1997) 17: 32-33

Short essays and edited poetry in *The American Scholar*

Wong May, 92: 1 (2022); Forrest Gander, 91: 4 (2022); Terrance Hayes, 91: 3 (2022); Rae Armantrout, 91: 2 (2022); Heather Treseler, 91: 1 (2021); Erica Levy MacAlpine, 90: 4 (2021); Clarence Major, 90:3 (2021); Mary Jo Salter, 90:2 (2021); James Longenbach, 90:1(2020); Srikanth Reddy, 89.4 (2020); Henri Cole, 89.3 (2020); A E Stallings, 89.2 (2020); Louise Glück, 89:1 (2019) [Nobel Prize for Literature, 2020]; Valerie Martinez, 88.3 (2019); Major Jackson, 88.2 (2019); Elizabeth Spires, 88.1 (2019); Joseph Harrison, 87.4 (2018); Henry Sloss, 87.3 (2018); Christian Wiman, 87.2 (2018); J. D. McClatchy, 87.1 (2018); Nausheen Eusuf, 86.4 (2017) [*Best American Poetry 2017*, ed. Major Jackson]; Andrew Motion, 86.3 (2017) [*Best American Poetry 2017*, ed. Major Jackson]; Mary Jo Salter, 86.2 (2017); Stephen Burt, 86.1 (2017); David Barber, 85.4 (2016) [*Best American Poetry 2016*, ed. Natasha Trethewey]; Jason Koo, 85.3 (2016); Isaac Cates, 85.2 (2016) [*Best American Poetry 2016*, ed. Natasha Trethewey]; Rowan Ricardo Phillips, 85.2 (2016) [*Best American Poetry 2016*, ed. Natasha Trethewey]; Maureen N. McLane, 85.1 (2016); Sandra Gilbert, 84.4 (2015); Robert Pinsky and Ange Mlinko, 84:3 (2015); Alan Williamson, 84:2 (2015); Adam Fitzgerald, 84:1 (2015); Ansel Elkins, 83:4 (2014); Jill Bialoski, 83:3 (2014); David Lehman, 83:2 (2014); Louise Glück, 83:1 (2014) [four poems from *Faithful and Virtuous Night*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry 2015]; J. D. McClatchy, 82:4 (2013); Peter Cole, 82.2 (2013); Robin Robertson, 82.1 (2013); Angie Estes, 81:4 (2012) [rpt. in *The Allure of Grammar: The Glamour of Angie Estes's Poetry*, ed. Doug Rutledge, U of Michigan P, 2018]; Spencer Reese, 81:3 (2012); Kevin Young, 81:2 (2012) [*Best American Poetry 2013*, ed. Denise Duhamel]; Christian Wiman, 81:1 (2012); John Koethe, 80:4 (2011); Ellen Bryant Voigt, 80:3 (2011); John Ashbery, 80:2 (2011); Eavan Boland, 80:1 (2011); Elizabeth Alexander, 79:4 (2010) [*Best American Poetry 2010*, ed. Kevin Young]; Paul Muldoon, 79:3 (2010) [*Best American Poetry 2010*,

ed. Kevin Young]; Alfred Corn, 79:2 (2010); Karl Kirchwey, 79:1 (2010); Maureen N. McLane, 78:4 (2009); Gary Snyder, 78: 3 (2009); Rosanna Warren, 78:1 (2009); Henri Cole, 77:4 (2008); Kay Ryan, 77:3 (2008); Joanie Mackowski, 77:2 (2008) [*Best American Poetry 2009*, ed. David Wagoner]; Frank Bidart, 77:2 (2008); Louise Glück, 76:4 (2007) [*Best American Poetry 2008*, ed. Charles Wright]; John Hollander, 76:2 (2007); Peter Filkins, Marilyn Nelson, Catriona O'Reilly, and Robert Pinsky, 76:1 (2007); Carl Phillips, 75:4 (2006); Heather McHugh, 75:3 (2006); Michael Longley, 75:1 (2006); Charles Wright, 74:4 (2005); Thylas Moss and Charles Simic, 74:2 (2005) [rept. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism* v 256]; Thom Gunn and Anthony Hecht, 74:1 (2005)

