

Joshua Landy

*Andrew B. Hammond Chair of French Language, Literature, and Civilization
and Professor of Comparative Literature*

Department of Comparative Literature
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2031

tel.: 650-723-4914
fax: 650-723-0482
email: landy@stanford.edu

Education

PhD: Comparative Literature, Princeton University, 1997
MA: Cambridge University, 1991
BA: French & German, Churchill College, Cambridge, 1988

Academic Employment

1996-present Stanford University (Assistant Professor of French 1996; Associate Professor of French 2004; Full Professor of French 2013; Andrew B. Hammond Chair 2013; Professor of Comparative Literature 2013)
1995-1996 University Lecturer, Princeton University

Visiting Professorships

2019 (Spring) Kohut Distinguished Visiting Professor, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago
2004 (Fall) Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago

Fellowships, Awards, and Nominations

2020-21 Philosophy Talk named finalist in Social Issues category of the NY Festivals radio competition
2019-20 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center
2015-16 nominated for Phi Beta Kappa teaching award, Stanford University
2011-12 Fellowship at the National Humanities Center
2008-09 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center
2001 Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University
1999-2000 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center
1999 The Walter J. Gores Award for Teaching Excellence, Stanford University
1994-95 Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorific Fellowship in the Humanities

Directorships

2004-present Co-founder and co-director of the Philosophy and Literature Initiative (includes role as Director of Undergraduate Studies for a set of major tracks)
2013-19 Director of the Structured Liberal Education program

Academic Publications

Books:

- *Marcel Proust: A Very Short Introduction*. (Under contract with Oxford University Press; MS submitted.)
- *How to Do Things with Fictions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- *Philosophy as Fiction: Self, Deception, and Knowledge in Proust*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Edited volumes:

- *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, with Michael Saler. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2009.
- *Thematics: New Approaches*, with Claude Bremond and Thomas Pavel. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1995.

Articles and book chapters:

- “Saving the Self from Stories: Resistance to Narrative in Primo Levi’s *Periodic Table*,” forthcoming at *Narrative*.
- “Why a Novel?,” forthcoming in *Marcel Proust’s In Search of Lost Time: Philosophical Perspectives*, ed. Kate Elkins, New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- “Don’t Feed the Liars! On Fraudulent Memoirs, and Why They’re Bad,” forthcoming in *Philosophy and Literature* 46:1 (2022).
- “[Lyric Self-Fashioning: Shakespeare’s ‘Sonnet 35’ as Formal Model](#),” *Philosophy and Literature* 45:1 (2021): 224-48.
- “8 ½: Self-Reflexive Fiction and Mental Training,” in *Metacinema*, ed. David Larocca, Oxford University Press, 2021: 139-54.
- “[Why Proust Isn’t an ‘Essayist,’ and Why it Matters](#),” *Romantic Review* 111:3 (2020): 392–407.
- “[Art, Intention, and Everyday Psychology](#),” *nonsite* 32 (2020).
- “[In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden](#),” *New Literary History* 51:1 (2020):145-76.
- “[To Thine Own Selves be True-ish: Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* as Formal Model](#),” *Shakespeare’s Hamlet: Philosophical Perspectives*, ed. Tzachi Zamir, New York: Oxford University Press, 2018: 154-87.
- “[The Most Overrated Article of All Time?](#)” *Philosophy and Literature* 41:2 (2017): 465-470.
- “[Mental Calisthenics and Self-Reflexive Fiction](#),” *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Approaches to Literature*, ed. Lisa Zunshine, New York: Oxford University Press, 2015, 559-80.
- “[Conditional Goods and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: How Literature \(as a Whole\) could Matter Again](#),” *SubStance* 42:2 (2013): 48-60.
- “[Deceit, Desire, and the Literature Professor: Why Girardians Exist](#),” *Republics of Letters* 3:1 (2012), <http://rofl.stanford.edu/node/108>.
- “[The Devil, the Master-Criminal, and the Re-Enchantment of the World \(on *The Usual Suspects*\)](#),” *Philosophy and Literature* 36:1 (2012): 37-57. (Selected as “Editor’s Pick” to represent the journal, May 2020.)
- “[Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities](#),” *Poetics Today* 33:2 (2012):167-214.
- “[Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*](#),” *Critical Inquiry* 37:3 (2011): 497-514.
- ““Un égoïsme utilisable pour autrui”: le statut normatif de l’auto-description chez Proust,” *Morales de Proust*, ed. Mariolina Bertini & Antoine Compagnon, Paris: L’Harmattan, 2010: 83-99.
- “[Corruption by Literature](#),” *Republics of Letters: A Journal for the Study of Knowledge, Politics, and the Arts* 1, no. 2 (April 3, 2010), <https://arcade.stanford.edu/rofl/corruption-literature>.
- “[Passion, Counter-Passion, Catharsis: Beckett and Flaubert on Feeling Nothing](#),” *The Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Literature*, ed. Garry Hagberg & Walter Jost, Oxford: Blackwell, 2010: 28-38.
- “[The Abyss of Freedom: Love and Legitimacy in Constant’s *Adolphe*](#),” *Nineteenth Century French Studies* 37:3-4 (2009): 193-213.
- “[Modern Magic: Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin and Stéphane Mallarmé](#),” *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, ed. Joshua Landy and Michael Saler, Stanford University Press, 2009: 102-29.
- “[The Varieties of Modern Enchantment](#)” (with Michael Saler). Introduction to *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, ed. Joshua Landy and Michael Saler, Stanford University Press, 2009: 1-14.
- “[A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction](#),” *Art and Ethical Criticism*, ed. Garry Hagberg, Oxford: Blackwell, 2008, 63-94.
- “Mallarméan Magic: Retrospective Necessity, Lucid Illusion, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” *Symbolism* 8 (2008), 259-78.
- “[Philosophical Training Grounds: Socratic Sophistry and Platonic Perfection in *Symposium* and *Gorgias*](#),” *Arion* 15:1 (2007): 63-122.
- “[Proust, his Narrator, and the Importance of the Distinction](#),” *Poetics Today* 25:1 (2004): 91-135.
- “[Nietzsche, Proust, and Will-to-Ignorance](#),” *Philosophy and Literature* 26:1 (2002): 1-23.

