

Jan Mieszkowski
Reginald F. Arragon Professor of German and Humanities
Program in Comparative Literature
Reed College

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Positions Held

Reed College

Arragon Chair 2021–

Full Professor 2010–

Associate Professor 2003–2010

Assistant Professor 1997–2003

Rutgers University

Charlotte M. Craig Distinguished Visiting Professor in German Studies 2023 (Spring)

Amplify®

Literature and Curriculum Advisor 2012–2016

University of Pennsylvania

Visiting Assistant Professor of German and Comparative Literature 1999–2000

Degrees

The Johns Hopkins University

Ph.D. in German Literature, 1998

M.A. in German Literature, 1992

Yale University

B.A. *summa cum laude* with Distinction in Literature 1990, Phi Beta Kappa (1988)

Single-Author Monographs

Book Botany: The Plant Languages of the Anthropocene, under review.

Crises of the Sentence, The University of Chicago Press, 2019.

Reviewed in the *TLS*, November 5, 2019; NBC-2 News, January 8, 2020.

Watching War, Stanford University Press, 2012.

Reviewed in *Journal of Mass Media Ethics* 28.4 (2013); *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies* 50.1 (February 2014); *Political and Military Sociology: Military Perceptions and Perceptions of the Military* 42 (2014); *European Romantic Review* 27.1 (2016); *H-Net, H-War* (July 2017).

Labors of Imagination: Aesthetics and Political Economy from Kant to Althusser, Fordham University Press, 2006.

Reviewed in *MLN* 122.5 (December 2007); *Comparative Literature* 60.4 (Fall 2008); *Monatshefte für deutschsprachige Literatur und Kultur* 100.3 (Fall 2008); *MLN* 124.3 (April 2009); *Studies in Romanticism* 49.1 (Spring 2010).

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- “Action Waiting on Words: Chaplin’s Comic Graphemes,” forthcoming in *CR: The New Centennial Review*.
- “Kant’s Woodwork (Drifting, Grafting),” forthcoming in *boundary 2* (2026).
- “Fantastic Conjunctions: The Variables of the Imagination,” forthcoming in *Thinking Unrest, Reading Time: German Idealism and the Traces of History*, ed. Kristina Mendicino, Albany: SUNY Press, 2026.
- “The Poetry Police,” forthcoming in *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 36.1 (September 2025).
- “Uncommon Senses, Uncommunal Retractions: The Give and Take of Language in Franz Kafka’s *Der Proceß*,” *MLN* 139.3 (April 2024): 489–505.
- “Flowers after Rhetoric.” In *Persuasion after Rhetoric in the Eighteenth Century and Romanticism*. Ed. Yasmin Solomonescu and Stefan Uhlig. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024. 39–53.
- “Suspect Paper: Money in Romanticism.” In *The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophy and Money*. Ed. Joseph J. Tinguely. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024. 393–410.
- “Dashing Expectations.” *Colloquia Germanica* 56.2-3 (2023): 223–242.
- “Flower Talk.” In *Thresholds, Encounters: Paul Celan and the Claim of Philology*. Ed. Kristina Mendicino and Dominik Zechner. Albany: SUNY Press, 2023. 61–82.
- “Free Falling: Wilderson with de Man.” *European Romantic Review* 34.3 (June 2023): 349–358.
- “War and Revolution.” In *War and Literary Studies*. Ed. Anders Engberg-Pedersen and Neil Ramsey. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023. 307–320.
- “Suddenly Beckett.” *Parallax* 28.3 (2022): 356–367.
- “Phrasing, Steining.” *Philosophy Today* 66.2 (Spring 2022): 327–344.
- “Shelley’s Wars, Burke’s Revolutions.” *Partial Answers* 20.1 (January 2022): 105–120.
- “No Time For Linear Time” (with Julia Ng). *CR: The New Centennial Review* 21.1 (2021): 1–10.
- “Language Swaps: On the Reversibility of Translation.” *CR: The New Centennial Review* 21.1 (2021): 183–206. A revised and expanded version of this essay was published as “Translation Without Reserve?” in *Literary Back-Translation*. Ed. Véronique Lane. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2025. 241–266.
- “Truth and Truism.” *MLN* (Essays in Honor of Rochelle Tobias) 136.3 (April 2021): 744–754.
- “The Drone of Data.” In *Drone Imaginaries and Communities*. Ed. Andreas Immanuel Graae and Kathrin Maurer. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2021. 55–73.
- “Yes, And Yes.” *Oxford Literary Review* 42.1 (Summer 2020): 16–32.
- “Not Rhythm.” In *Hölderlin’s Philosophy of Nature*. Ed. Rochelle Tobias. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020. 219–234.
- “The Point of Impasse” (with Taylor Schey). *Comparative Literature* 72.2 (June 2020): 107–113.
- “En passant.” *Comparative Literature* 72.2 (June 2020): 224–239.
- “Dust and Roses.” *qui parle* 28.1 (2019): 77–102.
- “Unreadable Pleasures.” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 7.1 (Spring 2019): 7–16.
- “All About Über.” *MLN* 133.5 (December 2018): 1153–1171.
- “Heinrich von Kleist and the Right to War.” *Romanticism* 24.3 (2018): 245–254.
- “War in the Age of Anti-Social Media.” In *Visualizing War: Emotions, Technologies, Communities*. Ed. Kathrin Maurer and Anders Engberg-Pedersen. New York: Routledge, 2018. 182–196.
- “Romancing the Slogan.” *European Romantic Review* 28.3 (May 2017): 361–367.
- “The Romantic Sentence.” In *New Work on German Romanticism*, ed. Zachary Sng. *Romantic Circles Praxis Series*, December 2016.
- “What’s in a Slogan?” *Mediations: Journal of the Marxist Literary Group* 29.2 (Spring 2016): 149–160.
- “Almost Nearly: The Languages of Approximation.” *Seminar* 50.3 (July 2014): 258–275.
- “The Next Word (or something like it).” *MLN* 129.3 (April 2014): 606–620.
- “War.” *The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*. Ed. Michael Kelly. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. 6: 257–261.