Media, interviews, short essays, edited letters

- “James Merrill’s ‘Christmas Tree,’” Close Readings [Apple podcast], December 25, 2022
- “Inside the Long Friendship of James Merrill and Elizabeth Bishop,” [a letter introduced by LH], *LitHub* (April 1, 2021)
- “James Merrill’s Last Letters: Writing to the End,” edited and introduced by LH and Stephen Yenser, *Yale Review* 111 (2021) 2: 53-74
- “Das Schöne und Wahre” [on Louise Glück’s Nobel Prize], *Die Weltwoche* 42 (October 2020), 20: 47
- “Reclaiming Beauty and Dignity” [on Louise Glück’s Nobel Prize], *The American Scholar* online (October 9, 2020)
- “Maitreyabandhu in Conversation with Langdon Hammer,” poetryEast, London (August 2020)
- “Remembering Harold Bloom,” *Library of America: News & Views* (October 2019)
- “She Lasted” [memorial tribute to Marie Borroff], *Yale Alumni Magazine* (September/October 2019)
- “Don’t worry. Yale still teaches Shakespeare,” *Washington Post* (December 15, 2017)
- “Remembering John Ashbery,” *Library of America: News & Views* (September 2017)
- “About that Ouija Board: How Langdon Hammer Summoned a Poet’s Spirit,” Interviewed by Dwight Garner, *New York Times* (2016)
- “On Hart Crane,” Interviewed by Dan Schneider, *Cosmoetica* (2016)
- Interviewing Robin Magowan for the James Merrill House (2016)
- Interviewed by Gil Roth, Virtual Memories Project (2015)
- In conversation with Stephen Yenser at the Hammer Museum, UCLA (2015)
- James Merrill House Annual Lecture, La Grua Center, Stonington CT (2015)
- “James Merrill and the Other World: Langdon Hammer in Conversation,” Academy of American Poets (2014)
- Interviewing Stephen Yenser for the James Merrill House (2014)
- Interviewing J. D. McClatchy for the James Merrill House (2014)
- “Bringing Poetry Back to the Basics: The ‘Fascination with the Possibilities of Language’ in May Swenson’s Poems,” *Reader’s Almanac: Official Blog of the Library of America* (Feb 2013)
- “Langdon Hammer on Hart Crane,” *Reader’s Almanac: Official Blog of the Library of America* (Feb 2012)
- “Object Lesson: Poetry via Ouija,” *Yale Alumni Magazine*, Jan/Feb 2012
- “Teaching Voice,” *On Common Ground* (Spring 2009) 13: 6-7
- “Elizabeth Bishop: Letters to Arthur Gold and Robert Fizdale and James Merrill,” *Yale Review* 91 (2003) 2: 27-54

- “Caroline Gordon, Allen Tate, and Hart Crane: An Exchange,” *Sewanee Review* 106 (1998) 1: 88-90
- “Hart Crane and Joseph Stella,” *Artists on Art: Observations by Yale Faculty on Works in the Yale University Art Gallery*, ed. Daphne Deeds (Yale U Pubs. 1999), 22-25
- “Bright Stones: Letters of Hart Crane and Jean Toomer,” *Yale Review* 84 (1996) 2: 22-38
- “Efforts of Attention: An Interview with Anthony Hecht,” *Sewanee Review* 104 (1996) 1: 120-33
- “Working Through Poems: An Interview with John Hollander,” *Southwest Review* (1995): 423-37; repr. in *The Poetry of Everyday Life* by John Hollander, U of Michigan P, 1999

