Stanford Workshop in Poetics

Faculty Chair: Nicholas Jenkins
Graduate Coordinator: Lorenzo Bartolucci

The Workshop in Poetics was founded in 2007 by Professors Roland Greene and Nicholas Jenkins and has met regularly ever since. Its core members are about twenty graduate students and several members of the Stanford faculty. Everyone is welcome.

The workshop’s main purpose is to offer Ph.D. students a place to present their work in progress in a community of peers and faculty. Not bound by language or period, the group has discussed most of the literatures studied at Stanford.

The workshop’s events follow several formats. The most common format is a discussion of work in progress by either a member of the group or a visiting speaker; for these events, the paper under discussion is circulated in advance. Some events concern the state of the field, identifying a topic or issue or a recent book for general discussion, often introduced by the author. A third category deals with neglected classics in poetics, usually books or articles that once were widely known and are still important but that are now seldom found in curricula or criticism. In the history below, each event is designated work in progress [WP], state of the field [SF], or lost classic [LC].

Student members find the workshop especially useful because it augments their coursework and dissertation writing with fresh perspectives and an attentive, often challenging community of interlocutors. Many advanced dissertations in the group have been discussed in two meetings, and in principle nearly every chapter by a member can find an occasion to be presented.

Certain conventions of the group encourage students to develop their critical voices. For instance, a less advanced student is often asked to serve as a respondent, and the faculty members typically speak only in the final half hour of a two-hour meeting, after most of the students have joined the conversation and staked out positions. The ethos of the group is communicated to new members, especially that people should make a point of attending those events that are remote from their interests both as a way of absorbing new methods and angles and as a show of support for other members.

In 2010-11 and 2015-16, Greene and Jenkins offered a graduate seminar, Poetics Then and Now, as a formal exploration of the group's interests. Starting in 2019, the workshop has also been hosting “Lunch Poems” (h/t Frank O'Hara) a series of informal lunch meetings dedicated to the discussion of poems selected by participants.

One continuing project is to explore connections with groups concerned with poetics at Chicago, Michigan, Brown, and Northwestern, including a joint meeting via video with one group and perhaps a common archive of materials.
2019-20

Graduate Coordinator: Lorenzo Bartolucci

January 28, 2020
Gregory Jusdanis, “From Cuzco to Constantinople: Understanding Otherwise” [WP]

November 18, 2019
Nicholas Fenech, “Carnal Obscurity: Allusion and Etymology in George Herbert” [WP]

November 14, 2019
John Kerrigan (Cambridge University), “Otters and Others: Ted Hughes to Alice Oswald” [WP]

October 28, 2019
Open discussion of Josephine Miles’ “Eras in English Poetry” [LC]

2018-19

Graduate Coordinators: Melih Levi, Lorenzo Bartolucci, Radhika Koul

June 6, 2019
Jessica Beckman, “The Kinetic Text” [WP]

May 28, 2019
Shonaleeka Kaul (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), “The Ethics and Aesthetics of Time: Sanskrit Kāvya & the Writing of History in 12th-Century Kashmir” [WP]

May 2, 2019
Timothy Hampton (University of California, Berkeley) discussed his new book Bob Dylan’s Poetics: How the Songs Work (2019) [SF]

February 26, 2019
Karen van Dyck (Columbia University), “Migration, Translingualism, Translation” [WP]

February 20, 2019
Shoshana Olidort, “Tender Lingering: Gertrude Stein’s Surface Poetics” [WP]

February 7, 2019
Vincent Barletta, “Rhythmic Poetics” [WP]

December 4, 2018
Jennifer Scappettone (University of Chicago), “From Pentecost to Babel: Wireless Imaginations in Modern Poetry and the Dream (or Nightmare) of a Transnational Language” [WP]

November 27, 2018
Beverley Bie Brahic, “Francis Ponge and the Voice of Things” [SF]
October 26, 2018
Lea Pao, “Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock’s Mitausdruck, or: How Poetry Organizes Its Objects” [WP]

2017-18
Graduate Coordinator: Melih Levi

May 29, 2018
Alanna Hickey, “Back then tomorrow: Indigenous Resistance and the Occupation of Alcatraz” [WP]

