

SARAH KERMAN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, expected May 2010

M.A., Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, 2005

B.A. *summa cum laude*, Literature, Harvard University, 2002

DISSERTATION

“Speaking for Americans: Modernist Voices and Political Representation, 1910-1940”
Committee: Charles Bernstein (chair), Nancy Bentley, Jean-Michel Rabaté

This dissertation examines the formal, practical, and ethical difficulties faced by American modernist authors who attempted to mediate between underrepresented populations and their reading public. Reading poems and novels by Gertrude Stein, Jean Toomer, Muriel Rukeyser, Henry Roth, and others, I argue that their work displays a pedagogical imperative to bridge this cultural divide by combining formal experimentation with moments of song, chant, and oral repetition.

PUBLICATIONS

“*Call It Sleep* and the Limits of Typicality,” *jml: Journal of Modern Literature*, forthcoming.

“The Lyric’s Shifting Voices.” Review of *Voicing American Poetry: Sound and Performance from the 1920s to the Present*, by Lesley Wheeler. *jml: Journal of Modern Literature* 33.1 (Fall 2009).

“Authentic Imitation: Modernist Anthologies and the Pedagogy of Folk Culture.” Revised and resubmitted to *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literatures, Culture, and Theory*.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Gertrude Stein as Self and Stranger.” American Comparative Literature Association, Long

Beach, CA, April 2008.

“‘Our history is complete’: Gertrude Stein’s Theory of American Repetition.” Modernism/ Postmodernism Graduate Colloquium, Columbia University, New York, NY, February 2007.

“Naomi’s Scream: Sounds of Mourning in Ginsberg’s *Kaddish*.” Modernist Studies Association, Tulsa, OK, October 2006.

“The Oldest Profession: The History and Modernity of the Prostitute in Parent-Duchâtelet and Flaubert.” Nineteenth-Century French Studies, Austin, TX, Oct 2005.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Ben Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2005-2010

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 2004

Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University, 2002

Honors thesis *summa cum laude*, “Trope and Catastrophe: Philosophy of Metaphor in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens,” Harvard University, 2002

John Harvard Scholarship, Harvard University, 1998-2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania, Comparative Literature

Instructor

Whodunit?: International Detective Fiction, Summer 2008

Vagabonds and Fugitives, first-year writing seminar, Fall 2006/Spring 2007

Teaching Assistant and Writing Across the University fellow

Narrative Across Cultures, Spring 2006 (Prof. Roger Allen)

Teaching Assistant

Law and Literature, Fall 2005 (Prof. Nancy Bentley)

University of Pennsylvania, Center for Teaching and Learning

Graduate Co-Coordinator and Workshop Leader, TA Training, Fall 2008

Instructor, *Grading in the Humanities*, Fall 2007

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Algebra I and Pre-Algebra, Horace Mann School, Riverdale, NY, Summer 2005

Writing Tutor, CHANCE outreach program, Harvard University, 2000-1

Teaching Assistant, Center for Talented Youth, Johns Hopkins University, summers 1999-2000

TEACHING INTERESTS

American fiction and poetry, American and international modernism, Harlem Renaissance, ethnography, music and literature, literary theory, translation, detective fiction

PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Chair, *Theorizing* lecture series, University of Pennsylvania, 2007-8. Committee member, 2006-7, 2008-9

President, Comparative Literature Association of Students, University of Pennsylvania, 2006-7
Undergraduate Representative, Committee on Undergraduate Instruction, Harvard University, 2000-1

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association
Modernist Studies Association

LANGUAGES

French—proficient
Russian—intermediate reading knowledge, beginning speaking knowledge
German—intermediate reading knowledge

REFERENCES

Charles Bernstein, Donald T. Regan Professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, charles.bernstein@english.upenn.edu

Nancy Bentley, Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, nbentley@english.upenn.edu

Jean-Michel Rabaté, Vartan Gregorian Professor of the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania, jmrabate@english.upenn.edu

Rita Copeland, Professor of English and Acting Chair of Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, rcopelan@sas.upenn.edu

Catherine Turner, Associate Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, caturner@sas.upenn.edu