Invited lectures, selected papers, public conversations

- “The Tyvek Project,” lecture, seminar, and workshop, University of Athens and ATOPOS Contemporary Visual Culture, Athens, 2022
- “Experience-Time: Literary Biography and the Problem of Chronology,” plenary panel paper, Association of Literary Scholars and Creative Writers, Yale, 2022
- “Rereading *The Dolphin Letters*,” American Literature Association, Chicago, 2022
- “James Merrill in the Archive,” Poetics Workshop, Special Collections, Olin Library, Washington U St. Louis, 2022
- Events for *A Whole World: Letters from James Merrill* (April-May 2021): “[James Merrill: Man of Letters](#)” with Deborah Garrison and Stephen Yenser (James Merrill House); “The Making of *A Whole World*” (Special Collections, Washington U St. Louis); “[James Merrill’s Letters and Legacy](#),” panel discussion with Shane McRae, Maureen N. McLane, Roger Reeves, Dan Chiasson, and Srikanth Reddy (*Yale Review*); “[James Merrill: Readings and Reminiscences](#),” LH and Stephen Yenser reading from Merrill’s letters (James Merrill House)
- “Writing About Writers: [LH and Terrance Hayes](#),” Beinecke Library, 2021
- “The Virtual Stevens,” Annual Lecture for the Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash, Hartford Public Library, 2019
- “Wallace Stevens and Lyric Theory,” Wallace Stevens Society panel, MLA, 2019
- “Line, Loop, Leash, Snarl,” Elizabeth Bishop Conference, Paris, 2018; Turnbull Lecture, Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars, 2018
- “Hart Crane and Joel Shapiro,” Arion Press, San Francisco; Pace Prints, New York; Yale U Art Gallery, 2018
- “Melodies Heard and Unheard: Stevens and the Music of Lyric,” Wallace Stevens Society panel, MLA, 2018
- “What is a Letter?” LH and Emily Bernard,” Beinecke Library, 2017
- “On ‘Self-Portrait in a Tyvek TM Windbreaker,’” English Department, U of Hartford, 2017
- “The Talking Board: Ouija, Wordplay, Poetics,” English Department, U of Chicago, 2016
- Lectures and public conversations for *James Merrill: Life and Art* (March-November 2015): New York Institute for the Humanities (NYU); Poetry Center, 92nd Street YMHA, New York; Century Association, New York; Leon Levy Center for Biography at CUNY Graduate Center; The Book Club, Greenwich CT; Jonathan Edwards College, Yale; James Merrill House, Stonington CT; Hammer Museum, UCLA; Collected Works, Santa Fe, NM; keynote lecture, James Merrill Symposium, Washington U St. Louis; seminars and English Department lecture, U of Georgia; English and Comparative Literature, Brown; Biography Group (NYU)
- “James Merrill’s Voices from the Other World,” U of Chichester, 2010; English Department,

- Princeton, 2011; Poetry and Mysticism Symposium, Judaic Studies, Yale, 2012; Woodberry Poetry Room, Harvard, 2010
- “Poetry, Biography, James Merrill,” with Richard Howard, Levy Center for Biography, CUNY, 2010
- “Meeting Ephraim: JM, DJ, and the Ouija Board,” James Merrill House Lecture, Stonington CT, 2008
- “The Soul is not a Soul: John Ashbery and Louise Glück,” Keynote Lecture, Beall Poetry Festival, Baylor, 2008
- “[Lost at Sea: Jasper Johns with Hart Crane](#),” Keynote Lecture for “Jasper Johns: Gray,” Art Institute of Chicago, 2007; English Department, U of Rochester, 2008
- “Plath’s German,” Sylvia Plath 75th Anniversary Conference, Oxford, 2007; Smith College, 2008; Freie Universität, Berlin, 2012
- “Recognizing Hart Crane,” Keynote Lecture, Horace Bissell Symposium, Hiram College, 2007; additional talks about Crane at Chapters Bookstore, Washington DC; New School, New York; Poetry Society of America, CUNY Graduate Center, 2006-7
- “Auden and ‘The Prick,’” Modernist Studies Association, Chicago, 2005
- “James Merrill: The Biographical Container,” Beinecke Library, Yale, 2005; MLA, Philadelphia, 2006
- “James Merrill in Stonington: The Winter of ‘The Summer People,’” First Annual James Merrill Lecture, Stonington, Connecticut, 2005
- “Life into Art: James Merrill’s ‘16.ix.65,’” James Merrill: A Celebration, Yale, 2005
- “James Merrill at Amherst,” Amherst College, 2004
- “Masks of the Poet: James Merrill and Kimon Friar,” Ninth Annual Kimon Friar Lecture in Neo-Hellenic Arts and Letters, American College of Greece, Athens; lecture, Hellenic Studies Program, Yale, 2003
- “The Teaching of Modern Literature: Lionel Trilling and Two Students,” Modernist Studies Association, Houston 2001; Vanderbilt, 2003
- “Crane’s Letters,” Hart Crane Centennial Celebration, 92nd St YMHA, New York City, 1999
- “Modern Letters and the Making of the Author’s Life,” Modernist Studies Association, Penn State, 1999
- “Stieglitz, Crane, and Abstract Form,” Yale U Art Gallery, 1999
- “The American Poetry of Geoffrey Hill and Thom Gunn,” U of London, 1998
- “The Tone of Contemporary Poetry,” Wellesley College, 1998
- “Plath’s Lives,” Yale, 2001; U of Chicago, 1999; Johns Hopkins, 1995; Faculty Seminar in Psychoanalysis and the Humanities, NYU, 1995
- “On Sylvia Plath” and “On Elizabeth Bishop,” Hilén Lectures in American Literature and Culture, U of Washington, 1995
- “Writing Lives: Postwar American Poetry,” English Department, Emory, 1995
- “Ashbery’s Formalism,” MLA Convention, San Diego, 1994
- “Thylias Moss’s Postmodernism,” The Poetry Center, Paterson, New Jersey, 1994
- “How Will Culture Cure You? Disease and Desire in Elegies for David Kalstone,” MLA, Toronto, 1993
- “Mrs. Gaskell and the Martyrdom of Charlotte Bronte,” MLA, San Francisco, 1991
- “Books, Lives, and Merchandise: The Literary Author in the Marketplace,” USC, 1990
- “Feminism and ‘The New Formalism,’” MLA, New Orleans, 1988
- “Allen Tate’s Two Eliots, 1922 and 1926,” T. S. Eliot Centenary, U of New Hampshire, 1988

