

YI-PING ONG
Humanities Center
The Johns Hopkins University
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of the Humanities, 2010 –
Humanities Center, The Johns Hopkins University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, November 2009
Harvard University

M.A. in English, 2006
Harvard University

M.A. in Philosophy, 2004
Harvard University

Second B.A. in Philosophy and Theology, 2001
Oxford University, St. John's College

B.A. in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, 1999
Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Art of Being: The Poetics of the Novel and Existentialist Philosophy, Harvard University Press,
forthcoming 2018.

Philosophy in the Golden Age of the Novel

Articles and Essays

“Anna Karenina Reads on the Train: Readerly Subjectivity and the Poetics of the Novel,” *PMLA*,
forthcoming 2018.

“On Homecoming: Wittgenstein, Heidegger, and Coetzee,” *Graduate Faculty Philosophy
Journal*, Special Issue on Inheriting Ordinary Language Philosophy, forthcoming 2018.

“The Provocation of Style: Cavell, Voice, and Philosophy” in *Cavell and Modernism*, ed. Paola
Marrati, Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming 2018.

“Experiments in Search of Meaning: Nineteenth-Century Literature and Philosophy,” solicited
review essay on Paul Grimstad, *Experience and Experimental Writing: Literary Pragmatism
from Emerson to the Jameses* (2013), *nonsite.org*, forthcoming 2017.

“Lectures on Ethics: Kafka and Wittgenstein,” in *Wittgenstein and Literary Modernism*, ed.
Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé and Michael LeMahieu, University of Chicago Press, 2016.

“Simone de Beauvoir’s Theory of the Novel: Imitating Opacity, Ambiguity, and the Impartiality
of Life,” *Philosophy and Literature* 39:2 (2015): 379-405.

Articles (cont.)

“Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: *Mad Men* and Moral Ambiguity,” Special Issue on Television and Philosophy, The Comparative Literature Issue of *Modern Language Notes*, 127:5 (2012): 1013-39.

“Of Voice and Vulnerability: Experience as Inexperience in Cavell’s *Little Did I Know*,” The Comparative Literature Issue of *Modern Language Notes* 126:5 (2011): 962-71.

“The Language of Advertising and the Novel: Naipaul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas*,” *Twentieth-Century Literature* 56:4 (2010): 462-92.

“A View of Life: Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and the Novel,” *Philosophy and Literature* 33:1 (2009): 167-83.

Introduction and Notes, *Tao Te Ching*. New York: Barnes and Nobles Classics, 2005.

“Marriages are Made in Heaven,” *Harvard Review* 25 (2003): 174-86. Chosen by Best *American Short Stories 2004* as one of the 100 Distinguished Stories of 2003.

Reviews

Review of *Stanley Cavell and Literary Studies* (2011), ed. Richard Eldridge and Bernard Rhie, *Modern Philology* 111:4 (2014): E483-E486.

ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External Faculty Fellow, Humanities Center, Stanford University, 2013-2014

Howard Mumford Jones Prize – Best doctoral dissertation on some aspect of literature between 1789 and 1917, Department of English, Harvard University, 2010

New Faculty Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies, 2010-2012 (declined as condition of employment)

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Stanford University, 2010-2012 (declined as condition of employment)

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Center for the Humanities at Tufts University, 2010-2012 (declined as condition of employment)

Horst Frenz Prize – Best conference paper presented by a graduate student at ACLA 2009, American Comparative Literature Association, 2009

Whiting Dissertation Completion Fellowship – one of ten in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 2008-2009

Dexter Traveling Fellowship, Department of English, Harvard University, 2008

Graduate Bursary Award, Center for the Novel, University of Aberdeen, 2008

Harvard Graduate Society Merit Fellowship – sole recipient in Department of English that term, Harvard University, 2008

Mellon Seminar on Power and its Representations – one of eight graduate students, multi-disciplinary seminar with funding, Harvard University, 2003

ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (cont.)

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Mellon Foundation, 2001-2002

St. John's College Book Prize, Oxford University, 1999-2000

Euretta J. Kellett Fellowship – two years of post-graduate study at Oxford University, Columbia University, 1999-2001

David B. Truman Award – Most Distinguished Contribution from the Class of 1999 to the Academic Affairs of the College, Columbia University, 1999

Phi Beta Kappa, 1998

INVITED TALKS

“Embodiment, Embeddedness, and Kindness: Conditions of Reading and Living Together in Coetzee’s *Elizabeth Costello*,” Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature, Duke University, September 21, 2017.

