

DAVID DAMROSCH

Department of Comparative Literature
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Employment

Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Literature, Harvard University
Professor and Chair, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Harvard, 2009-
Visiting Professor of Comparative Literature, 2008-09

Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, 1980-2009
Assistant Professor 1980-87, Associate Professor 1987-93, Professor 1993-2009

Education

B.A. 1975, Yale College; Ph.D. 1980, Yale University, Dept. of Comparative Literature.
Dissertation: "Scripture and Fiction: Egypt, the Midrash, *Finnegans Wake*"

Books

How to Read World Literature. Blackwell, 2009
Turkish translation, *Dünya Edebiyatı Nasıl Okunmalı?* Bilgi U. P., 2010
Chinese translation forthcoming from Peking U. P., 2012
Italian translation forthcoming from Armando Editore, 2012
Vietnamese translation forthcoming from Institute of Literature, Hanoi, 2012

The Buried Book: The Loss and Rediscovery of the Great Epic of Gilgamesh.
Henry Holt, 2007; 3rd printing, May 2007. Paperback ed., December 2007
Audiobook from Blackstone Audio. 6-CD set, January 2008
Arabic translation forthcoming from the Egyptian Center for Translation, 2012

What Is World Literature? Princeton University Press, in hardcover and paperback, 2003
Chinese translation forthcoming from Peking U. P., 2011
Japanese translation forthcoming from Tokyo U.P., 2011
Turkish translation forthcoming from Bilgi U.P., 2012
Estonian translation of the Introduction, *Akadeemia* 12 (2007), 2667-2705
Tibetan translation of excerpts, *Latse Library Newsletter* (Fall 2003), 25-27

- Meetings of the Mind*. Princeton University Press, 2000
 Paperback edition, 2010
 Polish translation forthcoming from Jagiellonski University Press, 2012
- We Scholars: Changing the Culture of the University*. Harvard University Press, in hardcover and paperback, 1995
 Spanish trans. forthcoming from the Fundación Universidad de Palermo, Buenos Aires
- The Narrative Covenant: Transformations of Genre in the Growth of Biblical Literature*. Harper & Row, 1987
 Paperback edition, Cornell University Press, 1991

Edited and Co-edited Volumes

- The Routledge Companion to World Literature*, ed. Theo D'haen, David Damrosch, and Djelal Kadir. Forthcoming from Routledge in 2011
- The Canonical Debate Today: Crossing Disciplinary and Cultural Boundaries*, ed. Liviu Papadima, David Damrosch, and Theo D'haen. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011
- Xin Fang Xiang: Bi Jiao Wen Xue Yu Shi Jie Wen Xue Du Ben [New Directions: A Reader of Comparative and World Literature]*, ed. David Damrosch, Chen Yongguo and Yin Xing. Trans. Yin Xing et al. Beijing: Peking U. P., 2010
- Teaching World Literature*, ed. David Damrosch. Modern Language Association, 2009
- The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature: From the European Enlightenment to the Global Present*, ed. David Damrosch, Natalie Melas, and Mbongiseni Buthelezi. Princeton University Press, 2009
- Joseph Conrad and Rudyard Kipling, *Heart of Darkness, The Man Who Would Be King, and Other Works on Empire*, ed. David Damrosch. A Longman Cultural Edition. Pearson Longman, 2006
- The Longman Anthology of World Literature*. Longman, 2004. Six vols., 6500 pp. General editor, with twelve co-editors; regional editor for the ancient Near East and for Mesoamerica. Second ed., general editor with David L. Pike, 2008
- The Longman Anthology of World Literature, Compact Edition*. 2800pp., 2007, general editor with David L. Pike
- The Longman Anthology of British Literature*. Addison Wesley Longman, 1998; general editor, with eleven co-editors. Six volumes, 6000 pp. Fourth ed., 2009, general editor with Kevin Dettmar

The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Compact Edition, 2600 pp, 1999; 2nd ed., 2003. Rev. ed. in two volumes, co-ed. with Kevin Dettmar, under the title *Masters of British Literature*, 2007

Contributing editor, *The HarperCollins World Reader*, ed. Mary Ann Caws and Christopher Prendergast, 2 vols., 1994; co-editor of the 500-page first section ("The Ancient Mediterranean World," with Laura Slatkin) and the final section ("Literature Across Borders," with Christopher Prendergast)

Articles

"*Weltliteratur, littérature universelle, vishwa sahitya. . .*" (with Theo D'haen).
Introduction to *The Routledge Companion to World Literature*, forthcoming

"Hugo Meltzl and the 'Principle of Polyglottism.'" Forthcoming in *The Routledge Companion to World Literature*

"Comparative World Literature." In Papadima, Damrosch, and D'haen, eds., *The Canonical Debate Today* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011), 171-80

Introduction and concluding interview, in Damrosch, Chen, and Yin, eds., *Xin Fang Xiang* (Peking U. P., 2010), 3-10 and 295-300