Poems

- “The Divining” and “A Troika for Rachmaninoff,” *Shenandoah* 38 (1986) 4: 43-44
 “Detail from “The Assassination of Khosrow Parviz,”” *Ploughshares* 7 (1981) 3: 95-96
 “Chenega Island,” *Yale Review* 70 (1981) 3: 409-10

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, and GRANTS

- Robert Frost Chair for teaching excellence, Bread Loaf School of English, 2019
 Named Niel Gray Jr. Professor of English, Yale University, 2016
 Winner, Lambda Literary Award for Gay Memoir/Biography, 2016
 Principal Investigator, Hellen Plummer Fund award at Yale, since 2016
 Finalist, Poetry Foundation Pegasus Prize for Poetry Criticism, 2015
 Fellow, Leon Levy Biography Center, CUNY Graduate Center, 2012-13
 Graduate Student Mentor Award in the Humanities, Yale University, 2011
 Resident Fellow, Liguria Study Center, Bogliasco Foundation, Italy, 2009
 Resident Fellow, James Merrill House, Stonington, CT, 2008
 Robert Rosenkranz and Alexandra Munroe Foundation Travel Grant (Japan), 2005
 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 2003-04
 Research Grant, Larry Kramer Initiative for Gay and Lesbian Studies at Yale, 2003
 Niarchos Foundation, Hellenic Studies Program Travel Grant (Greece) 2002, 2003
 Research Grant, Olin Library, Washington U St Louis, 2002
 Moore Fund and Beinecke Library grants for teaching support, Yale, 2002-4
 Whitney Humanities Center Research Fellow, Yale, 1994-95
 Griswold Faculty Fellowship, Yale, 1994, 2001
 Smart Family Fund (funding for poetry series at Yale), 1994
 Morse Junior Faculty Fellowship, Yale, 1991-92
 Frederick W. Hilles Fund, Yale, 1990
 Whiting Dissertation Fellowship, Yale, 1984-85
 Tinker Prize for the Outstanding English Major, Yale, 1980
 Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, 1978

ACADEMIC AND LITERARY SERVICE

- Chair, External Review Committee of Creative and Academic Writing, Wesleyan University, 2016
 Advisory Council, Library of America, since 2015
 Advisory Board, Claude Fredericks Foundation (Pawlet, VT), since 2010
 Advisory Board, James Merrill House (Stonington, CT), since 2009
 Editorial Board, *Yale Review*, since 2007
 Poetry Editor, *American Scholar*, since 2004
 Judge, George G. Nathan Prize in Drama Criticism, 2005-7, 2011, 2014-18
 Judge, with Gary Snyder and Caroline Kizer, Bollingen Prize in Poetry (Robert Creeley selected) 1999; with Ellen Bryant Voigt and Nicholas Jenkins (Frank Bidart selected) 2007
 Advisory Editor, *English Literary History (ELH)*, 1998-2021

