

THOMAS HEISE

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of English, New York University, 2005
M.A. Department of English, the University of California at Davis, 1997
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Department of English, Florida State University, 1993

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

2005 – Assistant Professor, McGill University, Department of English
2004 – 2005 Lecturer, New York University, Expository Writing Program
2004 – 2005 Curator, Reading Between A and B, 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization sponsored by New York Foundation for the Arts
2002 – 2003 Instructor / Teaching Assistant, New York University, Department of English
1999 – 2002 Instructor, New York University, Expository Writing Program
1995 – 1997 Instructor / Teaching Assistant, University of California, Department of English

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Urban Underworlds: A Geography of Twentieth-Century American Literature and Culture (Rutgers University Press, American Literatures Initiative, 2010). 292 pages.

Horror Vacui: Poems. Sarabande Books, 2006. 84 pages.

Refereed Articles

“The Crimes of Punishment: The Tortured Logic of Mickey Spillane’s *Kiss Me, Deadly*.” *The Journal of Popular Culture*. (forthcoming, Vol. 44, 2011). 25 pages.

“*American Psycho*: Neoliberal Fantasies and the Death of Downtown.” *Arizona Quarterly*. (forthcoming, 67.1, 2011). 136-160.

“Degenerate Sex and the City: Djuna Barnes’s Urban Underworld.” *Twentieth-Century Literature*. 55.3, 2009. 287-321.

“Harlem is Burning: Urban Rioting and the ‘Black Underclass’ in Chester Himes’s *Blind Man with a Pistol*.” *African American Review*. 41.3, 2007. 487-506.

“‘Going Blood-Simple Like the Natives’: Contagious Urban Spaces and Modern Power in Dashiell Hammett’s *Red Harvest*.” *Modern Fiction Studies*. 51.3, 2005. 485-512.

Book Chapters

“‘A Rough and Lurid Vision’: Henry James’s Adventure in the Ethnic Underworld of New York City.” *The Image of the City in Literature, Media, and Society*. Eds. Will Wright and Stephen Kaplan. Boulder: Colorado State University, 2003. 141-148.

“Race, Writing, and Morality: Cultural Conversations in the Works of Ralph Ellison.” *BioCritiques: Ralph Ellison*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Press, 2003. 51-76.

“The ‘Purposeless Splendor’ of the Ideal in the Fiction of F. Scott Fitzgerald.” *BioCritiques: F. Scott Fitzgerald*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Press, 2002. 47-66.

Review

Review of *Circulation and the City: Essays on Urban Culture*, eds. W. Straw & A. Boutros, *English Studies in Canada* (forthcoming, 2011).

Poetry in Journals and Anthologies

from *Moth, Packingtown Review*. Issue 3, 2011.

from *Moth* (originally published as “from *The Journal of X*”), *Columbia Poetry Review*. No. 22, 2009. 46-50.

from *Moth* (originally published as “from *The Journal of X*”), *Another Chicago Magazine*. No. 48.2, 2009. 53-56.

from *Moth* (originally published as “from *The Journal of X*”), *The Modern Review*. Vol. 3.1, 2007. 27-35.

“Examination.” *The Laurel Review*. Vol. 41.2, 2007. 50-51.

from *Moth* (originally published as “from *The Journal of X*”), *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art*. Issue 44, 2007. 33-40.

from *Moth* (originally published as “from *The Journal of X*”), *The Canary*. No. 6, 2007. 42-47.

“Zombie,” “Corrections,” and “My Pietà.” *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century*. Eds. Michael Dumanis and Cate Marvin. Louisville, KY: Sarabande Books, 2006. 163-166.

“These New Days [‘Last Night’]” and “These New Days [‘After the Massacre of Lost Objects’].” *Conduit*. No. 17, Fall 2006. 16-17.

“Corrections.” *Verse*. Vol. 22.1, 2005. 121.

“Horror Vacui.” *Gulf Coast*. Vol. 17.1, 2005. 12-15.

“Examination [2]” and “Rosary.” *Slope*. No. 21, Winter 2004-05. <<http://slope.org/archive/issue21/21%20poetry%20heise.html>>.