"National Literatures in an Age of Globalization." *ADE Bulletin* 149 (2010), 26-37

"The Best that Has Been Bought and Stolen." *Critical Inquiry* 35 (2009), 1063-68

"How American Is World Literature?" *The Comparatist* 32:1 (2009), 12-19. Chinese translation published in *World Literature and China in a Global Age*, ed. Zhang Jian et al. (Beijing: Chinese Social Sciences Press, 2010), 135-43

"World Literature In Between," trans. by Sila Okur as "Aralıkta Dünya Edebiyatı."
Introduction to E. Efe Çakmak, ed., *Dünya Edebiyatı Deyince* (Varlık, 2009), 9-18

Interview with Orhan Pamuk, trans. by F. and O. Deniztekin as "Orhan Pamuk ile Söyleşi," in E. Efe Çakmak, ed., *Dünya Edebiyatı Deyince*, 19-34

"Frames for World Literature." In Fotis Jannidis, ed., *Grenzen der Literatur* (de Gruyter, 2009), 1-20

"Introduction." *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature* (Princeton U.P., 2009), ix-xvi

"All the World in the Time." *Teaching World Literature* (MLA, 2009), 1-11

"Major Cultures and Minor Literatures." *Teaching World Literature*, 193-204

- “Toward a History of World Literature.” *New Literary History* 39:3 (2008), 481-95
- “‘What Could a Message Mean to a Cloud?’: Kalidasa Travels West.” *Translation Studies* 1:1 (2008), 41-54
- “Epic Hero” (excerpt from *The Buried Book*). *Smithsonian Magazine* (May 2007), 94-103
- “Trading Up with Gilgamesh.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 9 March 2007, B5
- “Teaching With – and Against – Translation.” In the ADPCL Report on the Undergraduate Comparative Literature Curriculum, *Profession* 2006, 177-197; pp. 191-93
- “Scriptworlds: Writing Systems and the Formation of World Literature.” *Modern Language Quarterly* 68:2 (2007), 195-219.
Vietnamese trans. by Cao Việt Dũng as “Các thế giới chữ viết,” in *Nghiên Cứu Văn Học* [Literary Studies] 11 (465), 2010, 21-43
- “Global Regionalism.” *European Review* 15:1 (2007), 135-43.
Repr. in Nele Bemong et al, eds., *Re-Thinking Europe: Literature and (Trans)National Identity* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2008), 47-58
- “Where Is World Literature?” In Gunilla Lindberg-Wada, ed., *Studying Transcultural Literary History* (Berlin: de Gruyter 2006), 211-20
- “World Literature in a Postcanonical, Hypercanonical Age.” In Haun Saussy, ed., *Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization* (Hopkins, 2006), 43-53.
Danish trans., “Verdenslitteratur i en post-kanonisk, hyper-kanonisk tid,” in Mads R. Thomsen, ed., *Verdenslitteratur*. Aarhus: Aarhus U. P., 2008
- “Rebirth of a Discipline: The Global Origins of Comparative Literature.” *Comparative Critical Studies* 3:1-2 (2006), 99-112
Chinese version, trans. Yin Xing, in Damrosch et al., *Xin Fang Xiang*, 40-51
Hungarian version, trans. Kupán Zsuzsanna, in *Irodalomtörténet* (Fall 2007)
Polish translation forthcoming in *Wieloglos* (“Polyphony”), 2011
- “Vectors of Change.” In *Envisioning the Future of Doctoral Education*, ed. Chris M. Golde and George E. Walker (Jossey-Bass, 2006), 34-45
- “P. G. Wodehouse.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*, ed. David Scott Kastan (Oxford U. P., 2006), 5:303-6. Earlier version in *British Writers III*, ed. George Stade (Scribner’s, 1996), 447-64
- “Secular Criticism Meets the World.” *Cairo Review of Books*, November 2005, 3-6; with accompanying interview, “Oblique Refractions,” *Al-Ahram Weekly*, 17-23 November 2005, 19