Book manuscript referee: Princeton UP, Harvard UP, Blackwell, Wesleyan UP, U of Virginia P, Cambridge UP, Fairleigh Dickinson UP, Cornell UP, Stanford UP, Oxford UP, Johns Hopkins UP, Yale UP, Ohio State UP, Columbia UP, U of Chicago P

Article referee: *Modernism/Modernity*, *PMLA*, *American Literary History*, *GLQ*, *MLQ*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Yale Journal of Criticism*, *Pacific Coast Philology*, *Arizona Quarterly*, *Religion and Literature*, *New Literary History*

TEACHING

Yale College courses with average enrollments

Readings in American Literature (first-year/sophomore seminar): 12

Introduction to Literary Study (first-year/sophomore seminar): 16

Major English Poets (first-year/sophomore seminar): 18

Writing of Verse (poetry writing workshop): 16

Postwar American Poetry (junior seminar): 16

Life of the Author from Johnson to Woolf (senior seminar): 16

American Literature and the Cold War (senior seminar): 16

The World of James Merrill (senior seminar): 16

Modern Literature and the Eastern Mediterranean (seminar, co-taught with George Syrimis): 12

Contemporary American Literature (lecture): 200

Modern Poetry (lecture): 50

Poetry Since 1950 (lecture): 40

Daily Themes (lecture and writing courses): 90

Lectures for Modern Poetry 2007 were recorded and transcribed for free online access as a pilot course in Yale's [Open Access Video Project](#) and reviewed by Virginia Heffernan in the *New York Times* (September 19, 2008). Their international reach was discussed by Katharine Mangan in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (April 29, 2012). The lectures have been viewed on different platforms by many thousands of people. As of 2020, the Yeats lecture, for example, had 113,251 views on YouTube as of 2012, and the Eliot lecture had 97,000 as of 2013.

Yale-in-London seminars

Rooms of Their Own: Writers' and Artists' Houses (summer 2024)

Knowing People: British Biography, Portraiture, and Psychoanalysis (spring 2017)

London: The Metropolis and the Modern Imagination (spring 2017)

Supervisor for 47 senior essays and 7 poetry projects

Yale University Graduate School courses

Poetics

Theory and History of the Lyric, Medieval and Modern (co-taught with Ardis Butterfield)

Postwar American Literature

Modern Poetry

The Life of the Author

Poetry and Society After Auden
 Contemporary American Poetry
 Research Seminar: Twentieth-Century Poetry
 The Teaching of English
 Elizabeth Bishop
 Public Criticism Workshop (co-taught with Meghan O'Rourke)

Orals examiner for PhD students annually in English and other departments (American Studies, Comparative Literature, French, Spanish and Portuguese, and East Asian Studies)