“On Ethics and the Problem of Instruction: Wittgenstein and Kafka,” Philosophy Department, Tel Aviv University, May 21, 2017.

“Post-Secularism and the Novel: Ethics and the Art of the Impossible in Coetzee’s *Elizabeth Costello*,” Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, October 16, 2015.

“The Limits of Ethical Criticism: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” *Theorizing* – Lecture Series on Literature and Philosophy, Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, November 25, 2014.

“The Novel and Philosophy: Simone de Beauvoir’s Theory of the Novel,” Class of 1960’s Scholars Program in English, Williams College, October 28, 2014.

“The Problem of Ethics and Literature: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” The Philosophy and Literature Group, Stanford University, May 28, 2014.

“The Form of the Novel and Existentialist Philosophy,” The Humanities Center, Stanford University, April 22, 2014.

“Lessons in Bewilderment: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, April 30, 2013.

“Three Lectures on Ethics: Wittgenstein, Kafka, and Coetzee,” Conference on Stanley Cavell’s Aesthetics, University of Chicago, March 3, 2012.

“Existentialism and the Novel,” The Philosophy and Literature Group and Department of English, Stanford University, March 10, 2011.

“Speaking of Ethics: Coetzee and Wittgenstein on Words in the World,” Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature, Duke University, February 20, 2010.

“Contingency and the Form of the Novel: Rohinton Mistry’s *A Fine Balance*,” Department of English, University of Massachusetts, February 9, 2010.

INVITED TALKS (cont.)

- “Literary Forms, Philosophical Uses: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, January 28, 2010.
- “Being-in-the-world: Kierkegaard, Heidegger, and the Realist Novel,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, January 27, 2010.
- “Representations of Choice: The Novel of Marriage and Kierkegaard’s Ethics,” Department of English, University of Vermont, January 22, 2010.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “*Vollendungsroman*: The Novel of Age,” Conference on Literature, History, and Philosophy, Boston University, April 21, 2017.
- “Embodiment, Embeddedness, and Kindness: Conditions of Reading and Living Together in Coetzee’s *Elizabeth Costello*,” Workshop in Humanistic Ethics, Rice University, March 24, 2017.
- “Towards an Existentialist Poetics of the Novel: Kierkegaard and the Life-View,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Harvard University, March 19, 2016.
- “On Absurdity and Rationality in Ethics: Wittgenstein and Kafka,” Modernist Studies Association conference, Boston, MA, November 21, 2015.
- “After the Impossible: Ethics and J. M. Coetzee’s *Elizabeth Costello*,” International Society for the Study of Narrative conference, Chicago, IL, March 6, 2015.
- “Ordinary Language Philosophy and Aesthetics,” Roundtable on Analytic Philosophy and Modernism, Modernist Studies Association conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November 8, 2014.
- “The Difficulty of Imagining the Whole: Doing Justice to Coetzee’s ‘The Lives of Animals,’” Modern Language Association conference, Chicago, IL, January 11, 2014.
- “Lectures on Ethics: Kafka and Wittgenstein,” German Studies Association conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 6, 2012.
- “Speaking for Others: On Dialogic Community in Coetzee and Cavell,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Brown University, April 1, 2012.
- “Running against the Boundaries of Language: Lectures on Ethics by Kafka and Wittgenstein,” Modern Language Association conference, Seattle, WA, January 5, 2012.
- “On Voice and Vulnerability,” Symposium on Stanley Cavell’s *Little Did I Know: Excerpts from Memory*, Johns Hopkins University, April 22, 2011.
- “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: *Mad Men* and Moral Ambiguity,” International Symposium on Philosophy and New American Television Series, Johns Hopkins University, April 15, 2011.
- “Speaking of Ethics: Coetzee and Wittgenstein on the Importance of the First Person,” Modern Language Association conference, Los Angeles, CA, January 9, 2011.
- “Lost in Translation: Philosophy, Literature, and the Problem of Self-Knowledge in Cavell’s *The Claim of Reason*,” Modern Language Association conference, December 29, 2009.

CONFERENCE PAPERS (cont.)