- “[The Texture of Proust’s Novel](#),” *The Cambridge Companion to Proust*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001: 117-34.
- “[Les moi en moi: The Proustian Self in Philosophical Perspective](#),” *New Literary History* 32:1 (2001): 91-132.
- “Introduction.” *Thematis: New Approaches* (with Claude Bremond and Thomas Pavel), Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995: 1-6.
- “[Music, Letters, Truth and Lies: ‘L’Après-Midi d’un Faune’ as an ars poetica](#).” *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature* 42 (1994): 57-69.

Responses and occasional pieces:

- “[Sobre uma recensão estranha na Forma de Vida](#),” *Forma de Vida* 3 (2013), online.
- “Μια ωραία ζωή” [“A Beautiful Life”], trans. Chrysoula Mentzalira. *The Athens Review of Books*, July-August 2011, 14-18.
- “[Il falso di sacre teorie](#),” an interview with Remo Ceserani. *Il Manifesto*, May 22, 2011: 10-11.
- “[Secular Magic in a Rational Age](#).” *The Human Experience* (<http://humanexperience.stanford.edu/thinkingtwice-enchantment>), February 2010.
- “Re-Enchantment” (with Michael Saler), *The American Scholar, Summer 2009*: 10-11.
- “[A Beatrice for Proust?](#)” *Poetics Today* 28:4 (2008): 607-18.
- “[Treason of the Readers: Karl Heinz Bohrer and the Autonomy of the Aesthetic](#),” *Stanford Presidential Lectures Forum*, October 1998.

Reviews:

- “[The Point of the Pyramid: Michael Fried’s Flaubert’s ‘Gueuloir](#),” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, July 20th, 2013.
- “[Proust Among the Psychologists](#)”: Review of Edward Bizub, *Proust et le moi divisé: La Recherche, creuset de la psychologie expérimentale (1874-1914)*, *Philosophy and Literature* 35:2 (2011): 375-387.
- “[Philosophy to the Rescue](#)”: Review of Mark William Roche, *Why Literature Matters in the Twenty-First Century*, and Frank B. Farrell, *Why Does Literature Matter?*, *Philosophy and Literature* 31:2 (2007): 405-19.
- “[The Paradox of Perfection](#)”: Review of Thomas G. Pavel, *La pensée du roman*, *Poetics Today* 26:1 (2005): 161-68.
- “[Accidental Kinsmen: Proust and Nietzsche](#)”: Review of Duncan Large, *Nietzsche and Proust: A Comparative Study*, *Philosophy and Literature* 27:2 (2003): 450-55.
- “[Philosophy as Self-Fashioning: Alexander Nehamas’s Art of Living](#),” with R. Lanier Anderson. *Diacritics* 31:1 (2001):25-54.
- “Pearson on Mallarmé,” Review of Roger Pearson, *Unfolding Mallarme: The Development of a Poetic Art*, *Nineteenth Century French Studies* 26:3-4 (1998): 463-65.

