

# Stanford Workshop in Poetics

**Faculty Chair:** Marisa Galvez

**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, driven by a group of about twenty graduate students and several members of the Stanford faculty. Everyone is welcome to take part in its activities and events.

The main purpose of the workshop is to offer Ph.D. students an opportunity to share their work with a community of peers and faculty. Not bound by language or period, the group has discussed most of the literatures studied at Stanford and beyond.

The workshop's meetings follow several formats. The most common 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. Other events concern the current state of poetics as a field of critical inquiry, centered on the discussion of a particular topic, issue, or a recent book often introduced by the author. A third category deals with neglected classics in the study of poetics, books or articles that were once widely known and are still important, but that are now seldom found in curricula or criticism. In the history below, these categories are designated as 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 encourage students to develop their critical voices. For instance, a less advanced student is often asked to serve as a respondent, and faculty members typically speak only in the final half hour of each meeting, after most of the students have had an opportunity to join the conversation. Members are encouraged to make it a point to attend events that are remote from their interests, both as a way of absorbing new methods and angles and as a show of support for their peers.

In 2020-21 the workshop has been joined by a new faculty chair, Professor Marisa Galvez. We have been thrilled to welcome her at the helm of our community, and look very much forward to the fresh momentum that she will continue to impart to the intellectual life of the workshop.

## **2020-21**

**Graduate Coordinator:** Lorenzo Bartolucci

**Visiting Members:** Juliana Spahr (Mills College), Munia Bhaumik (Emory University)

October 16, 2020

Thomas McDonald, “The Slovenian Poetry of Fabjan Hafner, Translated into German by Peter Handke” [WP]

November 20, 2020

Lucy Alford (Wake Forest University), *Forms of Poetic Attention* (2020) [SF]

December 4, 2020

Marisa Galvez, “Unthought Medievalism” [WP]

January 22, 2021

Open discussion of Péter Szondi’s essay on the poem “Eden,” by Paul Celan [LC]

February 26, 2021

Hannah Smith-Drelich, “Charm Logic in Robert Herrick’s *Hesperides*” [WP]

March 5, 2021

Munia Bhaumik (Emory University), “Translating Tagore: Solitude and the Bonds of Lyric Poetry Between South/sur” [WP]

April 9, 2021

Nikki Skillman (Indiana University), “White Faces, Black Hands: Race, Counterhistory, and the Poetics of the Letterform” [WP]

May 7, 2021

Juliana Spahr (Mills College), “McKay’s ‘If We Must Die’ and the Development of Literary Philanthropy” [WP]

May 28, 2021

Lorenzo Bartolucci, “The Surface of the World Itself: W. H. Auden and the *Umwelt*” [WP]

## **2019-20**

**Graduate Coordinator:** Lorenzo Bartolucci

October 28, 2019

Open discussion of Josephine Miles’ “Eras in English Poetry” [LC]

November 14, 2019

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

November 18, 2019

Nicholas Fenech, "Carnal Obscurity: Allusion and Etymology in George Herbert" [WP]

January 28, 2020

Gregory Jusdanis (Ohio State University), "From Cuzco to Constantinople: Understanding Otherwise" [WP]

## **2018-19**

**Graduate Coordinators:** Melih Levi, Lorenzo Bartolucci, Radhika Koul

**Visiting Members:** Jennifer Scappettone (University of Chicago)

October 26, 2018

Lea Pao, "Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock's Mitausdruck, or: How Poetry Organizes Its Objects" [WP]

November 27, 2018

Beverly Bie Brahic, "Francis Ponge and the Voice of Things" [SF]

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]

February 7, 2019

Vincent Barletta, "Rhythmic Poetics" [WP]

February 20, 2019

Shoshana Olidort, "Tender Lingering: Gertrude Stein's Surface Poetics" [WP]

February 26, 2019

Karen van Dyck (Columbia University), "Migration, Translingualism, Translation" [WP]

May 2, 2019

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

May 28, 2019

Shonaleeka Kaul (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), "The Ethics and Aesthetics of Time: Sanskrit *Kāvya* & the Writing of History in 12<sup>th</sup>-Century Kashmir" [WP]

June 6, 2019

Jessica Beckman, "The Kinetic Text" [WP]

## 2017-18

**Graduate Coordinator:** Melih Levi

**Visiting Members:** Ron Ben-Tovim (University of Tel Aviv), Benjamin Morgan (University of Chicago)

October 2, 2017

Open discussion of Alexander Veselovsky's "Introduction to Historical Poetics" and "The Age of Sensibility" with remarks by Nariman Skakov [LC]

October 30, 2017

Justin Tackett, "Stethoscopy: A Poetics of Attention and Voice" [WP]

November 27, 2017

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

February 8, 2018

Stephanie Burt (Harvard University), "Shipping Containers" [WP]

February 27, 2018

Melih Levi, "Situational Poetics: Post-War Departures from Imagism" [WP]

March 6, 2018

Luke Barnhart, "True Plain Words from Your True-Telling Friend" [WP]

April 10, 2018

Vladimir Brljak (University of Cambridge), "Inventing Renaissance Poetics: Modernity, Allegory, and the History of Literary Theory" [WP]

May 1, 2018

Paul Kiparsky, Arto Tapani Anttila, Ryan Heuser, Scott Richard Stevens, Scott Borgeson, "The Rise and Fall of Anti-Metricity" [WP]

May 15, 2018

Clare Lees (King's College, London), "Medieval Somehow: Post-War British Poetry and Early Medieval Culture in Britain and Ireland" [WP]

May 29, 2018

Alanna Hickey, "Back then tomorrow: Indigenous Resistance and the Occupation of Alcatraz" [WP]

## **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 Dyché 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

Luke Barnhart, Leonardo Grao Velloso, Claire Grossman, and Melih Levi led a discussion of Jonathan Culler’s *Theory of the Lyric* [SF]

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

Stanford Literary Lab, "The Transhistorical Poetry Project: A Quantitative Approach to the Formal History of English Poetry" [SF]

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

Open discussion of *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*: Ideas for the Fifth Edition, circa 2032 [SF]

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

Stephen Osadetz, "What Coleridge Found in Principle: *The Friend*" [WP]

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

Noam Pines led a discussion of hermeticism. Readings included Charles Baudelaire's "Crepuscule de Soir" and "Rêve Parisien"; Dino Campana's "Batte Botte," "Viaggio a Montevideo," "Il Canto della Tenebra," and "Viaggio e il Ritorno"; Georg Trakl's "Die Schwermut," "An die Verstummten," "Föhn," and "Nähe des Todes"; Arthur Rimbaud's "Après le Déluge," "H," and "Villes"; Giuseppe Ungaretti's "Eterno," "Il Porto Sepolto," "Agonia," and "Tramonto"; and the first chapter of Marjorie Perloff's *The Poetics of Indeterminacy* (1972) [SF]

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 Wieggers (2002) [SF]

October 20, 2009

Denise Gigante discussed her new book *Life: Organic Form and Romanticism* (2009) [SF]

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 Féneón’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

Paul Kiparsky led a discussion of four essays by Roman Jakobson: “Subliminal Verbal Patterning in Poetry,” “The Grammatical Texture of a Sonnet from Sir Philip Sidney’s *Arcadia*,” “What is Poetry,” and “The Dominant” [LC]

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

Open discussion of Paul Valéry, “Poetry and Abstract Thought,” “The Poet’s Rights over Language,” “Pure Poetry,” and “Remarks on Poetry” [LC]

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-oeslicher 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]