“Exeat” and “Red Giant, White Dwarf.” *Gulf Coast*. Vol. 16.2, 2004. 237-241.

“Noctuary” and “The End of the Imaginary.” *Forklift, Ohio*. No. 13, 2004.

“Obituary [translated]” and “Epitaph X.” *Skein*. 2004.

“My Pieta” and “Terra Incognita.” *The Journal*. Spring 2003. 166-169.

“Plan B.” *Ploughshares*. Vol. 28.4, 2002-03. 70.

“Wreckage,” “The Sewer,” and “The American Museum of Natural History.” *The Cream City Review*. Vol. 26.2, 2002.

“Ghazal for the Body” and “Imaginary Sanitarium.” *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*. Spring/Summer 2002. 47-50.

“The Remainder.” *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art*. Issue 34, Winter 2001. 25.

“Obituary [first draft],” “Obituary [revised],” “First Order of Appearances,” and “Second Order of Appearances.” *Indiana Review*. No. 23.1, Spring 2001. 84-90.

“The End of Travel.” *Southern Humanities Review*. Vol. 34, Fall 2000. 328-329.

“The Orchard of Orange Trees” and “The Affair.” *Washington Square*. Issue 5, Summer 1999. 15-20.

“Ghazal: Inertia” and “El Dia de los Muertos.” *Hayden’s Ferry Review*. Issue 20, Spring / Summer 1997. 8-10.

Work in Progress

Book Chapter: “Don DeLillo’s American Anxieties,” *The Cambridge Companion to American Novelists*, ed. Timothy Parrish (under contract, 2012).

Article: “Poetry by Transmission: Jack Spicer’s Radio and the Politics of Inspiration.”

Moth; or how I came to be with you again, a book-length poetic narrative and a “false” memoir about the invention of memory and the self as “other.” Approximate completion date: August 2011.

Criminal Histories: American Crime Fiction from the 1920s to the 1990s, a scholarly monograph that reads the genre in terms of political economy, urban planning, race relations, and neoliberalism. Approximate completion date: August 2012.

INVITED LECTURES

“Writing Through Erasure.” Craft Class. Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Middlebury, VT, 2009.

“Cruising the Underworld: Urban Development, Queer Spaces, and John Rechy’s *City of Night*.” Department of English, University of Missouri. Columbia, MO, 2009.

“Pre-Professionalization: Working the Market, Marketing Your Work.” Department of English, University of Missouri. Columbia, MO, 2009.

“The ‘Cauldron’ and the ‘Sewer’: Mapping New York in Late-Nineteenth-Century Slumming Literature.” *Performing Authorities*. Department of English Annual Symposium. McGill University, Montreal, QC, 2008.

“Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*,” McGill Alumni Association Book Club, Montreal, QC, 2008.

“Sentencing.” Craft Class. Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Middlebury, VT, 2006.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Slums of New York: Poverty Tourism and the ‘South Bronx Surreal’ in Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*.” Northeast Modern Languages Association Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, 2011.

“An Overview and an Underview: Uneven Development and the Social Production of American Underworlds.” The Colloquium in American Literature and Culture, New York University, New York, NY, 2010.

“Bitter Laughter: The Sociology of Race and Rioting in Chester Himes’s Harlem.” The Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference, Honolulu, HI, 2010.

“Subterranean Worlds: Urban Redevelopment, Queer Spaces, and John Rechy’s *City of Night*.” Northeast Modern Languages Association Conference, Montreal, Quebec, 2010.

“*American Psycho*: Neoliberal Violence and Urban Political Economy.” National Chengchi University. The Eighth Annual Wenshan International Conference: *Literature and Violence*. Taipei, Taiwan, 2009.

“The Black Underground: Uprisings from Below and the Black “Underclass” in Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM, 2008.

“Degenerate Sex and the City: The Underworlds of New York and Paris in the Work of Djuna Barnes.” American Literature Association Nineteenth Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, 2008.

“Putting the American Back Into Psycho: Bret Easton Ellis and the Criminal Class.” Crime, Media and Culture Conference. McGill University, Montreal, QC, 2007.

“‘Going Blood-Simple Like the Natives’: Contagious Urban Spaces and Modern Power in Dashiell Hammett’s *Red Harvest*,” The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association. Boston, MA, 2004.