- “Death in Translation.” In Sandra Bermann and Michael Wood, eds., *Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation* (Princeton U. P., 2005), 380-98
- “Though It Was Jade, Though It Was Gold: Mutability in Aztec Poetry.” *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature* 50 (2004), 5-14
- “World Literature, National Contexts.” *Modern Philology* 100:4 (2003), 512-531
- “The Road of Excess: Comparative Literature at a Double Crossroads” (ACLA presidential address). *Comparative Literature* 55:3 (2003), viii-xv
- “What Is World Literature?” *World Literature Today*, April-June 2003, 9-14
- “Comparative Literature?” *PMLA* 118:2 (2003), 326-330
- “National Culture, International Theory.” In Eduardo Coutinho, ed., *Fronteiras Imaginadas* (Rio de Janeiro: Aeroplano Editora, 2001), 97-103
- “World Literature Today: From the Old World to the Whole World.” *Symplokê* 8:1-2 (2001), 7-19. Repr. In Jeffrey R. Di Leo, ed., *On Anthologies: Politics and Pedagogy* (University of Nebraska Press, 2004), 31-46
- “Mentors and Tormentors in Doctoral Education.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 17 November 2000, B24
- “The Mirror and the Window: Reflections on Anthology Construction.” *Pedagogy* 1:1 (Fall, 2000), 207-14
- “Four Characters in Search of the Meaning of Culture” (excerpt from *Meetings of the Mind*). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 7 December 1999, B6-9
- “So Much to Read, So Little Time: Anthologies and the Changing Shape of the Past.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 16 April 1999, B7-8
- “Museum-Quality Politics.” *Washington Post*, Outlook section, 1 January 1998, C1, 5
- “A Past We Can Live With.” *Civilization* (April 1997), 76-78
- “Gilgamesh and Genesis” (excerpt from *The Narrative Covenant*). In John Maier, ed., *Gilgamesh: A Reader* (Bolchazy-Carducci Press, 1997), 192-204
- “The Semiotics of Conquest.” *American Literary History* (Fall, 1996), 516-32
- “Can Classics Die?” *Lingua Franca* 5:6 (September, 1995), 61-66
- “Collaborative Writing and the Mentalist Myth.” *Writing Sociology* 3:2 (1995), 4-5

- “Literary Study in an Elliptical Age.” In Charles Bernheimer, ed., *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism* (Johns Hopkins, 1995), 122-133
- “The Scholar as Exile.” *Lingua Franca* 5:2 (January 1995), 56-60
- “The Ethnic Ethnographer: Judaism in *Tristes Tropiques*.” *Representations* 50 (1995), 1-13
- “Auerbach in Exile.” *Comparative Literature* 47:2 (1995), 97-117. Turkish trans. by Kemal Atakay, “Sürgündeki Auerbach,” in E. Efe Çakmak, ed., *Dünya Edebiyatı Deyince* (Istanbul; Varlık, 2009), 259-93
- “The Aesthetics of Conquest: Aztec Poetry Before and After Cortés.” *Representations* 33 (1991), 101-20; repr. in Stephen Greenblatt, ed., *New World Encounters* (University of California Press, 1992), 139-58
- “Non Alia Sed Aliter: The Hermeneutics of Gender in Bernard of Clairvaux.” In *Images of Sainthood*, ed. T. Szell and R. Blumenfeld-Kosinski (Cornell, 1991), 181-95
- “The Rhetoric of Allegory: Burke and Augustine.” In *The Legacy of Kenneth Burke*, ed. Herbert Simons and Trevor Melia (Wisconsin, 1989), 224-38
- “The (Am)bivalence of Allegory.” *Prooftexts* (Fall 1989), 125-33
- “Allegories of Love in Egyptian Poetry and the Song of Songs.” *Stanford Literature Review* 5 (1988), 25-42
- “Leviticus.” In *The Literary Guide to the Bible*, ed. Robert Alter and Frank Kermode (Harvard U.P., 1987), 66-77
- “The Politics of Ethics: Freud and Rome.” In *Pragmatism’s Freud*, ed. J. Smith and W. Kerrigan (Johns Hopkins U.P., 1986), 102-25
- “Heinrich von Kleist.” In *European Writers*, ed. George Stade (Scribner’s, 1985)
- “Peter Bell Revised.” *The Wordsworth Circle* 4 (1980), 232-38

Book Reviews

- Review of Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, *Mapping World Literature*.
Comparative Literature Studies 47:3 (2010), 396-99
- Review of Yusef Komunyakaa and Chad Gracia, *Gilgamesh: A Verse Play*.
American Book Review 28:6 (2007), 14

- Review of Eugene Eoyang, ed., *Intercultural Explorations*.
Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature 52 (2007), 193-96
- Review of Steven Brint, ed., *The Future of the City of Intellect: The Changing American University*. *Academe*, January 2003
- Review of Vasilis Lambropoulos, *The Rise of Eurocentrism*. *Annals of Scholarship*, 1996
- Review of David Denby, *Great Books*, and of Lawrence Levine, *The Opening of the American Mind*. *Washington Post Book World*, 29 September 1996, pp. 3, 14
- “The Idea of a University”: Review of James Freedman, *Idealism and Liberal Education* and Nicholas Farnham, ed., *Rethinking Liberal Education*. *Washington Post Education Review*, 7 April 1996, 14f.
- Review of William H. Pritchard, *English Papers*, and of John K. Wilson, *The Myth of Political Correctness*. *Washington Post Education Review*, 5 November 1995, 13
- Review of David Pinault, *Story-Telling Techniques in the Arabian Nights*. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 114:2 (1994), 39-40
- Review of Olivier Bernier, *Fireworks at Dusk: Paris in the Thirties*. *New York Newsday* 21 March 1993, 38
- Review of Erling Holtsmark, *Tarzan and Tradition*. *Comparative Literature Studies* (Summer 1984), 246-47