- “Fear of a Safe Place.” In *Fear Across the Disciplines*. Eds. Benjamin Lazier and Jan Plamper. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012. 99–117.
- “Ich, Ach, Auch: Certain Also-Ran Languages of Jacques Derrida.” *Oxford Literary Review* 33.2 (2011): 207–230.
- “Imperative Communities.” In *Kant and the Concept of Community*. Eds. Charlton Payne and Lucas Thorpe. Publication Series of the North American Kant Society, University of Rochester Press, 2011. 284–302.
- “The Writing is on the Wall.” *Postmodern Culture* 21.1 (September 2010). Reprinted in *Tidings of Magpies: Art, Culture, Life*, February 23, 2025, <https://magpiesmagazine.com/2025/02/23/the-writing-is-on-the-wall/>.
- “Watching War.” *PMLA* 124.5 (October 2009): 1648–1661.
- “Faust at War.” *Studies in Romanticism* 48 (Spring 2009): 139–157.
- “How To Do Things With Clausewitz.” *The Global South* 3.1 (April 2009): 18–29.
- “Who’s Afraid of Anacoluthon?” *MLN* 124.3 (April 2009): 648–665.
- “Great War, Total War, Cold War.” *Modernism/modernity* 16.2 (2009): 211–228.
- “The Pace of the Attack: Military Experience in *Wallenstein* and *Die Jungfrau von Orleans*.” *The Goethe Yearbook* 16 (2009): 29–46.
- “Analogy, Terminable and Interminable.” *Postmodern Culture* 18.1 (September 2007).
- “Reading, Begging, Paul de Man.” In *Legacies of Paul de Man*. Ed. Marc Redfield. Fordham UP, 2007. 29–45. An earlier version appeared in *Legacies of Paul de Man*, ed. Marc Redfield. *Romantic Circles Praxis Series*, May 2005.
- “Ready, Set, Made! Joseph Beuys and the Critique of Silence.” In *Visual Culture in Twentieth-Century Germany: Text as Spectacle*. Ed. Gail Finney. Indianapolis: Indiana UP, 2006. 68–82.
- “Patriot Acts: Heinrich von Kleist and the Language of Heil.” In *Romanticism and Patriotism*, ed. Orrin Wang. *Romantic Circles Praxis Series*, May 2006.
- “Derrida, Hegel, and the Language of Finitude.” *Postmodern Culture* 15.3 (May 2005).
- “Art Forms.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Benjamin*. Ed. David Ferris. New York: Cambridge UP, 2004. 35–53.
- “Exhaustible Humanity: Using up Language, Using up Man.” *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 14 (Summer 2003): 106–133.
- “The Syntax of the Revolution.” *European Romantic Review* 13 (June 2002): 207–213.
- “Kafka Live!” *MLN* 116.5 (December 2001): 979–1000.
- “Breaking the Laws of Language: Freedom and History in Kleist’s Prinz Friedrich von Homburg.” *Studies in Romanticism*, 39 (Spring 2000): 111–137. A German version of this essay, “Zur ewigen Nachwelt (ohne Frieden),” appeared in *Kleist lesen*. Eds. Marianne Schuller and Nikolaus Müller-Schöll. Berlin: transcript Verlag, 2003. 242–269. An abridged version appeared in French as “Transgresser les règles du langage.” *Cahiers philosophiques* 139.4 (2014): 56–73.
- “Tragedy and the War of the Aesthetic.” In *Schelling and Romanticism*, ed. David Ferris. *Romantic Circles Praxis Series*, June 2000.

