

R. John Williams

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Associate Professor (on term), Department of English, Yale University, 2015 - present
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Yale University, 2009 - 2015

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine, September 2008
M.A., Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine, June 2002
M.A., English Literature, Utah State University, May 2001
B.A., Humanities, Brigham Young University, December 1997

PUBLICATIONS:

MONOGRAPH:

The Buddha in the Machine: Art, Technology, and The Meeting of East and West (Yale UP, 2014).

- * Winner of the Heyman Prize for Outstanding Publication (Yale University).
- * Winner of the Harry Levin Prize for the Best First Book Published in the Field of Comparative Literature (American Comparative Literature Association).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

“World Futures.” *Critical Inquiry* 42 (Spring 2016), pp. 473-546.

- * Including additional media for *Critical Inquiry* at <https://vimeo.com/152317132>

“*Technê*-Zen and the Spiritual Quality of Global Capitalism.” *Critical Inquiry* 38.1 (Autumn 2011), pp. 17-70.

“The Chinese Parrot: *Technê*-Pop Culture and the Oriental Detective Film.” *Modernism/modernity* 18.1 (2011), pp. 95-124.

“The *Technê*-Whim: Lin Yutang and the Invention of the Chinese Typewriter.” *American Literature* 82.2 (2010), pp. 389-419.

- * Winner of the Norman Foerster Prize.

“Global English Ideography and the Dissolve Translation in Hollywood Film.” *Cultural Critique* 72 (Spring 2009), pp. 89-136.

“‘I Like Machines’: Boris Artzybasheff’s Machine Aesthetic and the Ends of Cyborg Culture.” *Technoculture: Special Issue of Interdisciplinary Humanities* 23.1 (2007), pp. 120-142.

“Decolonizing Cathay: Teaching the Scandals of Translation through Angel Island Poetry.” *Transformations: Special Issue on Teaching in Translation* 17.2 (2007), pp. 15-30.

“‘Doing History’: Nuruddin Farah, Subaltern Studies, and the Postcolonial Trajectory of Silence.” *Research in African Literatures* 37.4 (2006), pp. 161-176.

“Naked Creatures: *Robinson Crusoe*, The Beast, and The Sovereign.” *Comparative Critical Studies* 2.3 (2005), pp. 337-348.

“A Marvelous Work and a Possession: Book of Mormon Historicity in an Era of Postcolonialism.”
Dialogue 38.4 (2005), pp. 37-55.

* Winner of Best Essay From New Author 2005 in *Dialogue*.

ESSAYS IN EDITED VOLUMES:

“The Ghost and the Machine: Plates and Paratext in the Book of Mormon,” *Americanist Approaches to the Book of Mormon*, ed. by Elizabeth Fenton and Jared Hickman (Forthcoming: Oxford University Press, 2016).

“Modernist Scandals: Ezra Pound’s Translations of ‘The’ Chinese Poem,” *Orient and Orientalisms in American Poetry and Poetics*. Ed. by Sabine Sielke and Christian Kloeckner (Frankfurt: Lang, 2009), pp. 145-165.

SMALLER PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS:

Review of *Nothing: Three Inquiries in Buddhism*, in *Critical Inquiry* (2016).

Review Essay on *The Watchman in Pieces, Neocybernetics and Narrative*, and *Shockwaves of Possibility*, in *American Literature* 87.4 (2015), pp. 850-853.

Review of *Modernism and The Orient*, in *Twentieth-Century Literature* 59.3 (2014).

Review of *Pacific Rim Modernisms*, in *Comparative Literature Studies* 49.1 (2012).

“Nuruddin Farah” entry in *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Fiction*. Ed. by John Clement Ball (Blackwell Publishing, 2010).

Review of Jacques Derrida, *Rogues: Two Essays on Reason*, in *Postmodern Culture* 15.4 (2005).

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS:

A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Grant, Yale University	2016
Levin Prize for the Best First Book in the Field of Comparative Literature, ACLA	2015
A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Grant, Yale University	2015
Heyman Prize for Outstanding Book by Junior Faculty, Yale University	2013
Hilles Publication Grant, Yale University	2012
A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Grant, Yale University	2011
Norman Foerster Prize for the Best Essay published in <i>American Literature</i>	2010
A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Grant, Yale University	2010
Graduate Fellowship in Asian American Studies Emphasis, UC Irvine	2007
Regent’s Dissertation Fellowship, UC Irvine	2007
Donald and Dorothy Strauss Endowed Dissertation Fellowship, UC Irvine	2006
Travel Grant, Sunstone Foundation	2006
Graduate Asian American Studies Emphasis Certification	2005
Summer Dissertation Fellowship, UC Irvine	2005
Award for Best Essay from New Author, <i>Dialogue</i> Foundation	2005
Best Teacher, Nora Folkenflik Memorial Award, UC Irvine	2004
Conference Grant, Dept. of Comparative Literature, UC Irvine	2004
Critical Theory Emphasis Certification	2004
UC Irvine School of Humanities Grant for Research at University of London	2004
Best Essay, Humanities Graduate Award, UC Irvine	2003
Chancellor’s Fellowship, UC Irvine	2002
UC Irvine, School of Humanities Grant for Research in Nanjing, China	2001
Best Paper, Intermountain Graduate Student Symposium, Utah State University	1999

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES:

Invited: “The *Technê* of Meditative States,” keynote lecture at symposium on Contemplative Practices at the Research Centre for Knowledge, Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (TASTI) at the University of Tampere, Finland (July 2016).