“The Crimes of Punishment: Criminal Underworlds and Modern Power in Mickey Spillane’s *Kiss Me, Deadly*.” New York University Urban Studies Conference. New York, NY, 2004.

“‘A Rough and Lurid Vision’: Henry James’s Adventure in the Ethnic Underworld of New York City.” The Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery. Colorado Springs, CO, 2003.

INVITED READINGS

Painted Word Poetry Series, University of Vermont, South Burlington, VT, 2010

Université de Montréal, “Performance and Performativity” Conference, Montreal, QC, 2010

Modernist Studies Association Conference, Montreal, QC, 2009

Scrivener Review Launch, Montreal, QC, 2008

Department of English, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, 2008

Reading Between A and B, New York, NY, 2008

Dusty Owl Reading Series, Ottawa, ON, 2007

Scrivener Review Launch, Montreal, QC, 2007

Marianopolis College, Montreal, QC, 2007
 Amherst Books, Amherst, MA, 2007
 The Green Room, Montreal, QC, 2007
 Night and Day, Brooklyn, NY, 2007
 The Writer's Voice Visiting Authors Series, New York, NY, 2006
 Black Oak Books, Berkeley, CA, 2006
 Department of English, University of California, Davis, CA, 2006
 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, 2006
 Word for Word Summer Festival, Academy of American Poets, New York, NY, 2006
 KGB, New York, NY, 2006
 Casa del Popolo, Montreal, QC 2006
 Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival, Montreal, QC, 2006
 EGO, Austin, TX, 2006

INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES

"Interview with Thomas Heise." *The Modern Review*. Vol. 3.1, 2007. 117-122.

"Excerpts from *Horror Vacui*." *Drain*. No. 8, 2007. <<http://www.drainmag.com>> .

"The Lyric Leap: A Conversation Between Thomas Heise & Jason Schneiderman." *Boxcar Poetry Review*. No. 7, 2007. <<http://www.boxcarpoetry.com>>.

"Finishing the First: A Dozen Debut Poets Who Sealed the Deal in 2006." *Poets & Writers Magazine*. Nov/Dec 2006. 56-69.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

FQRSC programme pour l'établissement de nouveau professeurs-chercheurs, 2010-2013:
 \$38,500.00

Travel Grant, McGill University 2008 : \$1000, \$500

Robert Frost Fellowship in Poetry, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, 2006
 \$1700.00

Start-up Grant, McGill University, 2005-2008, \$9000

New York University Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, 2003-2004. \$17,500.00

Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Work-Study Scholarship, Middlebury College, 2003. \$1700.00

Millay Colony for the Arts, Writer-in-Residence, New York, 2003

Non-resident Tuition Fellowship, University of California, 1995. \$12,000.00

HONORS AND AWARDS

Pushcart Prize Best of the Small Presses Nomination for excerpt from *Moth* published in *Columbia Poetry Review*, 2009

Joe Weixlmann Award for Best Essay on twentieth-century African-American literature, Honorable Mention, *African American Review*, 2008. \$200.00

Academy of American Poets *Noted Book*, 2007

Gulf Coast Prize in Poetry, 2004. \$1000.00

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Department of English, McGill University

Graduate Courses

ENGL 525 (Honors and Graduate), *American Poetry at Mid-Century: the New York School and the San Francisco Renaissance*: A seminar on two post-1950 poetry movements and their articulation of a sense of place and community in work by O'Hara, Ashbery, Guest, Spicer, Duncan, and Kyger (2009).

ENGL 770, *American Underworlds*: A seminar on the social production of marginalized urban communities and identities in American literature and culture from the 1890s to 1990s through the work of Riis, James, Crane, McKay, Barnes, Wright, Ellison, Rechy, Pynchon, DeLillo, and Toth (2005, 2006, 2011).

ENGL 770, *Contextualizing U.S. Fiction, 1960-2000*: A seminar situating recent U.S. literary production within three major cultural developments—postmodern spatiality, social paranoia, and identity politics—through a study of work by Reed, Didion, Gibson, Cisneros, Pynchon, Ellis, Auster, DeLillo, and Morrison (2009).