Essays, Review Essays, and Other Short Publications

- “Reflections (Headlines).” In *The Virtual Sentence*. Ed. Jeff Dolven. New York: Cabinet Books, 2024.
- “E. B. White’s ‘Plain Style’ @75.” *Public Books*, October 14, 2020.
- “Was heißt: sich entdeutschen?” *The German Quarterly* (Fall 2019): 470–472.
- “Here Come the Prose Police.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education (The Chronicle Review)*, November 15, 2019, B10–B13.
- “Kafka: The Impossible Biography.” *Public Books*, July 3, 2017. Reprinted in *Think in Public: A Public Books Reader*. Ed. Sharon Marcus and Caitlin Zaloom. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019. 469–477.
- “Tales of the Interwar.” *Public Books*, July 1, 2016.
- “Beyond the Death Principle.” *Cultural Critique* 93 (Spring 2016): 151–167.
- “Texts for Nothing.” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, September 28, 2015. Republished in the quarterly print issue (Fall 2015): 16–19.
- “War, With Popcorn.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 1, 2014: B1.

- “The Correctionists.” *Public Books*, June 1, 2014.
- “Derrida and the Death Penalty.” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, March 5, 2014.
- “The Banality of Intellect.” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, July 21, 2013.
- “The Militarized Imagination: On Napalm and Nuclear Warfare.” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, May 7, 2013.
- “War Stories.” *Public Books*, April 8, 2013.

Edited Journal Issues

- Co-editor (with Julia Ng) of a special issue on “Reversibility,” *CR: The New Centennial Review* 21.1 (2021).
- Co-editor (with Taylor Schey) of “The Point of Impasse,” a special issue of *Comparative Literature* 72.2 (June 2020).
- Co-editor (with Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, Asunción López-Várela Azcaráte, and Haun Saussy) of “New Perspectives on Material Culture and Intermedial Practice,” a special issue of *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.3 (September 2011).
- Editor of a special issue on “Critical Theory and Psychoanalysis,” *Postmodern Culture*: 18.1 (September 2007).
- Co-editor (with Werner Hamacher and Matt Hartman) of a special issue on “Cultural Studies, Ideologies,” *MLN*: 112.3 (April 1997).