Invited: “World Time and the Question Concerning Mindfulness,” lecture to English Dept. at the University of Chicago (November 17, 2015).

Invited: “Novel Futures and the Beings of Fiction,” lecture at Novel Technologies, symposium at Brown University hosted by *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* (November 6-7 2015).

Invited: “World Futures and Ontological Pluralism,” lecture at East West Transnationalism: Modes of Existence, two-day symposium at the University of Notre Dame (October 3-4, 2015).

Invited: “The Chinese Parrot: the Oriental Detective Genre in Hollywood Film, 1930-1949,” lecture at Yale University Film and Media Studies Program (April 14, 2015).

Invited: “The Screen as Digital Mandala: The Spiritual Ambitions of Visualized Networks,” lecture at The Resurfacing of the Screen: A Humanity/Humanities Initiative at Yale University (April 3, 2015).

“Rising Futures: The Temporalities of Asian Religiosity in Western Management Discourse,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Seattle (March 2015).

Invited: “Postwar Literature, Cybernetic Gurus, and Think-Tank Futures,” lecture in the Smithsonian Contemporary History Colloquium, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (Nov. 20, 2014).

Invited: “Postwar Systems Theory and Cybernetic Gurus,” lecture in the “Critical Orientalisms,” series at Bard College (Oct. 30, 2014).

Invited: “The Asian Modernities of Western Modernisms,” dialogue with Christopher Bush (Northwestern University) for the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University (Sept. 15, 2014).

“Futures Beyond the Nation in Philip K. Dick,” Society for Novel Studies, Biennial Conference, University of Utah (April 2014).

“The Ideal Authorship of Joseph Smith and Ralph Waldo Emerson: Pseudo-Translation as Religious Experience,” ACLA Annual Meeting, New York University (March 2014).

Invited: “On the Oriental Paratext of the American Book,” Symposium on Structures and Meaning in the History of the Book, Yale University, Beinecke Library (Sept. 2013).

Invited: “Spiritual Technologies,” panel presentation with John Lardas Modern and Kathryn Lofton; Americanist and Theory/Media Studies Colloquium (April, 2013).

Invited: “Oracles of the Information Age,” lecture at Styles and Cultures of the Corporation, inaugural symposium of the Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity, Washington D.C. (Nov. 2012).

“Frank Lloyd Wright and the Oriental Machines of Modernity,” Spatial Perspectives conference on Literature and Architecture, Oxford University (June 22, 2012).

“The Art of the Machine: Ernest Fenollosa, Ezra Pound, and the Chinese Written Character,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Brown University (March, 2012).

“The Death of the Oriental Detective: Charlie Chan at the End of Genre,” MLA Annual Convention, Seattle (January 2012).

Invited: “The Oriental Transformation of the American Book, 1890-1910,” lecture at the Information Society Project, Yale University Law School (October 5, 2011); also presenting to UC Irvine, Dept. of Comparative Literature (April 5, 2012).

“*Techné* and the Counterculture,” Post45 annual conference, Rock Hall of Fame, Cleveland (April 29-30, 2011).

Invited: plenary address for “Piracy,” a conference hosted by the Departments of English and American Literature at Brandeis University (October 15, 2010).

“*Techné*-Zen and the Cultural Codes of Interface Design.” Critical Code Studies Conference, USC, Los Angeles, (July 23, 2010).

“*Techné*-Zen and the Spirit of Global Capitalism.” Cultures of Neoliberalism seminar, American Comparative Literature Association annual conference, New Orleans (June 2010).

“Mastering the Machine: Technology and the Racial Logic of Jack London’s Asia/Pacific.” Jack London Society 9th Biennial Symposium, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, CA (2008).

“*Techné*-Typography: Lin Yutang’s Chinese Typewriter and the Orientalist Designs of Western Modernism.” Modernist Studies Association, 9th annual conference, Long Beach, CA (2007).

“Sten Guns and Sterno Cans: Richard Wright’s Techno-Coalition in *The Color Curtain*.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, UC Riverside (2006).

“Global English Ideography and the Pseudo-Polyphony of Hollywood Film.” Global States Conference, UC Irvine (2006).

“Plotting the ‘Other Side’: Religious Iconography in Alfred Hitchcock’s *Family Plot*.” Sunstone Northwest Symposium, Seattle (2006). Invited.

“Coalition Politics and the Discourse of the Model Minority in John Okada’s *No-No Boy*” Political Narratives and Imagined Identities: Presented by the Department of Asian American Studies, UC Irvine (2006). Invited. Also presented at Intermountain Graduate Student Symposium, USU (2006).