Dissertation supervisor for 30 Yale PhD students

- Jeannine Johnson, PhD 1998, dissertation revised as *Why Write Poetry? Modern Poets Defending Their Art* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2007); current position: Lecturer and Director, Writing Program, Wellesley College
- Aidan Wasley, PhD 2000, dissertation revised as *The Age of Auden: Postwar Poetry and the American Scene* (Princeton UP, 2011); current position: Associate Professor, English, U of Georgia
- Stephen Burt, PhD 2000, dissertation revised as *Randall Jarrell and His Age* (Columbia UP, 2003, winner of the Robert Penn Warren-Cleanth Brooks Award from the Warren Studies Center); current position: Professor, English, Harvard
- David Rosen, PhD 2000, dissertation revised as *Power, Plain English, and the Rise of Modern Poetry* (Yale UP 2005, winner of the Warren-Brooks Award); current position: Professor, English, Trinity College (Hartford)
- Shaileen Beyer, PhD 2002, (“The Grace of Accuracy: Modern and Postmodern Devotional Poetry”); current position: Librarian, Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore)
- Isaac Cates, PhD 2002 (“Nature Poetry after Darwin”); current position: Lecturer, English, U of Vermont
- William Burgos, PhD 2002 (“Parody in the Work of John Ashbery”); current position: Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, Long Island U
- Charlotte Taylor, PhD 2004 (“Accountability and Forgiveness: Ezra Pound and Robert Lowell”); current position: Law (Washington, D.C.)
- Karin Roffman, PhD 2004, dissertation revised as *From the Modernist Annex: American Women Writers in Museums and Libraries* (U of Alabama P, 2010, with press prize for a book about American literature); current position: Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar, Yale U
- Charles Baraw, PhD 2005 (“Hawthorne and the Traveling Eye: Nineteenth-Century Tourism and American Literary Culture”); current position: Associate Professor, English, Southern Connecticut State U
- Siobhan Phillips, PhD 2007, dissertation revised as *The Poetics of the Everyday: Creative Repetition in Modern American Verse* (Columbia UP, 2010); current position: Associate Professor, English, Dickinson College
- Rebecca Boggs, PhD 2007 (“The Gem-Like Flame: The Poetics of Intensity in Hopkins, Hart Crane, and H.D.”); current position: Senior Program Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities
- Kamran Javadizadeh, PhD 2008, dissertation revised as *Institutionalized Lyric: American Poetry at Midcentury* (Oxford UP, 2023); current position: Associate Professor, English, Villanova U

- Jesse Zuba, PhD 2008, dissertation revised as *The First Book: Twentieth-Century Poetic Careers in America* (Princeton UP, 2015); current position: Associate Professor, English, Delaware State U
- Susannah Hollister, PhD 2009 (“Poetries of Geography in Postwar America,” Winner of the Yale Graduate School’s Field Prize for a Dissertation in the Humanities); current position: independent scholar and biographer
- Patrick Redding, PhD 2009 (“Democratic Individualism in Modern Poetry”); current position: Professor, English, Manhattanville College
- Andrew Goldstone, PhD 2009, dissertation revised as *Fictions of Autonomy: Modernism from Wilde to De Man* (Oxford UP, 2013); current position: Associate Professor, English, Rutgers U
- Emily Setina, PhD 2010, dissertation revised as *The Woman in the Darkroom: Photography, Biography, Modernism* (Oxford UP, 2022); current position: Associate Professor, English, U of Nevada Las Vegas
- Erica Levy McAlpine, PhD 2011 (“Lyric Elsewhere: Strategies of Poetic Remove”); current position: Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow, St Edmund Hall, Oxford U
- Nathan Suhr-Sytsma, PhD 2012, dissertation revised as *Poetry, Print, and the Making of Postcolonial Literature* (Cambridge UP, 2017); current position: Associate Professor, English, Emory U
- Andrew Karas, PhD 2013, “Modern Poetry’s Versions”; current position: Associate Director, University Scholars Program, Northeastern U
- Edgar Garcia, PhD 2015, dissertation revised as *Signs of the Americas: A Poetics of Pictographs, Hieroglyphs, and Khipu* (U of Chicago P, 2019); current position: Neubauer Family Associate Professor, U of Chicago
- Gabriele Hayden, PhD 2016, “Modernism’s Spanish: Translation, Collaboration, and Exploration”; current position: Librarian for Research Data Management, U of Oregon
- Kimberly Andrews, PhD 2016, dissertation revised as *The Academic Avant-Garde: Poetry and the American University* (Johns Hopkins UP); current position: Assistant Professor, Ottawa
- Lukas Moe, PhD 2020, “Radical Afterlives: US Poetry, 1935-1968,” current position: Lecturer, Wellesley College
- Xiao Situ, PhD 2020 (Art History), “Emily Dickinson’s Windows, 1830-1886”; current position: independent writer and teacher
- Chelsie Malyszek, PhD 2020, “Just Words: Diction and Misdirection in Modern Poetry”; current position: Visiting Assistant Professor, Hampden-Sydney College
- Paul Franz, PhD 2020, “‘Because so it is made new’: D. H. Lawrence’s Charismatic Modernism”; current position: Editorial Fellow at the *Yale Review*
- David de León, PhD 2021, “Epic Black: Poetics in Protest in the Time of Black Lives Matter” (Sylvia Ardyn Boone Prize, from Yale Department of Art History); current position: Editorial Fellow at the *Yale Review*
- Brandon Menke, PhD 2022, “‘Slow Tyrannies’: Queer Lyricism, Visual Regionalism, and the Transfigured World”; current position: Postdoctoral Fellow, Notre Dame University