Translations

- Kabti-ilani-Marduk, “Erra and Ishum.” In Damrosch et al., *The Longman Anthology of World Literature*, 2004, volume A:143-56
- Walther von der Vogelweide, “Saget mir ieman, waz ist minne?” and four other poems. *Ibid.*, B:898-903
- Mechthild von Magdeburg, from *Das fließende Licht der Gottheit*. *Ibid.*, B:1060-65
- “Xi huel om pehua” (Aztec song). *Ibid.*, C:798-99
- Mbwil a M. Ngal, from *Giambatista Viko ou le viol du discours africain*. *Ibid.*, F:966-69
- Germaine de Staël, “De l’Esprit générale de la littérature moderne.” In Damrosch et al., *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature*, 10-16
- Jean-Marie Carré, “Un Préface à *La Littérature comparée*.” *Ibid.*, 158-60

Lectures

- Three lectures at the Institute of Literature, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi, on structuralism and poststructuralism, translation theory, and theories of world literature, March 2011
- “Grand Theft Ovid: Literary Studies and the Internet.” Tsinghua University, Beijing, March 2011
- “Literary History for a Global Age: The Legacy of S.K. Das.” S.K. Das Memorial Lecture, Comparative Literature Association of India, Ahmedabad, March 2011
- “National Literature, Comparative Literature, World Literature.” Closing address, CLAI biennial conference, Ahmedabad, March 2011
- “The End of the Book? Literary Studies in a Post-Literary Age, 1867 / 1967 / 2067.” Peter Burton Hanson Memorial Lecture, Northeastern U., February 2011
- “The Post-Parisian Post-colonial.” MLA, Los Angeles, January 2011
- “Reshaping the Multilingual Classroom.” MLA, January 2011
- “The Imitative Fallacy in Scholarly Writing.” MLA, January 2011
- “The Politics of Global English.” Keynote address, English Language and Literature Association of Korea, Daejeon, South Korea, December 2010
- “City Walls and Culture-founding Fish: Ideas of Civilization in the Ancient Near East.” City University of Hong Kong, November 2010
- “Is Jesus an Epic Hero?” University of Tampa, November 2010
- “Becoming Canonical: National Literatures in the Empire of Signs.” Research Institute for Korean Studies, Korea University, Seoul, August 2010
- “World Literature as Alternative Discourse.” Shanghai Jiao Tong U., August 2010
- “Ideas of World Literature: From Brandes to Casanova and Back Again.” Conference on “Scandinavian World Literature,” Georg Brandes-Skolen, U. of Copenhagen, June 2010
- “Snorri Sturluson and the Invention of Scandinavian World Literature.” Brandes-Skolen, June 2010
- “Scriptworlds: Writing Systems, Canon Formation, and Cultural Identity.” Center for

Canon and Identity Formation, University of Copenhagen, June 2010. Revised version given at Institute of Literature, Hanoi, March 2011

“The Voyage Out: World Literature as Alternative Discourse.” Keynote address, conference on “*Weltliteratur*: Crossing Boundaries.” University of Notre Dame, March 2010, and Dept. of Comparative Literature, U. of Copenhagen, June 2010

“Literary Anthologies for a Post-Literary Age.” Plenary address, “Anthologies” conference, Trinity College, Hartford, March 2010

“Translating the Orient: From *The 1001 Nights* to Le Hip-hop.” Jordan lecture, Wellesley College, March 2010. Earlier versions given at SUNY Binghamton, February 2009, and at Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, February 2008

“Making It New in the Digital Age.” Keynote address, conference on “Mapping the New,” Qatar University, Doha, February 2010

“Anatomy of Comparison: 1957 / 2010 / 2057.” Northrop Frye Lecture, University of Toronto, February 2010. Revised version given at “Rethinking the Humanities,” Universidade de Lisboa, May 2010

“What Every Comparatist Needs to Know.” MLA, Philadelphia, December 2009

“World Literature in a Post-literary Age.” Keynote address, world literature conference “In a Few Wor(l)ds,” University of Wisconsin, Madison, December 2009

“Foundational Translations: The Worldly Origins of National Classics.” Keynote address, conference on “Foundational Texts,” U. C. Santa Barbara, November 2009

“Catalan beyond Catalonia.” Conference on “Standing in the Shadows: Catalan Literature and English Translation,” New York, October 2009

“National Literatures in an Age of Globalization.” Keynote talk, Association of Departments of English, Las Vegas, June 2009

“World Literature in a College Setting.” Kenyon College, May 2009

“Writing Locally in a Global Language.” Plenary discussion with Gish Jen and Elias Khoury, ACLA annual meeting, Harvard, March 2009