Book Reviews

- Gerhard Richter, *This Great Allegory: On World-Decay and World-Opening in the Work of Art*. *Monatshefte* 116.3 (2024): 511–513.
- Karen S. Feldman, *Arts of Connection: Poetry, History, Epochality*. *The German Quarterly* 95.3 (Summer 2022): 331–333.
- Jacques Khalip, *Last Things: Disastrous Form from Kant to Hajar*. *The Wordsworth Circle* 51.4 (Fall 2020): 460–465.
- Peter Utz, „Nachbreife des fremden Wortes“. Hölderlins „Hälfte des Lebens“ und die Poetik des Übersetzens. *Monatshefte* 111.1 (Spring 2019): 140–142.
- Sarah Pourciau, *The Writing of Spirit: Soul, System, and the Roots of Language Science*. *The German Quarterly* 92.1 (Winter 2019): 98–100.
- Anthony Adler, *Celebrities: Media Culture and the Phenomenology of Gadget Commodity Life*. *Syndicate Lit*, February 22, 2017.
- Anders Engberg-Pedersen, *Empire of Chance: The Napoleonic Wars and the Disorder of Things*. *Critical Inquiry* 42.4: 991–992.
- Ernst Haffner, *Blood Brothers: A Novel*. *Public Books*, October 15, 2015.
- Rei Terada, *Looking Away: Phenomenality and Dissatisfaction, Kant to Adorno*. *Comparative Literature Studies* 49.3 (2012): 469–472.
- Anthony Krupp, *Reason’s Children: Childhood in Early Modern Philosophy*. *The German Quarterly* 83.1 (Winter 2010): 109–110.
- Warren Montag, *Louis Althusser*. *Bulletin de la Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française* 15.1 (Spring 2005): 98–102.
- Jacques Derrida, *Schibboleth para Paul Celan*. *Extremoccidente*, 2 (May 2003).
- Martha B. Helfer ed., *Rereading Romanticism*. *European Romantic Review* 13 (2002): 335–338.
- Christopher Fynsk, *Language and Relation*. *MLN* 113.5 (December 1998): 1212–1216.
- Thomas Pepper, *Singularities: Extremes of Theory in the Twentieth Century*. *MLN* 112.5 (December 1997): 971–974.
- Timothy Bahti, *Ends of the Lyric*. *MLN* 111.5 (December 1996): 1010–1014.
- Haun Saussy, *The Problem of a Chinese Aesthetic*. *MLN* 109.5 (December 1994): 976–980.

Translations

- Bianca Theisen, “Comic-Tragedies: Thomas Bernhard’s Marionette Theater.” *MLN* 111.3 (April 1996): 533–559.

- Harro Müller, "Identity, Paradox, Difference: Conceptions of Time in the Literature of Modernity." *MLN* 111.3 (April 1996): 522–532.

Major Awards and Appointments

- Member of the international advisory board for *Drone Imaginaries and Community*, a research project funded by the Independent Research Fund (Denmark), 2019–2022
- Member of the international advisory board for *The Aesthetics of War*, a research project funded by the Carlsberg Foundation, 2017–2020
- Member of the international advisory board for *Drones and Aesthetics*, a research project funded by the Danish Research Council, 2017–2019
- MLA Executive Committee, Forum for Romantic and Nineteenth-Century Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (2013–2018)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2011
- Visiting Scholar, Clark Library, UCLA, 2010–2011
- Editorial Board, *Postmodern Culture* (2009–)
- Mellon Fellow, Faculty Workshop, Wesleyan University, 2007
- Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1999–2000
- Charles E. Culpeper Foundation Grant, Reed College, 1998
- Roulston Dissertation Prize for Excellence in German, Johns Hopkins University, 1998
- Dean's Teaching Prize Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 1996
- Jacob K. Javits Graduate Fellowship, 1991–1995
- Honorable Mention, Alvin B. Kernan Senior Thesis Prize, Yale University, 1990
- Richter Summer Research Fellowship, Yale University, 1990
- J. Edward Meeker Literary Essay Prize, Yale University, 1988
- John P. McGovern Phi Beta Kappa Merit Scholarship, 1986
- Moody Honor Scholar, 1986

Invited Talks

- "Romantic Alphabets." Keynote Address for the Annual Meeting of the International Conference on Romanticism, Colorado College, October 2025.
- "Made in Germany: Negation in Freud and Wittgenstein." *Time and Language: An Encounter Between Philosophy and Philology*, a symposium at UCLA, May 2024.
- "Woodwork: Drifting, Grafting." *Perpetually Toward? Revisiting Kant on Global Peace*, a symposium at Johns Hopkins University, April 2024.
- "Fantastic Conjunctions: The Syntax of the Imagination." *Thinking Unrest, Reading Time: German Idealism and the Traces of History*, a symposium at Brown University, May 2023.
- "Necroflorological Dickinson." Department of English, University of Wisconsin, April 2023.
- "The Languages of Botany: Revisiting the Book of Nature with Freud and Benjamin." Craig Lecture in German, Rutgers University, March 2023.
- "The Language of Flowers." Brown Romanticism Seminar, Brown University, February 2022.
- "Book Botany." Department of German and Scandinavian, University of Oregon, May 2021.
- *The Short Form* (with Irina Dumitrescu and Andrew Hui). Plenary Event at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Chicago, March 2020. *Conference canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
- "The Death of the Sentence." *Philosophy Talk*. KALW Public Radio 91.7 San Francisco (for Stanford University), January 2020.
- *The Virtual Sentence* (with Brian Dillon, Jeff Dolven, Sally O'Reilly and Elena Vogman). Panel and Practicum hosted by *Cabinet Magazine*, Berlin, January 2020.
- "Flower Talk." *For – Paul Celan*, a symposium at Brown University, April 2019.
- "Plants and Politics." *Persuasion After Rhetoric*, a symposium at the University of Notre Dame, March 2019.
- "Revolutionary Grammars, Military Moods." *Romanticism in the Age of World Wars*, a conference in Leuven, November 2018.