May 15, 2018
Clare Lees (King’s College), “Medieval Somehow: Post-War British Poetry and Early Medieval Culture in Britain and Ireland” [WP]

May 1, 2018
Paul Kiparsky, Arto Tapani Anttila, Ryan Heuser, Scott Richard Stevens, Scott Borgeson, “The Rise and Fall of Anti-Metricality” [WP]

April 10, 2018

March 6, 2018
Luke Barnhart, “True Plain Words from Your True-Telling Friend” [WP]

February 27, 2018

February 8, 2018
Stephanie Burt (Harvard University), “Shipping Containers” [WP]

November 27, 2017
Karen Emmerich (Princeton University), Literary Translation and the Making of Originals [WP]

October 30, 2017
Justin Tackett, “Stethoscopy: A Poetics of Attention and Voice” [WP]

October 2, 2017
Open discussion of Alexander Veselovsky’s “Introduction to Historical Poetics” and “The Age of Sensibility” with remarks by Nariman Skakov [LC]
2016-17
Graduate Coordinator: Armen Davoudian

October 12, 2016
Adam Shellhorse (Temple University), "Brazilian Concrete Poetry as Anti-Literature" [WP]

November 1, 2016
Paul Kiparsky and Dyche Mullins (University of California, San Francisco) led a discussion of Vladimir Nabokov's *Notes on Russian Prosody* [LC]

December 7, 2016
Amanda Licato, "Paul Laurence Dunbar, Persona, and Poetic Performance" [WP]

January 16, 2017

February 15, 2017
Marisa Galvez, "The Description of Historical Poetics: The Courtly Crusade Idiom" [WP]

February 28, 2017
Siobhan Phillips (Dickinson College), "Elizabeth Bishop's Poems of Development" [WP]

April 11, 2017
Armen Davoudian, "Robert Frost, Books Against the End of the World" [WP]

April 25, 2017
Alexander Key, "Language Between God and the Poets" [WP]

May 24, 2017
Gillian White (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), "Claim Claim Claim: The Problem of Hybrids" [WP]

2015-16
Graduate Coordinators: Mary Kim, Armen Davoudian

October 8, 2015
Open discussion of Wilhelm Dilthey's *The Imagination of the Poet* [LC]

October 28, 2015
Eric Weiskott (Boston College), "Before Prosody: Early English Poetics in Practice and Theory" [WP]

November 19, 2015
Roland Greene and Armen Davoudian led a discussion of the Prosody Online project [SF]

February 3, 2016
Jesse Nathan, "Pound's Browning: Hang It All" [WP]

March 3, 2016
Stephen Sansom, "Lucan's Hesiod: Erictho as Typhon in Bellum" [WP]

April 7, 2016
Justin Tackett, "Telegraphy: A Poetics of Immediacy and Compression" [WP]

May 5, 2016
Eliza Richards (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), "Battle Lines: Poetry, Media, and Violence in the U.S. Civil War" [WP]

May 25, 2016
Open discussion of Erich Auerbach's "Figura" [LC]

2014-15
Graduate Coordinators: Julia Noble, Mary Kim

October 7, 2014
Julia Noble, "Transmuting Verdure into Onyx: Language, Prismatic Color, and Gemstone Imagery of Marianne Moore’s 'An Octopus’" [WP]

October 28, 2014
Open discussion of John Hollander's Vision and Resonance: Two Senses of Poetic Form [LC]

November 11, 2014
Denise Gigante and Claude Willan led a discussion of James Thomson's The Seasons [LC]

January 26, 2015
Mark Payne (University of Chicago), "The Choric Con-Sociality of Nonhuman Life: Schiller, Hölderlin, and Interpellation by Nature in Hellenistic Poetry" [WP]

February 9, 2015

March 2, 2015
Caroline Egan, "Imperial Poetics: The Cantares mexicanos across the Aztec and Spanish Empires" [WP]

April 10, 2015
Marjorie Levinson (University of Michigan), "Lyric: The Idea of This Invention" [WP]

May 4, 2015
Vincent Barletta, "Rhythm and the Iberian Renaissance" [WP]

May 18, 2015
Derek Mong, "Whitman, Dickinson, and the American Wedding" [WP]