“What’s Worse: Foreign Language Study or the Ugly American?” Department of Comparative Literature, works-in-progress, UC Irvine (2005). Invited.

“Cold War Language(s) and Asia/America.” American Studies Association annual meeting, Washington D.C. (2005).

“*Policultural* Negation: Postwar Asian American Pan-Ethnicity in Bulosan and Okada.” (dis)junctions Conference, UC Riverside (2005).

“An Empire of Quiet Americans: Cold War Orientalism and the Formulation of Asian American Identity.” American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, University of Pennsylvania (2005).

“Naked Creatures: The Beast and the Sovereign in Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*.” Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Huntington Library (2003); also presented at “Literary Beasts,” University of London (2004).

“Domestication of the Scandalous: Ezra Pound’s Translations of ‘The’ Chinese Poem.” Western Humanities Alliance Conference, UC Irvine (2002).

“Mapping the Invisible: Orientalist Mythologies in the Translation of Chinese Poetry.” Intermountain Graduate Student Symposium, USU (2001).

“Choose Your Own Literary Theory: Hypertext and *The Cave of Time*.” Popular Culture Association annual conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico (1999); also at Intermountain Graduate Student Symposium, USU (1999).

TEACHING AT YALE UNIVERSITY:

The American Counterculture, Undergraduate Lecture

Introduction to Media Studies, Undergraduate Lecture

Modernity and the Time of Literature, Graduate Seminar

Literature and Technology, Graduate Seminar

Literature and the Future, Junior Seminar

East Asia in U.S. Literature and Film, Junior Seminar

Literature and Technê, Introductory Course

Readings in American Literature, Introductory Course

Literature and the Technologies of Modernity, Introductory Course

TEACHING AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS:

Asian America and Technology, UC Irvine (Instructor)

Hollywood and Asian America, UC Irvine (Instructor)

The Transpacific Century: Asia and Western Eyes, UC Irvine (Instructor)

Orientalism in Hollywood & American Literature, UC Irvine (Instructor)

Asian American Immigration, Post-1965, UC Irvine (TA to Glen Mimura)

Asian American Popular Culture, UC Irvine (TA to Glen Mimura)

Racial Triangulation and Asian America, UC Irvine (TA to Claire Kim)

Introduction to Asian American Studies, UC Irvine (TA to John Liu)

Literature and the Century of Film, UC Irvine (TA to Mark Goble)

Discourse Theory and Cold War Culture, UC Irvine (Instructor)

Visualizing the Comic and Tragic, UC Irvine (Instructor)

Romance and Realism in the Novel, UC Irvine (Instructor)

Poetic Imagination, UC Irvine (Instructor)

Class & Taste in 19th-Century U.S., UC Irvine (TA to Elisa Tamarkin)

Fundamentals of Composition UC Irvine (Instructor)

Introduction to College Writing, Irvine Valley College, Utah State University (Instructor)

Critical Thinking and Writing, Irvine Valley College (Instructor)

Understanding Literature, Utah State University (Instructor)

Introduction to Basic English, 祈福學校 (Clifford School), Panyu, China (Instructor)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

Junior Appointments Committee (2013-2015).

Manuscript reviewer for *Contemporary Literature*, *MELUS*, and *Transnational American Studies*.

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Yale University (2013-2015): responsible for teaching fellow assignments, department outreach, and undergraduate advising.

Resident Fellow, Trumbull College, Yale University (2012-2015).

Theory and Media Studies Faculty Convener, Yale University (2010-2014): organizing monthly campus visits for visiting scholars in media studies.

Member of Film Studies Advisory Committee, Yale University (2010-2011).

Americanist Colloquium Convener, Yale University (2009-2010): organized monthly campus lectures for visiting scholars in American literary studies.

Prizes Committee, English Department, Yale University (2009-2011): read and judged both graduate and undergraduate essays.

TA Training Workshop Leader, UC Irvine, English Department (2005-2006). Trained TAs to design and lead literature courses, held individual consultations on teaching practice, and organized a two-day workshop on pedagogy.

Graduate Representative to the Asian Comparatist Committee, UC Irvine (2002-2003).

Graduate Coordinator for Translation Studies Emphasis Planning Committee, UC Irvine (2001-2002). Helped draft the curriculum for the translation studies emphasis for PhD students in Comparative Literature.

Graduate Coordinator for Translation Studies Reading Group, UC Irvine (2002-2003). Worked with the UC Irvine International Center for Writing and Translation to organize funding and meetings among scholars in a variety of disciplines.

J. Hillis Miller Conference Planning Committee, UC Irvine (2002-2003).

International Center for Writing and Translation, Conference Volunteer, UC Irvine (2002).

English 1010 Handbook Committee, Editor, "Argumentative Research and Writing." Utah State University (1999).

LANGUAGES:

Chinese: spoken, good; reading, fair
Spanish: excellent

REFERENCES:

Available upon request