- “Drones and the Big Data Sublime.” *Drone Imaginaries and Society*, a conference at the University of Southern Denmark, June 2018.
- “The Poetics of Dust.” *Persuasion After Rhetoric*, a symposium at the University of California at Davis, April 2018.
- “Death Sentences.” War and Culture Research Group, University of Southern Denmark, March 2018.
- “Dance Dance Revolution.” Department of German Studies, Brown University, April 2017.
- “Life Sentences.” *Hölderlin’s Philosophy of Nature*, a conference at the Max Kade Center for Modern German Thought, Johns Hopkins University, March 2017.
- “Death is a Sentence.” Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities, Indiana University, February 2017.
- “No Slogans! One-Liners From Marx to Adorno.” Centre for Philosophy and Critical Thought, Goldsmiths–University of London, June 2016.
- “War in the Age of Antisocial Media.” Humanities Center, Carnegie Mellon University, October 2015.
- “As the Sentence Turns: Revolutions in Poetic Language.” Keynote Address for the Graduate Student Conference “Revolution and the Real,” New York University, March 2015.
- “The Spectacle and the Secret.” Keynote Address for the Conference “Visualizing War: the Power of Emotions in Politics,” University of Southern Denmark, November 2014.
- “How To Finish A Sentence.” Department of German, Duke University, October 2014.
- “Four Theses on Modern War.” Romberg Lecturer in German, University of Chicago, October 2014.
- “How to Tell a War Story.” Humanities Program, Soka University of America, April 2014.
- “Choosing Words.” Department of German and Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins University, February 2014.
- “On the Uses and Abuses of the Concept of War.” Department of Germanics, University of Washington, Seattle, January 2014.
- “Spectacles of Violence.” Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pennsylvania, November 2013.
- “Reading After Waterloo.” Department of Comparative Literature, Emory University, September 2013.
- “On Clausewitz.” Center for Philosophy, University of Tokyo, May 2013.
- “War Media.” Film Theory and Visual Culture Seminar, Vanderbilt University, December 2012.
- “*Ich, Ach, Auch*: Certain Also-Ran Languages of Jacques Derrida.” Department of German Languages and Literatures, Yale University, October 2011.
- “The Writing is on the Wall: Architecture in Spite of Graffiti.” *Culture after Postmodern Culture*, a conference at the University of California at Irvine, October 2010.
- “Fear in a Safe Place: Napoleonic Aesthetics and the Photography of War.” Department of Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2010.
- “Almost Lyric: Hölderlin, Celan, and the Language of Proximity.” Department of German, Northwestern University, April 2010.
- “Speed and the Spectacle of War from Schiller to Freud.” Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Colorado at Boulder, December 2008.
- “The Right to Lose Your Voice: Poetic and Political Deaths in Hölderlin and Novalis.” UCLA Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies, Los Angeles, April 2002.
- “The Ghosts of Love and War: Haunting the Battlefield with Faust and Clausewitz.” Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Colorado at Boulder, February 2005.
- “Productivity and its Discontents.” Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University, May 2003.
- “Fictions of Production.” Department of Comparative Literature, University of Buffalo, February 2003.
- “Achtung Dichtung: Lyric Language and Politics.” Department of German, Columbia University, January 2000.

Seminars

- “Hölderlin and Heidegger on the Rhine” (co-facilitator). *Thinking Unrest, Reading Time: German Idealism and the Traces of History*, a symposium at Brown University, May 2023.