ENGL 687, *Independent Reading Course: Buddhism, Regionalism, Eco-poetics: Kyger, Snyder, Whalen* (2011)

Undergraduate Courses

ENGL 464, *Creative Writing Workshop (Poetry)*: A workshop focusing on craft (voice, image, lineation, form, typography) and on modern and contemporary poetics from Futurism to Language (2008, 2010).

ENGL 360, *Literary Criticism*: Honors-oriented course on topics central to modern and contemporary literary criticism and critical theory, including interpretation; canon formation;

ideology; class, race, gender, and sexuality; discourse; hegemony; signification; and performativity (2006, 2008-2010).

ENGL 336, *Urban Fictions of New York and Los Angeles, 1950-2000*: A course that studies the representation of urban terrains, urban cultures, and urbanism as a way of life by focusing on the portrayal of New York City and Los Angeles in American literature from the second half of the twentieth century through writings by Ellison, Rechy, Didion, Pynchon, Ellis, Auster, DeLillo, Morrison, and Gonzalez (2006, 2007, 2010).

ENGL 324, *American Crime Fiction*: A survey of crime narratives from 1920 to 1990 spotlighting the race, gender, class, and sexual politics in novels by Hammett, Faulkner, Chandler, Hughes, Spillane, Highsmith, Pynchon, Himes, Auster, Lethem (2005, 2011).

ENGL 323: *American Poetry, 1950-2000*: A course tracing the development of movements and schools in U.S. poetry from the mid-twentieth century to the present, such as the Beats, Confessionalism, the Black Arts Movement, the New York School, and Language Poetry through writings by Ginsberg, Lowell, Plath, Baraka, O'Hara, Ashbery, Hejinian, and Clover (2007, 2008).

ENGL 226: *American Literature II*: An introductory survey of American literature and literary history from the post-Civil-War period to the Vietnam era that moves between close textual readings and larger historical and cultural contextualization as a means of exploring and pluralizing American literature (2008, 2010).

ENGL 495: *Independent Study: Fiction Writing, the Francophone Metropolitan and the Expatriate Text* (2010).

ENGL 495: *Independent Study: Fiction Writing, the Short Story* (2007).

Lecturer and Teaching Assistant, Department of English and Expository Writing Program, New York University

V. 40.0100, *Writing the Essay (Conversations of the West), Writing the Essay, Writing Workshops I and II*: Courses in which students learn to write essays that demonstrate an ability to incorporate and question evidence, to read and think critically, and to develop ideas by making connections to other written, visual, and experiential texts (1999-2002, 2004, 2005).

V. 41.0230, *American Literature I*: An introductory survey of American literature from the seventeenth century to the Civil War (2003).

V. 41.0200, *Literary Interpretation*: A gateway course into the English major that seeks to introduce and fortify different modes of reading and interpretation through a range of interpretative strategies—New Critical, biographical, New Historical, feminist—that will aid in the close reading of works of drama, poetry, and prose fiction (2002).

Teaching Assistant and Instructor, Department of English, University of California

ENL 166, *Love and Desire in Contemporary American Poetry*: A study of the themes of love, marriage, sexual desire, and companionship in poems by Hass, Kizer, Gilbert, Lee, Rich, Doty, and others (1997).

ENL 156, *Introduction to the Short Story*: A survey of the genre's major developments and major practitioners (1995, 1996).

ENL 5P, *Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry*: A craft-centered workshop that familiarizes students with the formal techniques of writing poetry, such as meter, line, rhyme, voice, and image (1995, 1996).

ENL 5F, *Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction*: A craft-centered workshop that familiarizes students with the formal techniques of writing fiction, such as character development, plot, point of view, and voice (Winter 1996, Spring 1996).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

American Studies Association
Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association
Northeast Modern Language Association

REFERENCES

Ross Posnock, Department of English, Columbia University
Phillip Brian Harper, Department of English, New York University
Alan Williamson, Department of English, University of California (Davis)
Bryan Waterman, Department of English, New York University
Michael Collier, Department of English, University of Maryland
Pat C. Hoy, Department of English, New York University
Dean Young, Department of English, University of Texas
Linda Bierds, Department of English, University of Washington