- “Literature as Life Philosophy: Nietzsche and the Novel,” Modern Language Association conference, Philadelphia, PA, December 27, 2009.
- “Poets and Philosophers of the Everyday: Stein and Wittgenstein on Language, World and Meaning,” Modernist Studies Association conference, Montreal, Canada, November 6, 2009.
- “Towards a Life View: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and the Novel,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Harvard University, March 29, 2009. Received Horst Frenz Prize for best graduate student paper.
- “The Shame of All Her Kind: Spenser, Nietzsche, and the Allegory of Duessa Unveiled,” Modern Language Association conference, San Francisco, CA, December 30, 2008.
- “Strange Bedfellows: *Playboy*, Existentialism, and American Cold War Propaganda,” Modern Language Association conference, San Francisco, CA, December 28, 2008.
- “Between the Furniture Sale and the Fate of the Soul with *Madame Bovary*: Against an Empirical Understanding of Realism in the Novel,” The Novel and its Borders conference, University of Aberdeen, July 9, 2008.
- “Art’s Rebellious Subjects: Breaking the Pose in *L’Oeuvre*, *The Marble Faun*, and *Emma*,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Long Beach, CA, April 25, 2008.
- “Commercial Reality and the Illusory Constructions of a Former Sign Painter: The Language of Advertising in Naipul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas*,” Postcolonialism and the Hit of the Real conference, New York University, March 8, 2008.
- “Plotinus on Matter,” Globalizing Philosophy: Eastern and Western Approaches to the Central Metaphysical Issues of Philosophy and Science, Columbia University, April 17, 1999.

WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR PAPERS

- “How Shall We Let This Text, or Anything, Teach Us?: Lessons in Bewilderment – Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” Andrew W. Mellon Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, May 3, 2012.
- Invited Scholar, Young Scholars Workshop on Philosophy, Literature, and Film, Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature, Duke University, April 5-6, 2012.
- “On the Future of Literature and Philosophy,” Humanities Center – Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Futures Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, October 28, 2010.
- “Responsibility and the Limits of Moral Community,” Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University, November 8, 2004.
- “Moral Community, Blame and Responsibility,” Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University, May 9, 2004.
- “On Moral Relativism and the Virtues,” St. John’s College Graduate Lectures, Oxford University, April 2000.

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses – Johns Hopkins University, 2010-

The Literature of the Everyday: Realism in the 19th- and 20th-Century Novel
The Modernist Novel: Mann, Woolf, and Joyce
Forms of Moral Community: The Post-1950 World Novel
The Modernist Novel: James, Woolf and Joyce
Great Books at Hopkins
Film and Philosophy: Moral Perfectionism and the Comedy of Remarriage
Honors Research Seminar: What are the Humanities?

Graduate Courses – Johns Hopkins University, 2010-

Introduction to Literary Theory (graduate proseminar)
Philosophy and/of the Novel (graduate seminar)
The Ancient Quarrel: Literature and Philosophy (graduate seminar)
Literature and/as Ethics (graduate seminar)
Vollendungsroman: The Novel of Age (graduate seminar)
The Good Life: Philosophical and Literary Texts (graduate seminar)

Independent Studies – Johns Hopkins University, 2010-

The Victorian Novel and the City
David Foster Wallace and Contemporary Ethics

Courses – Harvard University, 2003-2010

Course Head, Moral Community in the Post-1950 Anglophone Novel (junior honors tutorial)
Course Head, Virginia Woolf (junior honors tutorial)
Head Teaching Fellow, Self, Freedom, and Existence
Head Teaching Fellow, Art and Thought of the Cold War
Teaching Fellow, The Classic Phase of the Novel
Teaching Fellow, Shakespearean Tragedy
Teaching Fellow, Contemporary Political Philosophy
Teaching Fellow, Existentialism
Teaching Fellow, Justice

Invited Lectures on Pedagogy – Harvard University Bok Center for Teaching

“What To Do if Your Students Haven’t Read,” Harvard University Teaching Conference, Fall 2007

“Making Difficult Material Accessible,” Harvard University Teaching Conference, Fall 2005 and 2006

Teaching Awards

Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2010
Nominated for Harvard University Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, Spring 2008
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2007
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2006
Lead Teaching Fellow, Derek Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard University, 2005-2006 (One selected in each department; declined for fellowship.)