- “Literary Communism” (co-facilitator). Teach-in at Rutgers University on the occasion of the spring strikes, April 2023.
- “Political Sentences.” Seminar for the Inter Chicago Circle for Experimental Critical Theory, Chicago, August 7, 2019.
- “The Finite Languages of Emily Dickinson” (co-facilitator). *For – Paul Celan*, a symposium at Brown University, April 2019.
- “Ways of Seeing War – Studies in War Photojournalism.” Faculty Seminar, Humanities Institute, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, March 30, 2016.
- “Close Reading and its Discontents.” Weeklong Graduate Seminar, Department of English, Yonsei University, Seoul, January 18–22, 2016.
- “Dashing Dickinson.” Graduate Seminar for the Department of Comparative Literature, Emory University, September 2013.

Professional Service

- External tenure and promotion evaluations for numerous institutions
- Manuscript review for 20+ academic journals and presses
- Finance Committee, American Comparative Literature Association (2025)
- External program reviewer, Humanities Concentration, Soka University (2022)
- NEH Fellowship peer review panelist (2021, 2018, 2014)
- External program reviewer, Department of German Studies, Macalester College (2012)
- Program Committee, American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference (2010)
- Dissertation Prize Committee, American Comparative Literature Association (2009)
- Program Committee, American Society for 18th-Century Studies Annual Conference (2007–2008)
- Editorial Assistant, *Modern Language Notes* (1992)

Seminars and Panels Organized

- *Stating the Obvious* (co-organizer). Biannual meeting of the Rutgers-Reed Philological Seminar, April 2025 (virtual).
- *End of Story* (co-organizer). Biannual meeting of the Rutgers-Reed Philological Seminar, November 2024 (virtual).
- *Apropos of Nothing* (co-organizer). Biannual meeting of the Rutgers-Reed Philological Seminar, March 2024 (virtual).
- *Together as One* (co-organizer). Biannual meeting of the Rutgers-Reed Philological Seminar, November 2023 (virtual).
- *Contemporary Theory Through a Romantic Glass (Darkly)*. Panel of the Comparative Literature and Thought Caucus at the Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, April 2023 (virtual).
- *Reading Philosophers Reading*. Panel of the Theory and Philosophy Caucus at the Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, April 2023 (virtual).
- *Political Botany* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, June 2022 (virtual).
- *Reversibility* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Georgetown, March 2019.
- *In the Mood for War*. Panel at the conference Romanticism in the Age of World Wars, Leuven, November 2018.
- *The Languages of Truth* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, UCLA, March 2018.
- *Language Out of Order* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, July 2017.
- *Romanticism’s Capitalisms/ Capitalism’s Romanticisms* (co-organizer). Panel at the Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Berkeley, August 2016.
- *1781–1806: Twenty-Five Years of Literature and Philosophy* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Arlington, October 2015.

- *War Media and the Militarization of Experience* (co-organizer). Special session at the Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, January 2014.
- *Streaming Derrida* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, April 2010.
- *Materiality Matters* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, April 2009.
- *The Resistance to Economics*. Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association, Portland State University, April 2007.
- *Homo economicus* (co-organizer). Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Princeton University, March 2006.
- *Literary Studies with and Against Psychoanalysis*. Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, University of Colorado at Boulder, April 2001.
- *Legacies of Critique and Criticism: Cultural Studies and the Frankfurt School*. Special session at the Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 1999.
- *Money, Value, Labor*. Panel at the Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Atlanta, October 1999.
- *Hegel Between East and West: Philosophical Histories and Literary Historicisms*. Special session at the Modern Language Association Convention, Toronto, December 1997.
- *Lyric Politics: A German Question?* Special session at the Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., December 1996.
- *Twentieth-Century Interpretations of German Romanticism*. Panel at the Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Baltimore, July 1995.
- *Bertolt Brecht: The Dramatic, the Ideological*. Panel of the International Brecht Society, Modern Language Association Convention, San Diego, December 1994.