Work in Progress

Book Projects:

How Literature Can (Really) Change Your Life.
Literature, Narrative, and the Shape of a Life.

Articles:

- “Kafka’s Calvinism.”
- “Fiction, Politics, and the Limits of Empathy.”
- “The Myth of Imaginative Resistance.”
- “A Voyage of Self-Discovery: *Westworld* and the Benefits of Fiction.”
- “Justifying the Cross.”
- “The Shape of a Life: What’s Missing (and what’s not) from *Jean Santeuil*.”

Radio Appearances

- “A Philosophical New Year” (Open Air, KALW), January 7, 2021.
- “[What’s It All About?](#)” (*To Be Or Not To Be: Lockdown Shakespeare*, episode 5), October, 2020.
- “[Your Legal Rights: Ethics in a Time of Pandemic and Protest](#),” (Your Legal Rights, KALW), June 17, 2020.
- “[Fiction and Morality](#)” (To the Best of Our Knowledge, NPR), May 4, 2014.
- “[Haunting](#)” (The Stanford Storytelling Project, Episode 407), October 29, 2012.
- “[How Fiction Shapes Us](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, recorded October 10, 2012.
- Interview with Melissa Culross, KCBS San Francisco, July 15, 2012.
- *Peninsula Report*, KZSU Stanford, July 13, 2012.
- Interview with Scott Lettieri, KGO San Francisco, July 11, 2012.
- “[Haunting](#),” Stanford Storytelling Project, October 31, 2012 (30:00-38:30).
- “[Thinking Inside the Box](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 28, 2011 (34:40-40:50).
- “[Reading, Narrative, and the Self](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 28, 2010.
- “[The Uses of Literature](#),” *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, April 20, 2010.
- “[The Art of Living](#)” (with Lanier Anderson), *Forum*, KQED, May 4, 2009.
- “[Serious Fun](#)” (The Stanford Storytelling Project, Episode 206), January 29, 2009.
- “[The Language of Fiction](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 22, 2005.
- “[Marcel Proust](#),” *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, November 8, 2005.

Radio Appearances as Host

- “[The Ethics of Awesomeness](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 29, 2021.
- “[Microaggressions](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 15, 2021.
- “[Referring to the World: Ken Taylor’s Final Work](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 25, 2021.
- “[Your Brain on Literature](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 11, 2021.
- “[Summer Reading List 2021](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 20, 2021.
- “[The Lives and Ideas of the Vienna Circle](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 23, 2021.
- “[What has Replaced Freud?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 28, 2021.
- “[The Rhetoric of Big Tech](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 31, 2021.
- “[Democracy by Numbers](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 17, 2021.
- “[The Examined Year: 2020](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 27, 2020.
- “[Minds and Matter](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 13, 2020.
- “[The Arts for All?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 29, 2020.
- “[Are we All to Blame?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 15, 2020.
- “[What’s in a Game?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 25, 2020.
- “[Why We Hate](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 18, 2020.
- “[Science and Skepticism](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 4, 2020.
- “[Citizenship and Justice](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 13, 2020.
- “[The Merits of Meritocracy](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 30, 2020.
- “[Can Streets Discriminate?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 9, 2020.
- “[The Ethical Jerk](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 26, 2020.
- “[Walter Benjamin and the Re-Enchanted World](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 12, 2020.
- “[Pet Ethics](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 28, 2020.
- “[Time for Summer Reading](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, June 14, 2020.
- “[Covid Conundrums And Moral Dilemmas](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 31, 2020.
- “[Comforting Conversations Part Two](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 24, 2020.
- “[Comforting Conversations Part One](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 17, 2020.
- “[\(Why\) Money Matters](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 26, 2020.
- “[Philosophy and the Superhero](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 12, 2020.
- “[The 2020 Dionysus Awards](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 15, 2020.
- “[Is the Self an Illusion?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 23, 2020.