“Comparing World Literatures.” ACLA, Harvard, March 2009

“Comparing the Literatures: What Every Comparatist Needs to Know.” Northwestern University, March 2009

“How to Read World Literature.” Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, March 2009

- “Literature and Globalization.” Baruch College, CUNY, February 2009
- “After Exile: Comparative Literature in the Twenty-first Century.” Versions given at University of Lisbon and at Bilgi University, Istanbul, December 2008
- “Comparative World Literature.” Keynote speech, Chinese Comparative Literature Association triennial meeting, Beijing, October 2008
- “How to Read World Literature.” Peking University, October 2008
- “On World Literature: Theory and Reading.” Tsinghua University, Beijing, October 2008
- “How American Is World Literature?” Keynote speech, “*World Literature Today* and China” conference, Beijing, October 2008; other versions given at ACLA annual meeting, Long Beach, April 2008 and at MLA, Philadelphia, December 2009
- “Teaching World Literature.” Rutgers, October 2008
- “A Rune of One’s Own: Negotiating Latinity in Medieval Europe.” New York Anglo-Saxon Colloquium, NYU, April 2008, and Stanford University, April 2008
- “From Gilgamesh to Gigamesh: A Hero’s Rebirth.” Conference on “Epic Heroes Then and Now,” Yale University, March 2008
- “Migratory Memories: From Snorri to K-Maró.” European Science Foundation conference on “Literature for Europe,” Vadstena, Sweden, May 2007
- Various readings and talks based on *The Buried Book*, April 2007 – February 2008: Archaeology Institute of America program, New York City; Community Bookstore, Brooklyn; Labyrinth Books, New York; Yale University; Columbia University Seminar on Religion; U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis
- “El Week-end en Guatemala: Joyce, Asturias, and the Mythic Method.” ACLA annual meeting, Puebla, Mexico, April 2007
- “Viko in Paris: or, Le Vol du Discours Africain.” School for Criticism and Theory annual conference, Columbia University, April 2007
- “Global Scripts and the Formation of Medieval Literary Culture.” University of Toronto, March 2007
- “Scripture’s Scripts: Writing, Religion, and Cultural Memory.” NYU Center for Religion and Media, March 2007
- “‘What Madness to Think a Cloud Can Speak’: Kalidasa Travels West.” Jadavpur U.,

- Kolkata, January 2007. Previous version given at Cornell, March 2005, at City University of Hong Kong, April 2005, at the U. of Texas, Dallas, October 2006
- “Beyond English.” Public lecture while Visiting Fellow, Department of English, Delhi University, January 2007
- “The Ph.D. Platypus.” MLA, December 2006
- “Otherwise Engaged: Comparative Literature and the Clash of Cultures.” Keynote address, conference on “Comparative Studies Out in the World,” U. of Texas, Austin, October 2006
- “Global Regionalism.” Keynote address, symposium on “Rethinking Europe,” Katholiecke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, June 2006
- “Teaching the Expanded Canon of World Literature.” University of Nevada, Las Vegas, April 2006, and Northern Essex Community College, Massachusetts, May 2006
- “Animal Gods and Talking Animals: Metamorphoses in the Egyptian ‘Tale of Two Brothers.’” ACLA annual meeting, Princeton, March 2006
- “‘Oh, That My Enemy Would Write a Book’: *Job* and the Babylonian Theodicy.” “Translatio” Conference, Columbia University, March 2006. Revised version given at MLA, December 2006
- “Scriptworlds: Global Scripts and the Formation of World Literature.” Versions given at Yale University, February 2006, and at Harvard University, May 2006
- “Anglo-Normans and Indo-Anglians: Varieties of British Literature from Marie de France to G. V. Desani.” MLA, Washington, December 2005
- “*Job* in Exile.” Literature Humanities Colloquium, Columbia, November 2005
- “Secular Criticism Meets the World.” Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture, American University, Cairo, November 2005
- “Archaeology and Imperialism: *Gilgamesh* after *Orientalism*.” American University, Cairo, November 2005
- “Translating the World.” Conference on Translation, Columbia Univ., September 2005
- “Beyond English: Teaching with and against Translation.” Plenary panel, MLA joint ADE/ADFL summer session, Washington DC, June 2005; revised versions given at MLA, December 2005, and at ACLA, Princeton, March 2006
- “*Ulysses* without Fear.” Community Bookstore, Brooklyn NY, June 16, 2005