2013-14
Graduate Coordinators: Caroline Egan, Julia Noble

September 24, 2013
Open discussion of Hegel's Lectures on Aesthetics [LC]

October 16, 2013
Susan Stewart (Princeton University), "Wordsworth and the Representation of Ruin" [WP]

November 19, 2013
Cecilia Enjuto Rangel (University of Oregon), "Weaving National and Gender Politics: The Transatlantic Poetics of Rosalía de Castro and Julia Burgos" [WP]

January 14, 2014
Luke Parker, "From Necropolis to European Night: Russian Poet Vladislav Khodasevich in Revolution and Exile, 1921-1927" [WP]

January 28, 2014
Talya Meyers, "When Is Camões' Epic?" [WP]

February 11, 2014
Rhiannon Lewis, "So Slow an Inventor: Ben Jonson's Labor" [WP]

March 4, 2014
Christopher Kark, "Daedalus, Bacchus, and the Baseless Foundation of Portuguese India" [WP]

April 14, 2014
Lucy Alford, "Forms of Salient Presence: Objects of Transitive Attention" [WP]

May 6, 2014
Jahan Ramazani (University of Virginia), "On Poetry and Its Others: News,
Prayer, Song, and the Dialogue of Genres" [SF]

May 27, 2014
Vered Shemtov, "To Dwell in Possibility: On the Notion of Poems as Homes" [WP]

2012-13
Graduate Coordinators: Lucy Alford, Caroline Egan, Julia Noble

October 2, 2012
Roland Greene led a discussion of essays by Yvor Winters' "Poetic Convention," "Primitivism and Decadence," and "Problems for the Modern Critic of Literature" [LC]

October 23, 2012

December 4, 2012
Michael North (University of California, Los Angeles), "'Make It New' and the Endgame of Modernism" [WP]

January 29, 2012
Alexander Key, "Old School Criticism: Eleventh-Century Arabic Analysis of Poetry" [WP]

February 12, 2013
Bronwen Tate, "Landscapes and Maps: Scale and Representation in Elizabeth Bishop’s Ekphrastic Poems" [WP]

March 7, 2013
Jonathan Culler (Cornell University), "Theory of the Lyric" [WP]

April 11, 2013
"Digital Poetics?" A Virtual Forum with the Poetry and Poetics Colloquium at Northwestern University [SF]

May 14, 2013
Daniel Tiffany (University of Southern California), "Poetry and Kitsch: A Secret History" [WP]

May 28, 2013
Virginia Ramos, "From Lyric to Lyrical Novel" [WP]
2011-12

Graduate Coordinators: Lucy Alford, Luke Parker

October 11, 2011
Ramie Targoff (Brandeis University), "Uncommon Graves: The Afterlife of Renaissance Sonnets" [WP]

November 9, 2011
Luke Parker led a discussion of Yuri Lotman's *Analysis of the Poetic Text* (1972) [LC]

November 30, 2011
Bronwen Tate, "Anglophone Haiku in the Post-War Period: Reactions, Responses, Adaptations" [WP]

January 25, 2012
Noam Pines, "The Poetics of Dehumanization" [WP]

February 8, 2012
Kathryn Hume, "The Performance of Analysis in Seventeenth-Century Jesuit Theater" [WP]

February 29, 2012
Open discussion of elegies and anti-elegies [SF]

March 14, 2012
James Wood, "Wordsworth's Anecdotal Poetics" [WP]

April 11, 2012
Muhammad Siddiq (University of California, Berkeley): "A Conflicted Legacy: Mahmoud Darwish and the Problematics of Identity" [WP]

April 25, 2012

May 9, 2012
Michelle Clayton (University of California, Los Angeles), "New World Views" [WP]

May 30, 2012
Emily Kopley, "The Waves as Lyrical Novel" [WP]
2010-11

Graduate Coordinators: Kathryn Hume, Noam Pines

September 28, 2010

October 26, 2010
Christopher Donaldson, "Locality, Locodescription and the Eighteenth-Century English Sonnet" [WP]

November 9, 2010
Open discussion of essays by Erich Auerbach and Hans-Robert Jauss on *Fleurs du mal* [LC]

November 30, 2010
Andrew Goldstone, "Late Style in Eliot and Adorno" [WP]