- “[Death of the Sentence](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 26, 2020.
- “[Comedy and the Culture Wars](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 12, 2020.
- “[A Tribute to Ken Taylor](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 19, 2019.
- “[Sanctuary Cities](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 17, 2019.
- “[Hobbes and the Ideal Citizen](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 3, 2019.
- “[Conscious Machines](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 20, 2019.
- “[The Allure of Authoritarianism](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 6, 2019.
- “[Explanation at its Best](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 29, 2019.
- “[Changing Minds on Climate Change](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 8, 2019.
- “[Reading the Troubled Past](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 11, 2019.
- “[Summer Reading \(and Misreading\)](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 7, 2019.
- “[What is Religious Belief?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 5, 2019.
- “[Is Philanthropy Bad for Democracy?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 28, 2019.
- “[Is Postmodernism Really to Blame for Post-Truth?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 21, 2019.
- “[Hacking the Brain: Beyond the Five Senses](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, April 14, 2019.
- “[Immigration and Multiculturalism](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, March 10, 2019.
- “[Envy: Vice or Virtue?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 27, 2019.
- “[The 2019 Dionysus Awards](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 17, 2019.
- “[What do we Owe Future Generations?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, February 10, 2019.
- “[The Examined Year 2018](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 30, 2018.
- “[Foucault and Power](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 2, 2018.
- “[The Creative Life](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 25, 2018.
- “[Does Reputation Matter?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 11, 2018.
- “[Can Reason Save Us?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 21, 2018.
- “[The New Golden Age of Television](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 30, 2018.
- “[The Psychology of Cruelty](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 16, 2018.
- “[The Athlete as Philosopher](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 26, 2018.
- “[The Ethics of Algorithms](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, August 12, 2018.
- “[Does Science Overreach?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 22, 2018.
- “[Summer Reading List](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 1, 2018.
- “[Are We Alone?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, April 29, 2018.
- “[Trolling, Bullying, and Flame Wars](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, April 15, 2018.
- “[Monstrous Technologies?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, April 8, 2018.
- “[The Culture Industry](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, March 25, 2018.
- “[How to Humbly Disagree](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, March 11, 2018.
- “[The 2018 Dionysus Awards](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, TBA, February 18, 2018.
- “[Frantz Fanon and the Violence of Colonialism](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 28, 2018.
- “[Fractured Identities](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, January 21, 2018.
- “[The Examined Year 2017](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 31, 2017.
- “[Can Speech Kill?](#)” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 19, 2017.
- “[Midlife and Meaning](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, December 3, 2017.
- “[The Philosophy of Retirement](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 10, 2017.
- “[The Internet of Things](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 15, 2017.
- “[Post-Truth Politics](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, September 10, 2017.

Radio Appearances as Guest Host

- “[Summer Reading List 2017](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, July 2, 2017.
- “[Should Our Beliefs Aim at Truth?](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, May 14, 2017.
- “On Beauty,” parts [one](#) and [two](#) (with Alexander Nehamas), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, February 15 2011.

- “[The Uses of Philosophy](#)” (with John Perry and Kenneth Taylor), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, February 13 2011.
- “[The Re-Enchantment of the World](#)” (with Michael Saler), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, May 19 2009.
- “[Language and Thought](#)” (with Lera Boroditsky), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, November 4, 2008.