- “Major Powers and Minor Literatures: The Cultural Politics of *Weltliteratur*.” University of Utrecht, and Justus-Liebling Universität, Giessen, May 2005. Revised version given at University of Bucharest, October 2008
- “Teaching World Literature Today.” Yale University, March 2005
- “‘Was He Large?’: The Politics of Imperial Memory in Late Modernism.” ACLA annual meeting, Pennsylvania State University, March 2005
- “Scriptworlds: Writing Systems and the Formation of World Literature.” Tel Aviv University, February 2005. Also given at City University, Hong Kong, April 2005, and at SOAS, University of London, May 2005
- “Writing Across Cultures.” Jerusalem Book Fair, February 2005
- “Saddam’s Gilgamesh: Reading World Literature Today.” Matheson Memorial Lecture, Washington University, St. Louis, February 2005. Versions given at Hebrew U., Jerusalem, February 2005; at North Carolina State U., April 2005; and at City University of Hong Kong, April 2005
- “Philology in the Face of Fascism: Strategies of Response in Curtius, Auerbach, and Spitzer.” Yale University, Colloquium on “Art and Answerability,” January 2005, and at a Columbia University conference on Comparative Literature, March 2006
- “The Post-Canonical Canon: Hypercanon, Anti-canon, Shadow Canon.” Versions given at the CUNY Graduate Center, December 2004; at MLA, Philadelphia, December 2004; and at Fordham University, January 2005
- “The Cultural Politics of *Weltliteratur*: Goethe, Meltzl, and Posnett.” Institute of Literary Studies, Hungarian Academy, Budapest, November 2004
- “Modernism and Its Enemies: Portraits of the Artist from Woolf to Wodehouse.” Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, November 2004. Also given at the University of Heidelberg, May 2005, and at Delhi University, January 2007
- “Where Is World Literature?” Swedish Research Council symposium on Transcultural Literary History, Stockholm, November 2004
- “Language, Script, and Manuscript: The First Global Literatures.” University of Washington, Seattle, October 2004
- “Epic Grief: The Cost of Heroism in Homer and the Ancient Near East.” Reed College, Oregon, October 2004
- “Saddam’s Gilgamesh: World Literature Today.” Chancellor’s Lecture, Louisiana State

University, Baton Rouge, October 2004

“What Is World Literature?” Versions delivered at Case Western U., at Creighton University, and at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, September 2004

“Paris, Texas: Romance Studies in American Context.” Duke University, April 2004

“Oddly Connect: Writing Against the Canon.” University of Toronto, April 2004

“The Buried Book: Networks of Antiquity in Egypt and Greece.” ACLA, Ann Arbor, April 2004

“Halving It All: The Double Life of a Teaching Scholar.” Princeton University, March 2004

“Modernism and Its Enemies.” Barnard College, March 2004

“From the Old World to the Whole World: Teaching World Literature Today.” Brookdale Community College, March 2004

“The Three Faces of Comparative Literature.” U. of California, Irvine, January 2004

“The Postcanonical Canon.” MLA, San Diego, December 2003

“What Isn’t World Literature? Problems of Selection, Definition, Presentation.” MLA, San Diego, December 2003, and George Mason University, March 2004

“Teaching the World.” Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, October 2003.

“The Road of Excess: Comparative Literature at a Double Crossroads.” ACLA Presidential Address, San Marcos CA, April 2003

“All the World in the Time: British Literature Today.” Texas Community College Association, Austin, February 2003

“Three Myths about Interdisciplinarity.” William Paterson College, February 2003

“Innocence Abroad: From Ethnic Cleansing to Postmodern Play in *Dictionary of the Khazars*.” MLA, New York, December 2002

“The Quest for the Historical Gilgamesh.” MLA, New York, December 2002

“What Is World Literature?” Keynote address, Southern Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, University of Alabama, October 2002

“Translating Kalidasa Across Cultures.” ACLA annual meeting, San Juan, April 2002

- “Scholarship in the World.” Keynote address, conference on “What to Do with the Ph.D.?” NYU, February 2002
- “The Corporate University.” Emory University, February 2002
- “Disciplinary Nationalism in an Interdisciplinary World.” Keynote address, Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences annual meeting, Washington DC, November 2001
- “Tenochtitlan Before and After Cortés.” ACLA annual meeting, Boulder, April 2001
- “*Weltliteratur* and the World.” Pennsylvania State University, March 2001
- “‘Wodehouse and Tolstoy, Not Bad but Not Good’: English Abroad.” Conference on Global English, University of Virginia, February 2001
- “The Other Colonial America: Reading Ritual in 17th-century Mexico.” Yale American Studies Colloquium, January 2001
- “The Worlds of World Literature.” MLA, Washington DC, December 2000
- “New Worlds for Old: Inventing the Past from Mesopotamia to Mesoamerica.” MIT, November 2000
- “The Changing Cultures of K through . . . 22.” Inaugural lecture, Center for the Scholarship of Teaching, Michigan State University, November 2000
- “World Literature Today: From the Old World to the Whole World.” Harvard University Humanities Center, October 2000
- Half a dozen readings from *Meetings of the Mind*, Barnes & Noble and Borders bookstores (New York, New Haven, Philadelphia), October-November 2000
- “The Intertwined Cultures of the Human Sciences.” Keynote address, “Re-envisioning the Ph.D.” conference, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, April 2000
- “National Internationalism and the Origins of Comparative Literature.” Princeton University Colloquium on Comparative Literature, March 2000
- “Our Mentors, Our Tormentors: Scholarly Training and the End of Discipleship.” Plenary address, American Association for Higher Education conference on “*Scholarship Reconsidered* Reconsidered,” New Orleans, February 2000
- “Out of your Sanscreed into Our Aryan: Sanskrit Commentary in American Hands.” ACLA annual meeting, Yale University, February 2000