Conference Papers and Other Talks

- “The Languages of Disavowal.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Arlington September 2025.
- “Authorities of the Letter from A to Z to ABC.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, August 2025 (virtual).
- “The Tramp Writes!” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, May 2025 (virtual).
- “Unsuspected Falls.” Book Launch for Dominik Zechner’s *The Violence of Reading: Literature and Philosophy at the Threshold of Pain*, May 2024 (virtual).
- “What’s in a slogan?” Lecture to the Boston and New York City chapters of the Reed Alumni Association, May 2024.
- “Gut deutsch sein heißt sich entdeutschen.” Address to the Rutgers chapter of Delta Phi Alpha (the National German Honor Society), April 2023.
- “Coining Phrases with Berlant and Schlegel.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, March 2023 (virtual).
- “Language Flexes.” Book Launch for Michael G. Levine’s *Interventionen: Die Dichtung Paul Celans*, Rutgers University, February 2023.
- “Giving up Language.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Houston, September 2022.
- “Free Falling.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Edge Hill University (United Kingdom), August 2022.
- “Post-Colonial Botany.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, June 2022 (virtual).
- “Retractions.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, October 2021 (virtual).
- “All for Nothing.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, April 2021 (virtual).
- “Great Expectations.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Portland, October 2019.
- “Reversible Signs.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Georgetown, March 2019.

- “Can a Theory of Revolution Also Be a Theory of War?” Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, January 2019.
- “Labors of Imagination.” Commencement Lecture, Reed College, August 2018.
- “Passing Time.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Brown University, June 2018.
- “Truth and Truism.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, UCLA, March 2018.
- “The Philosophy of Understatement from Hegel to Derrida.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, July 2017.
- “Heinrich von Kleist and the Right to War.” Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, January 2017.
- “Romancing the Slogan.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Berkeley, August 2016.
- “The Syntactic Strikes of War.” Derrida Today Conference, Goldsmiths–University of London, June 2016.
- “The Aphorism and the Speculative Sentence.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Arlington, October 2015.
- “All About *Über*.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Winnipeg, August 2015.
- “The Word—And Other Beloved Neologisms.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, March 2015.
- “Finish Your Sentences.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, NYU, March 2014.
- “Ruling Words: Fables of Logocracy.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Denver, October 2013.
- “Circulation Anxieties.” Panel Presentation on Recent Changes in Academic Writing, Lewis and Clark College, March 2013.
- “Word Towers: Dickinson Reads Hölderlin.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Milwaukee, October 2012.
- “Next Language.” Derrida Today Conference, University of California at Irvine, July 2012.
- “You Always Exaggerate.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Brown University, March 2012.
- “The Rhyme of Error.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Park City, August 2011.
- “Taking Hegel at his Word.” Presentation to the Critical Theory Emphasis at the University of California at Irvine, May 2011.
- “World Literature, Rights and Wrongs.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Vancouver, April 2011.
- “Also Certainly Poetry.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, April 2010.
- “How to Feel about Building: Walter Benjamin and the Architectonics of Affect.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Arlington, October 2009.
- “The Tears of Odysseus.” Commencement Lecture, Reed College, August 2009.
- “Almost Romanticism: The Poetics of Nearly.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Duke University, May 2009.
- “There is no ‘I’ in Golgotha.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Long Beach, April 2008.
- “Divine Languages, at Home and Abroad.” Annual Conference of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Portland, March 2008.
- “Speedy Subjects.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, San Diego, October 2007.
- “Helen’s Faust, Helen’s Silence.” Annual Conference of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Atlanta, March 2007.
- “War Story.” International Conference on Narrative, Georgetown University, March 2007.
- “Coleridge and the Fantasy of Invasion.” Conference on Poetry and Politics, University of Stirling, Scotland, July 2006.