Invited Lectures

- “Life as a story, self as a poem,” Marin Philosophical Society, July 19, 2021.
- “The Pragmatics of Fiction: Why There Isn't Always a Message,” Apgar Workshop on Teaching European Civilization, Louisiana State University, November 20, 2020.
- “Why Proust’s Novel Isn’t Just a Big Mess, and Why It Matters.” “Philosophical Angles on Proust” conference, University of Glasgow, May 16, 2019.
- “Ni Montaigne ni Musil: Proust non-essayiste.” “Proust essayiste” conference, Collège de France, May 14, 2019.
- Response to John Gibson, “Metaphor & the Aesthetics of Insight.” Philosophy and Literature Workshop, University of Chicago, May 9, 2019.
- “In Praise of Depth.” London Aesthetics Forum, June 14, 2017.
- “Saving the Self from Stories: Resistance to Narrative in Primo Levi’s *Periodic Table*.” ‘Inscribed Identities’ Conference, Stanford University, May 13, 2017.
- “In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden.” Comparative Literature, Yale University, March 27, 2017.
- “In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden.” Comparative Cultures and Literature Forum, Cornell University, March 23, 2017; “Formative Fictions,” March 24, 2017.
- “In Praise of Depth: or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Hidden.” Philosophy and Literature Workshop, University of Chicago, January 5, 2017.
- “Formative Fictions.” *Law and Imagination* Conference, Queen Mary University, London, June 15, 2016.
- “To Thine Own Selves be True-ish: Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* as Formal Model.” Workshop on the Philosophy of Literature, University of York, June 8, 2016.
- “To Thine Own Selves be True-ish: Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* as Formal Model.” Royal Conference: Philosophy and Literature, UT Austin, February 26, 2016.
- “Redemption, Palliation, and Endurance: Three Modes of Self-Narration.” Bernd Magnus Memorial Conference, UC Riverside, February 13, 2016.
- “Slight Expectations: Literature in (a) Crisis.” Literature and Crisis conference (keynote), Florida International University, April 10, 2015.
- “Fictions that Train Your Brain.” “Raising the Bar,” San Francisco, February 24, 2015.
- “Proust and Consciousness.” Stanford Consciousness Workshop, October 30, 2014.
- “The Value of a Liberal Education.” Stanford Alumni Association of Paris, May 27, 2014.
- “Literature and the Brain: Promises and Perils of the Cognitive Turn.” Closing address, “Impression & Object,” Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, March 28, 2014.
- “Fictions that Train Your Brain.” Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, January 13, 2014.
- “Literature and Cognitive Science in the Classroom.” Learning and the Brain conference, San Francisco, February 16, 2013.
- “Fictions: The Worlds Writers and Artists Create.” aMuse Gallery, San Francisco, January 20, 2013.
- “Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities.” Philosophy and Literature Workshop, University of Chicago, May 10, 2012.
- “Literature, Narrative, and the Shape of a Life,” The Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature, Duke University, 23 February, 2012.
- “Bringing Philosophy To An End: How To Do Things With Beckett.” French Cultural Studies Workshop, National Humanities Center, 20 February 2012.
- “Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities.” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins, 13 February 2012.

- “Proust’s *Recherche*: Why a Novel?” Department of German and Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins, 14 February 2012.
- “The Uses of Literature.” East Carolina University, 17 November 2011.
- “The Future of the Humanities.” Department of German and Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins, 10 November 2011.
- “Clarification, Formal Models, and Training-Grounds.” University of San Francisco, 10 April 2011.
- “Literature, Narrative, and the Shape of a Life.” London Aesthetics Forum, 17 March 2011.
- “How I Think about Literature.” Division of Literatures, Cultures and Languages, Stanford University, November 4, 2010.
- “Philosophical Training Grounds: Socratic Sophistry and Platonic Perfection in *Symposium* and *Gorgias*.” Classics Department, UC Berkeley, September 30, 2010.
- “Narrative Form and the ‘Meaning’ of a Life.” Institute for Philosophy and Religion 41st Annual Lecture Series: “Narrative Wisdom—Narrative Meaning.” Boston University, November 4, 2009.
- “The Shape of a Life.” The ‘Last Lecture’ Series, Stanford University, May 18, 2009.
- “Molly Springfield’s ‘Translation.’” Steven Wolf Fine Arts, San Francisco, February 14, 2009.
- “Metaphor and Faith: The Parables of Jesus.” Space, Time, and God Workshop, Stanford University, February 10, 2009.
- “The Devil, the Master-Criminal, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” Aesthetics Workshop, Stanford University, January 21, 2009.
- “Literature, Narrativity, and the Self.” Annual Philosophy and Literature lecture, University of Notre Dame, April 24, 2008.
- “Corrupting Literature.” Keynote Talk, Comparative Literature Graduate Conference (“Corruption”), Stanford, April 5, 2008.
- “‘Un égoïsme utilisable pour autrui’: le statut normatif de l’auto-description chez Proust.” Collège de France, Paris, March 25, 2008.
- “The Parable of the Sower.” Stanford Humanities House, Feb 13, 2008.
- “Literature, Narrativity, and the Self.” Nef Lecture Series, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, Jan 14, 2008.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction,” London Aesthetics Forum, March 21, 2007.
- “Passion, Counter-Passion, Catharsis: Beckett and Flaubert on Feeling Nothing.” Nef Lecture Series, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, Feb 1, 2007.
- “Chambres d’hiver / La chambre de ma mère: Home, Self, and Self-Oblivion in Beckett and Proust.” Closing address, “Envisioning Home,” Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, November 4, 2006.
- “How One Becomes What One Is: Finding Yourself in Marcel Proust.” Stanford Alumni Association, Tucson AZ, May 26, 2005.
- “Taketh the Moralitee, Goode Men: on the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction.” Princeton University, April 21, 2005.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: on the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction.” Johns Hopkins University, November 15, 2004.
- “Authors, Writers and Rumors of Death,” Conference on Antoine Compagnon’s *Literature, Theory, and Common Sense*, University of Chicago, November 5, 2004.
- “Self, Deception, and Knowledge: *Philosophy as Fiction* Reconsidered,” Modern France Workshop, University of Chicago, October 15, 2004.
- “Within a Budding Grove,” The Proust Society of America (San Francisco Chapter), September 8 2004.
- “Nietzsche’s Style,” American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), Pasadena, March 26, 2004.
- “The Paradox of Perfection: Thomas Pavel’s *La Pensée du roman*,” Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University, January 15, 2004.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction,” Modern France Workshop, University of Chicago, May 23, 2003.