“Goethe in the Necropolis: Reading World Literature Today.” Princeton, February 2000

“National Culture, International Theory.” Federal University, Rio de Janeiro, June 1999

“The Ends of Collaboration.” Plenary address, conference on interdisciplinary research, Trinity College, Dublin, May 1999

“Teaching beyond the University.” Drexel University, April 1999

“The Afterlife of Mechthild von Magdeburg.” ACLA, Montreal, April 1999

“British Literary History Today.” Rutgers University, March 1999

“What Is World Literature?” Princeton University, February 1999

“All the World in the Time.” Conference on the discipline of comparative literature, Yale University, February 1999

“A New Literary Geography: British Literary History Today.” MLA, December 1998

“Intraculturalism: Comparative Study Within National Contexts.” CUNY Graduate Center, November 1998

“Scholarship in the Twenty-first Century.” Keynote address for “Scholarship Unbound,” a conference at Oregon State University, October 1998

“Great Things of Us Forgot: The Changing Shape of Our Literary Past.” Columbia College Dean’s Day, April 1998

“My Elder Sister Xochiquetzal: Brother Hernando and the Goddess of Love.” ACLA annual meeting, Austin Texas, March 1998

“Antiquity and Modernity in the Ancient Near East.” Plenary talk at “A Future for the Past: Ancient Studies in the Modern University,” NYU, February 1998

“Comparative Literature and the Rebirth of Nationalism.” MLA, Toronto, Dec. 1997

Panelist on President’s plenary panel on the future of Comparative Literature, International Comparative Literature Association meeting, Leiden, August 1997

“National Internationalism and the Rise of Comparative Literature: Friedrich Nietzsche and H. M. Posnett.” ICLA meeting, Leiden, August 1997

“Mutability in Nahuatl Poetry.” ACLA annual meeting, Puerto Vallarta, April 1997

“A Traitor to Her Racists: Rigoberta Menchú and the Myth of Mayan Identity.”

SUNY Stony Brook, December 1996

“Literary Study and the End of Discipleship.” Baldwin/Dahl Memorial Lecture,
Dept. of Comparative Literature, Yale University, April 1996

Respondent, panel on Research in Classical Studies, Classical Association of the Atlantic
States annual meeting, Baltimore, April 1996

“Philology in the Face of Fascism: Curtius and Spitzer.” ACLA annual meeting, Notre
Dame, March 1996

Keynote speaker, Georgetown U. faculty retreat based on *We Scholars*, February 1996

“‘Can Classics Die?’ in Context.” George Washington University Seminar on Ancient
Mediterranean Cultures, November 1995

“Traveling Theory Comes Home.” Conference on “World Wide Webs: Comparative
Literature in the Global Field,” NYU, November 1995

“The Afterlife of Mechthild von Magdeburg: From Vernacular to Latin and Back.”
European Science Foundation conference on Women in the Christian Tradition,
Mont Sainte-Odile, France, October 1995

“The End(s) of Comparative Literature.” University of Pennsylvania, April 1995

“The Closing of the American Bible.” Indiana University, Bloomington, January 1995

“The Afterlife of Mechthild von Magdeburg.” ACLA annual meeting, March 1994

“The Canon of Jewish Studies.” Jewish Theological Seminary, March 1994

“The Ape behind the Camera: Technologies of the Self in Buster Keaton’s *The
Cameraman*.” Cinema Studies Association panel, MLA, December 1993

“The Ethnic Ethnographer.” ACLA annual meeting, Bloomington, March 1993

“Desert/Islands in Walcott’s *Omeros*.” African Literature Association annual meeting,
Guadeloupe, April 1993

“A Short History of Androgyny: From Professor von X to Virginia Woolf.” Conference
on Gender at the Fin de Siècle, Columbia, November 1992

“Auerbach in Exile.” ICLA, Tokyo, August 1991

“Auerbach and the Problem of History.” ACLA annual meeting, Pennsylvania State
University, March 1990

“David as Goliath: The Three Versions of the David Story.” Fordham, May 1989

“Translation and the Curriculum.” ACLA annual meeting, Brandeis, March 1989

“The Hermeneutics of Gender in Bernard of Clairvaux.” Conference on “Images of Sainthood,” Barnard, November 1987