January 11, 2011
Kathryn Hume led a discussion of Max Black's "Metaphor" (1954) and David Hills's "Aptness and Truth in Verbal Metaphor" (2006) [SF]

February 2, 2011
Lucy Alford, "Veillant, doutant, roulant, brillant, et méditant: Contingency and Poetic Attention in *Un Coup de dés"* [WP]

February 15, 2011
Douglas Mao (Johns Hopkins University), "Stevens on Belief in Utopia" [WP]

March 8, 2011
Christopher Johnson (Harvard University), "N+2: A Renaissance Poetics of Enumeration" [WP]

April 19, 2011
Alison James (University of Chicago), "Transatlantic Oulipo: Procedure and Experiment in Contemporary Poetry" [WP]

May 10, 2011
Oren Izenberg (University of Illinois, Chicago), "Poetry of Ease" [WP]

May 31, 2011
Roland Greene, "Obversal and Divagation in the Poetry of the Americas" [WP]

2009-10
Graduate Coordinators: Harris Feinsod, Kathryn Hume

October 6, 2009
The Mexican poet Coral Bracho and Forrest Gander (Brown University) led a discussion of contemporary Mexican poetry in *Reversible Monuments: Contemporary Mexican Poetry*, edited by Mónica de la Torre and Michael Wiegers (2002) [SF]

October 20, 2009

November 17, 2009
Tyrus Miller (University of California, Santa Cruz) led a discussion of poetry, autonomy and partisanship, concerning his "The Ashes of Civic Poetry: Pasolini and Philology after Gramsci" and his translation of György Lukács, "Poetry of the Party" [SF]

December 1, 2009
Hanna Janiszewska, "Poets Solving Problems: The Case of Coleridge" [WP]

January 12, 2010
Marisa Galvez, introduction to *Songbook: How Lyrics Became Poetry* [WP]

January 26, 2010
David Marno, "Devotional Poetry"; Ruth Kaplan, "Spenser and the Problem of Pity" [WP]

February 16, 2010
Frederick Blumberg, "Literary Agency in the Renaissance" [WP]

March 16, 2010
Fabian Goppelsröder, "Felix Fénéon's *Nouvelles en trois lignes*" [WP]

April 6, 2010
Kathryn Hume led a discussion of Aristotle's *Poetics*; Horace's *Ars poetica*; and Longinus' *On the Sublime* [SF]

April 27, 2010
Daniel Heller-Roazen (Princeton University), "Arithmetic, Rhythmics, and Rhyme: Elements of Pythagorean Poetics" [WP]

May 11, 2010
Claire Bowen, "'It All Depends': A New Elizabeth Bishop, Half a Century On"; Harris Feinsod, "The Renga and the Hoax: Poetry and Cosmopolitan Form" [WP]
May 25, 2010
Marina MacKay (Washington University), "Wartime Prisons and Postwar Critics" [WP]

2008-09
Graduate Coordinators: Harris Feinsod, Kathryn Hume, Lauren Boehm
Visiting members: Johanna Drucker (University of California, Los Angeles), Jamie Hilder (University of British Columbia)

September 30, 2008

October 28, 2008
Michael Eskin (Columbia University), "Whoever Writes Poetry is Not Dead': Saving Grünbein's Crusoe" [WP]

November 11, 2008
Anton Vander Zee, "Whitman and Late Style" [WP]

December 2, 2008
David Marno, "Unfolding Grace: The Poetics of John Donne's Holy Sonnets" [WP]

January 13, 2009
Ruth Kaplan, "John Skelton's Conversation" [WP]

February 3, 2009
Johanna Drucker (University of California, Los Angeles), "Poetry Wars: The Lived History of the Avant-Garde" [WP]

February 24, 2009
Carrie Noland (University of California, Irvine), "Not a Dancing Bear: Performance, Textuality, and Dwelling in Francophone Caribbean Poetry" [WP]

March 3, 2009
Ursula Heise, "Comparative Ecocriticism and the Emergence of Ecopoetry" [WP]