- “What is behind the Martinville Steeples? Perspective, Knowledge and Imagination in Proust,” UC Berkeley French Department, December 5, 2001.

Other Talks

- “Nussbaum and Brecht in the Age of Trump.” *Against Empathy?* panel, MLA Convention, January 6, 2018.
- “Beyond Surface and Depth (response).” American Society for Aesthetics conference, New Orleans, November 17, 2017.
- “Ethics in Fiction.” Panel with George Saunders, Stanford, May 11, 2017.
- Commentary on Ira Newman, “Beckett’s Bleakness.” American Society for Aesthetics conference, Seattle, November 18, 2016.
- “The Dangers of Empathy.” *After Empathy* panel, MLA Convention, January 9, 2016.
- “Teaching Close Reading in the Humanities: Chances and Challenges.” Center for Teaching and Learning, Stanford, May 12, 2015.
- “Why Fraud Matters and What It Tells Us about Fiction,” American Society for Aesthetics conference, San Diego, November 2, 2013.
- “John on Walton on Thoughtwriting.” APA Pacific Division, April 6, 2012.
- “The Function of Modernist Reflexivity.” Modernist Studies Association conference, Buffalo NY, 7 October 2011.
- “The Shape of a Life.” Ethics@Noon, Stanford, 29 April 2011.
- “Valentine’s Day.” “*Deceit, Desire and the Novel Fifty Years Later*,” Stanford, 15 April 2011.
- “Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*.” *Film and Philosophy III*, University of Warwick, July 17, 2010.
- “Proust sans son époque? The Case of *Jean Santeuil*.” *Proust et son époque* conference, University of Illinois, April 10, 2010.
- “Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*.” *Film and Philosophy*, Stanford University, January 16, 2010.
- “Literary Narrative as Formal Model.” “What Is Narrative?” panel, Stanford University, June 4, 2009.
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- “Literature and (Analytic) Philosophy: A Future for the Humanities?” Third International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, New Hall College, Cambridge, August 2, 2005
- “Science and Fiction: Robert-Houdin and Villiers de l’Isle-Adam,” *Rethinking Secularization: International Society for Intellectual History Conference*, UC Davis, April 2, 2005.
- “Perspective and Metaphor (or Metonymy) in Proust,” Department of French and Italian Lecture Series, Stanford University, February 19, 2002.
- “Teaching and Fiction,” *Association of Literary Critics and Scholars Conference*, San Francisco, Oct. 27, 2001.
- “A Response to Roger Chartier,” Stanford University Presidential Lecture Series, Stanford, Oct. 17, 2000.
- “Parables and Perplexity,” *The Pious and the Profane: Western Humanities Alliance Conference*, University of Washington, Oct. 14, 2000.
- “Les moi en moi: Self and Selves in Proust,” *Celebrating the Century?: Twentieth Century French Studies Conference*, University of Pennsylvania, March 31, 2000.
- “The Unpurloined Letter: Nietzsche, Proust and a Meta-Will-to-Ignorance,” *Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference*, Marymount University, March 26, 2000.
- “Fictions of the Self,” *Stanford Humanities Center Colloquium Series*, January 18, 2000.
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