“Euripides versus Sophocles.” Columbia College Dean’s Day, April 1987

“Postmodernism and New Historicism.” Graduate School Dean’s Day, February 1987

“Art and Underworld in the Modernist Epic.” NYU, November 1985

“Allegory in Theory.” Columbia College Dean’s Day, March 1985

“The Optics of Autobiography.” MLA session on Proust and Ruskin, December 1984

“The Rhetoric of Allegory.” Conference on Kenneth Burke, Temple U., March 1984

“Heschel and Midrash.” Conference on Judaism and Quakerism, New York, Oct. 1983

“Beyond Good and Evil in *Don Giovanni*.” Yale, November 1982

Recent Courses (2000-10)

The Critic in Culture
Critical Reading, Critical Writing
History of Literary Criticism
Comparative Modernism
Joyce and Company
The Symbolist Tradition
The Historical Novel after Modernism
Novel and Anti-Novel
Global English Literature
Introduction to Comparative Literature and Society (with Sheldon Pollock)
Wisdom Literatures (with Wiebke Denecke)
Border Crossings and Double Identities (with Orhan Pamuk)
Introduction to Comparative Literature (with Karen Thornber)
Literature 10: Writing Across Cultures (with Stephen Owen)

Professional Activities

Lead literary adviser for “Invitation to World Literature,” a thirteen-part half-hour

television/DVD/web series produced by WGBH, Boston, with funding from the Annenberg Foundation, broadcast nationally in fall 2010

Honorary Guest Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2010-

Co-director (with Wang Ning) of the Fifth Sino-American Bilateral Symposium on Comparative Literature, "Comparative Literature in the Phase of World Literature." Shanghai Jiao Tong University, August 2010

Conference committee, ACLA annual meeting, New Orleans, April 2010

Conference director, ACLA annual meeting, Harvard, March 2009;
organizer of a seminar on "Comparative World Literature," with further sessions at ACLA 2010 in New Orleans and at ICLA 2010 in Seoul

Member, Stockholm Collegium of World Literary History, 2009-

Conference co-director (with E. Efe Çakmak), "World Literature in Between," Bilgi University, Istanbul, December 2008

Member, PEN, 2008-

Member, Ad Hoc Committee on the Annual Convention, MLA, 2006-09

Member, Executive Committee, MLA Division on Literature and Religion, 2003-7 (chair, 2005); organizer or co-organizer of various MLA panels for the Division: "Literary Syncretism" (2004), "From Moses to Muhammad" (2005), "Wisdom and Anti-Wisdom" (two panels for 2006)

Participant in two MLA "What's the Word?" radio broadcasts, one on anthologies (2001), one on *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (2008)

Interviewed on BBC Radio 4 for a program on *Gilgamesh* in a series "A History of the World in 100 Objects," broadcast March 1, 2010

Board Member, Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature, 2005-09

Editorial board memberships:
Comparative Literature Studies
Comparative Literature in China
Textxet: Studies in Comparative Literature (Rodopi)
Translation

Conference co-director, "Translatio: Translation and Cultural Appropriation in the Ancient World," Columbia University, March 3-4, 2006

Board member, Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, Columbia, 2004-08

President, American Comparative Literature Association, 2001-2003;
Vice President, 1999-2001

Member, Advisory Board, Carnegie Foundation Initiative on the Doctorate, 2002-05

Member, ICLA Research Committee on Literature and Cultural Identity, 1997-99

Chair, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia, 1996-99;
Director of Graduate Studies, 1991-95 and 2001-04

Member of the ACLA's Board of Advisers, 2011-14, and previously in 1993-97; chair of conference committee, member of committees on constitution and on curriculum

Conference director, 1997 ACLA annual meeting, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, April 1997

Conference director, 1992 ACLA annual meeting, Columbia University, April, 1992

Consultant to *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, on Mesoamerica, 1994

Board member, Society for Critical Exchange, 1991-95

Member of the Interdepartmental Committee on Comparative Literature, Columbia

(1983-98); Director of Graduate Studies for Comparative Literature, 1984-91
Board member, Oratorio Society of New York, 1999-2001
President, Mount Desert Summer Chorale, 2001; board member, 1999-2003

Languages

Speaking and reading: German, French, Spanish
Reading only: Akkadian, biblical Hebrew, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Greek, Italian, Latin,
Nahuatl, Old Norse

Work in Progress

Comparing the Literatures: What Every Comparatist Needs to Know. In preparation for
Princeton U. P.

Gateways to World Literature, a two-volume anthology, in preparation for Pearson
Longman, forthcoming in 2012. Chinese version in preparation for Peking U.P.

World Literature in Theory, a collection of influential essays from the past 200 years.
Versions in preparation for Blackwell and for Peking U.P.

Literature: A World History, ed. Anders Pettersson et al. 4 vols. Executive board
member; contributing author for the ancient Near East. In preparation for
Blackwell.

Scriptworlds: Writing Systems and the Formation of World Literature. In preliminary
stages of preparation for Princeton U.P.