- “Faust at War.” Bloomington Eighteenth-Century Workshop, Indiana University, May 2006.
- “Faulkner: A Fable.” Conference hosted by the Portland Center for Cultural Studies, Portland State University, April 2006.
- “Permanent War Economies.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Princeton University, March 2006.
- “The Murder of Attention: De Quincey and the Fine Art of Homicide.” Conference hosted by the Department of English at the University of Denver, October 2005.
- “War Play: Friedrich Schiller and the Battles of History.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Milwaukee, October 2005.
- “Patriot Acts: Service and Sacrifice in Kleist and Novalis.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Montreal, August 2005.
- “The Sublimities of War and Peace.” Conference hosted by the Portland Center for Cultural Studies, Portland State University, May 2005.
- “Divine Paraphrase: Hamann’s Poetics of History.” Annual Conference of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Las Vegas, April 2005.
- “The Prose of History and its Discontents.” Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, December 2004.
- “Technologies of War and Peace.” Annual Conference of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Portland, November 2004.
- “The Touch of Love: Goethe, Schlegel and the Poetics of Liebe.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, University of Colorado at Boulder, September 2004.
- “How to do Things with ‘No’—Freud, Benjamin and the Romance of a Finite Language.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, University of Michigan, April 2004.
- “Communicating Community.” Annual Meeting of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of San Francisco, February 2004.
- “There’s No Such Thing as Art History (and it’s a good thing, too).” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Fordham University, New York, August 2003.
- “Beyond the Body Principle.” Modern Language Association Convention, New York, December 2002.
- “Man alive! Using up Poe.” Modern Language Association Convention, New Orleans, December 2001.
- “The Event of Dada and the Performance of the Live.” Modern Language Association Convention, New Orleans, December 2001.
- “The Revolution of the Syntax.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, University of Washington at Seattle, August 2001.
- “The Dream has no Element.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, University of Colorado at Boulder, April 2001.
- “The Phantom Dreambook.” Interpretation of Dreams/Dreams of Interpretation Conference, University of Minnesota, October 2000.
- “The Language Theory of Labor.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Yale University, February 2000.
- “Ideology in Degrees of Zero.” Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 1999.
- “Kafka Live!” Seminar Presentation to the Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, November 1999.
- “Working Beyond Labor.” Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Atlanta, October 1999.
- “Divine Ruins of the Voice: Historical and Political Speech in Hölderlin.” Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco, December 1998.
- “History Dramas: Free Politics in Schelling and Schiller.” Conference on the Histories of Theory, University of Western Ontario, April 1998.
- “‘Three Satanic Promises.’ Allegory, Freedom, and the Language of Evil in Benjamin’s *Trauerspielbuch*.” World Congress of the International Walter Benjamin Association, Amsterdam, July 1997.
- “Poetic Truth, Poetic Haste: History in Hölderlin and Trakl.” Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., December 1996.

- “Whose Language? Poetry for a Free World.” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Boston, November 1996.
- “Romancing our Cultural Ideologies.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Notre Dame, April 1996.
- “Three Cheers for Boredom: The Concept of the Interesting in Kant and Schlegel.” Annual Meeting of the American Conference on Romanticism, Milwaukee, October 1995.
- “Hölderlin’s Philosophy of History.” Annual Conference of the Kentucky Foreign Language Association, April 1995.
- “Ideology, Presupposition, and the Obvious: Brecht with Aristotle and Adorno.” Modern Language Association Convention, San Diego, December 1994.
- “Character and History in Kleist’s *Prinz Friedrich von Homburg*.” Annual Meeting of the American Conference on Romanticism, Penn State, October 1994.
- “Choosy: Heidegger’s Readings of Hölderlin.” Annual Meeting of the International Association for the Study of Philosophy and Literature, Edmonton, May 1994.
- “Idealist Reflexes: Kant’s Art, Schelling’s Artwork.” Annual Conference of the Kentucky Foreign Language Association, April 1994.
- “Winckelmann’s Two-Bit Hermaphroditic Idealism.” The JHU Women’s Studies Workshop, Baltimore, November 1993.

Commentaries/Responses

- Commentator for the panel *Veracity (3): Mediating Truth*. Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Arlington, September 2025.
- Commentator for the panel *Sensus Non-Communis IV: Praxis, Institutions, Media*. Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Houston, September 2022.
- Commentator for the panel *Justice of Language III: Acts of Justice*. Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, October 2021 (virtual).
- Commentator for the panel *Short Forms (2): Orders of Minutude*. Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Portland, October 2019.
- Respondent for the panel *War Media and the Militarization of Experience*. Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, January 2014.
- Commentator for the panel *Choosing Words, Creating Worlds: Theorizing Semantics, Narrative, and Narrativity in Kafka and Early German Cinema*. Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Denver, October 2013.
- Commentator for the panel *Making Time: Temporalities, Histories, and Politics*. Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland, March 2004.
- Respondent for the panel *Reading the Mummy: Embodying the Past in the Present*. Modern Language Association Convention, Toronto, December 1997.

Professional Associations

- American Comparative Literature Association
- Eighteenth-Century Studies Association
- German Studies Association
- Modern Language Association
- Modernist Studies Association
- North American Society for the Study of Romanticism