PhDs in progress:

Michael Abraham, Jessica Modi, Daniel Swain, Samuel Ernest (Religious Studies)

Additional teaching:

Sponsor for PhD students visiting Yale University from University College London:
 Natasha Silver (2016), Matthew Holman (2018), Timothy Woodham (2019), Thomas Willis (2022)
 Dissertation reader and PhD examiner for Brandeis (1995) and U of Oxford (2010)

Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute and National Initiative

American Voices: Listening to Fiction, Poetry, and Prose (Local seminar 2007 and National 2008)
 The Sound of Words: An Introduction to Poetry (Local 2011 and National 2009)
 Creating Lives: An Introduction to Biography (National 2010)
 Playing with Poetry: Rules, Tools, and Games (National 2014)

Bread Loaf School of English

Advanced Writing Tutorials, 2020
 Robert Frost Chair for teaching excellence, 2019
 American Modernism (in Santa Fe, NM, 2016, 2018)
 The Life of the Author (in Santa Fe, NM, 2016)

YALE UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Review Committee for Robyn Creswell, Comparative Literature, 2022-23
 Review Committee for Christian Wiman, Institute of Sacred Music, 2020
 Windham-Campbell Prize Selection Committee, 2020-22
 Advisory Committee for Selection of the Humanities Dean (Kathryn Lofton appointed), 2019
 Chair, Committee on the Future of *The Yale Review* (Meghan O'Rourke hired as editor), 2017-18
 Windham-Campbell Prize Steering Committee, 2010-16
 Dean's Task Force on Sexual Harassment, 2010
 University Budget Committee, 2005-07
 Beinecke Library Advisory Committee, 2005-11, 2014-16
 Yale Center for British Art Advisory Committee, 2005-08, 2011-16
 Term Appointments Committee, 2004-05
 Substitute Chair and Fact-finder, Executive Committee, 2011-12, 2014
 Chair, Executive Committee, Yale College, 2002-03
 Fact-finder, Executive Committee, Yale College, 2001-02
 Graduate Vice-President, New Haven Chapter of PBK, 2001-06
 Clapp Prize Poetry Fellowship, Selection Committee, Yale College, annually since 1992
 Sudler Prize Committee, Yale College, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2006
 Selection committee, Graduate Prize Teaching Fellowship, 1999
 Cameron Committee on Student Governance, Graduate School, 1996 (graduate student and faculty
 committee that authored the constitution for the Graduate Student Assembly)
 Selection committee for Rosenkranz Writer-in-Residence, Yale College (Robert Stone hired in
 1993 and Louise Glück in 2004)

Service in the English Department:

Appointments (including internal faculty reviews), 2004-09, 2014-19, 2020-23
 Romanticism Search Committee, 2023
 Graduate Program Reform Committee, 2021-22
 Graduate Studies Committee, 2021-22
 Fred Moten Search Committee, 2020
 Department Chair, 2005-fall 2008, 2014-17, 2017-19; Acting Department Chair, fall 2011, fall 2013
 Chair, Department Expository Writing Review, 2018
 Chair, joint with African American Studies, Poetry Search Committee (Claudia Rankine hired), 2016
 Chair, Department Creative Writing Review, 2011
 Chair, Department Self-Study and External Review, 2006-07
 Graduate Studies, 2004-05, 2011, 2014
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1995-2000
 Associate DUS, 1990-94
 Junior Appointments, 1993, 1995-96, 1998-99, 2005-08, 2011, 2013-17
 Chair, Senior Writer Search Committee (Caryl Phillips hired), 2002-04
 American Literature Search Committee, 2002-03
 Chair, Department Self-Review, 2001
 Chair, Writing Committee, English, 1999-2000, 2001 (authored and implemented the Writing
 Concentration in the English Major)
 Chair, Readings Committee, English, 1996-2001
 Coordinator, Schlesinger Visiting Writer, English, 1999-2002
 English Department Prizes Committee, 1988-2000