April 7, 2009
Haun Saussy (Yale University), on his edition of Ezra Pound and Ernest Fenollosa's The Chinese Written Character as a Medium for Poetry (2008) [SF]
April 28, 2009
Open discussion of symbolism, including S.T. Coleridge's *The Statesman's Manual* (1816); Charles Baudelaire's "Correspondances" (1857); Stéphane Mallarmé's "Crise de vers" (1886); W.B. Yeats's "The Symbolism of Poetry" (1900); and Richard Candida-Smith's introduction and first chapter of *Mallarmé's Children: Symbolism and the Renewal of Experience* (1996) [SF]

May 12, 2009
Harris Feinsod, prospectus for "Fluent Mundo: Inter-American Poetry, 1939-1973" and "The Languages of Post-Symbolism" [WP]

June 2, 2009
Jahan Ramazani (University of Virginia) discussed his new book *A Transnational Poetics* (2009) [SF]

2007-08
Graduate Coordinator: Harris Feinsod
Visiting members: Jeremy Braddock (Cornell University), Gerald Bruns (University of Notre Dame), James Clifford (University of California, Santa Cruz)

October 2, 2007
Harris Feinsod led a discussion of Fredric Jameson, "The Poetics of Totality" and "Baudelaire as Modernist and Postmodernist" in *The Modernist Papers* (2007) [SF]

October 16, 2007

November 6, 2007
Gerald Bruns (University of Notre Dame), "On Poetry as Self-Formation: Susan Howe and Lyn Hejinian" [WP]

November 27, 2007
Claire Bowen, "Sonic Youth: Frank O'Hara, War Poet" [WP]

January 8, 2008
Open discussion of selected chapters of I.A. Richards' *Principles of Literary Criticism* (1924) and *Practical Criticism* (1929) [LC]

January 29, 2008
Jeremy Braddock (Cornell University), "The Re-Membering of Innovation: Ezra Pound as Anthologist" [WP]

February 12, 2008
David Marno, "Grace and Mannerist Poetics" [WP]
February 28, 2008
Clayton Eshleman discussed his *Complete Poetry of César Vallejo: A Bilingual Edition* (2007) [SF]

March 4, 2008
Virginia Jackson (Tufts University), "Who Reads Lyric?" [WP]

April 15, 2008
Paul Kiparsky led a discussion of Nigel Fabb's *Language and Literary Structure* and reviews by Kristin Hanson and Lev Blumenfeld [SF]

April 29, 2008
Open discussion of the New Formalism, concerning Marjorie Levinson's "What is New Formalism?" (2007) and Susan Wolfson's *Formal Charges* (1997) [SF]

May 13, 2008
Chris Rovee, "William Morris and the Disappearance of Art" [WP]

May 27, 2008
Clare Cavanagh (Northwestern University) discussed her forthcoming *Lyric Poetry and Modern Politics: Russia, Poland, and the West* (2009) and two portions of her biography of Czeslaw Milosz in progress: Chapter 8, "The Unacknowledged Legislator's Dream: Czeslaw Milosz and Anglo-American Poetry" and "Conclusion: Martyrs, Survivors, and Success Stories" [WP]

**2006-07**
Graduate Coordinator: Harris Feinsod

January 10, 2007
Open discussion of Michael Riffaterre's "Interpretation and Descriptive Poetry: A Reading of Wordsworth's 'Yew-Trees'" (1973) and "Prosopopoeia" (1985) [LC]

January 31, 2007
Open discussion of Daniel Tiffany's *Toy Medium: Materialism and Modern Lyric* (2000) [SF]

February 21, 2007
Shafiq Shamel, "Memory and the Moment: Temporality and the Poetic Event in Goethe's *West-oestlicher Divan"* [WP]

March 7, 2007
Open discussion of Giorgio Agamben's *The End of the Poem*, translated by Daniel Heller-Roazen (1999) [SF]
April 4, 2007
Nicole Lopez, "Il Montale amoroso: The Epistolary, the Love Lyric, and the Poetics of the Object" [WP]

April 25, 2007
Stephen Cushman (University of Virginia) and Roland Greene led a discussion of the goals of the new edition of the *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* [SF]

May 9, 2007
Marjorie Perloff, "From Concrete to Digital: The Legacy of the Brazilian Arrière-Garde" [WP]

May 30, 2007
Nicholas Jenkins, "Landscape with Ghosts: The Memory of War in Auden's Earliest Poems" [WP]