Teaching Awards (cont.)

Nominated for Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, Spring 2006
Graduate Writing Fellow, Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard University, Spring 2005
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2005
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2004
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2004
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2003

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

Rebecca Pekron, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University
Elizabeth Brogden, Department of English, Johns Hopkins University
Lucy Bergeret, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University
Michael McCreary, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University

PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Alternate Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Elena Fabietti, “Bodies of Glass: A Cultural and Literary History of Transparent Humans,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, June 9, 2017.

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Kara Wedekind, “Working in Shifts: Mobility in Modernist Literature,” Department of English, Johns Hopkins University, September 9, 2016.

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Bican Polat, “The Emotional Bond: The Psychiatric Normalization of Early Relationships in Late Modernity,” Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, February 16, 2016.

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Elizabeth Brogden, “Withheld Minds: Para-Novelistic Form and the Pleasures of Evasion in American Fiction,” Department of English, Johns Hopkins University, December 7, 2015.

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Jennifer Watson, “Realism and Representation: Arman, 1954-1964,” Department of Art History, Johns Hopkins University, February 20, 2015.

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Nicholas Bujak, “Narrative, the Novel, and Poetry: Generic Interrelation in the Romantic Period,” Department of English, Johns Hopkins University, August 8, 2014.

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Rebecca Pekron, “Que-reste-il?": Poetic Approaches to Immortality after Baudelaire,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, February 21, 2013.

Alternate Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Cara Weber, “Marriage and Ethical Agency in Four Victorian Novels,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, November 9, 2012.

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Cristin Ellis, “Political Ecologies: The Contingency of Nature in American Romantic Thought,” Department of English, Johns Hopkins University, February 2, 2012.

PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES (*cont.*)

Committee Member, Oral Ph.D. Defense, Joyce Tsai, "Painting After Photography: Lázló Moholy-Nagy" Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, March 7, 2011.

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Co-Executive Editor, The Comparative Literature Issue – *Modern Language Notes*, 2010 –

Editorial Board, *Modern Language Notes*, 2010 –

Contributing Editor, *Ordinary Language Philosophy and Literary Studies Online*, 2009 –

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Conference Panel Organizer, "Form and Limit: Coetzee and the Edges of Narrative," International Society for the Study of Narrative conference, Chicago, IL, March 6, 2015.

Conference Panel Organizer, "Forms of Community," American Comparative Literature Association conference, Brown University, March 30-April 1, 2012.

Conference Panel Organizer, "Literary Genres, Philosophical Uses," American Comparative Literature Association conference, Harvard University, March 28-29, 2009.

Conference Panel Organizer, "Defining the Politics of Asian Identity: Human Rights and Asian Values," Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations conference, Sydney, Australia, August 15-18, 2002.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Delegate, Philosophy and Literature Forum, Modern Language Association, 2017 –

Director, Undergraduate Honors Program, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2010 - 2011 and 2014 –

Faculty Board Member, The Alexander Grass Humanities Institute, Johns Hopkins University, 2016 –

Krieger School Status of Women Committee, Johns Hopkins University, 2012-2013 and 2014 –

Krieger School Departmental Diversity Champion, Johns Hopkins University, 2016 –

Mellon Postdoctoral Selection Committee, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2014 –

Graduate Admissions Committee, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2010 –

Organizer and Founder, Philosophy and Literature Reading Group (faculty reading group with members from the departments of Art History, English, German and Romance Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, and the Humanities Center), 2012 – 2013

Organizer, Graduate Symposium (Practice Job Talks), Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2011- 2013

ACADEMIC SERVICE (*cont.*)

*Departmental Liaison and Undergraduate Resident House Advisor, Department of English,
Harvard University, 2007-2009*

*Assistant Senior Tutor of Fellowships and Resident Tutor in Philosophy and English, Kirkland
House, Harvard University, 2002-2008*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association
American Comparative Literature Association
Modernist Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Japanese (Advanced)
French (Intermediate)
Chinese (Basic Mandarin, Conversant in Cantonese)

REFEREES

Philip Fisher, Felice Crowl Reid Professor of English, Harvard University

Stephen Greenblatt, Cogan University Professor, Harvard University

Louis Menand, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of English, Harvard University

Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value,
Harvard University