

Virginia Jackson

Department of English
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EDUCATION

1995 Ph.D., Comparative Literature, Princeton University
1981 B.A./M.A., Comparative Literature, UCLA

HONORS, GRANTS, AWARDS

2021 Bain-Swiggett Visiting Professor of Poetry and Poetics, Princeton University
2018 Associated Graduate Students of UC Irvine Faculty Mentoring Award
2011 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers
2010 Faculty Research Award, Tufts University
2008 Faculty Research Award, Tufts University
2007 Stanley Paterson Research Fellowship, Longfellow House
2006 Christian Gauss Award, Phi Beta Kappa (for *Dickinson's Misery*)
2005 MLA Prize for a First Book (for *Dickinson's Misery*)
2001 Undergraduate Teaching Award, Rutgers University
2000 Center for Cultural Analysis Faculty Fellowship, Rutgers University
1996 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend
1996 Humanities Foundation Fellowship, Boston University

EMPLOYMENT

2012- UCI Endowed Chair in Rhetoric, Departments of English and Comparative
Literature, UC Irvine
2006-2012 Associate Professor of English, Tufts University
2001-2005 Associate Professor of English, New York University
1997-2002 Assistant Professor of English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
1995-1998 Assistant Professor of English, Boston University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Monographs

2005 *Dickinson's Misery: A Theory of Lyric Reading*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2005 Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book
2006 Christian Gauss Award, Phi Beta Kappa

2023 *Before Modernism: Inventing American Lyric*. Princeton University Press.

Critical Anthology

- 2014 *The Lyric Theory Reader* (with Yopie Prins). The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Edited Collection

- 2010 *On Periodization: Selected Papers from the English Institute, 2008* (ACLS Humanities E-Book)

Articles in Journals:

- 2022 "Apostrophe, Animation, and Racism," *Critical Inquiry* (forthcoming, Autumn, 2022)
- 2020 "Historical Poetics and the Dream of Interpretation: A Response to Paul Fry," *Modern Language Quarterly*, 81:3 (September 2020), 289-318.
- 2018 "'Our Poets': William Cullen Bryant and the White Romantic Lyric," *New Literary History*, 49:4 (Autumn 2018), 521-551.
- 2016 "American Romanticism, Again," *Studies in Romanticism*, 55 (Fall 2016), 319-346.
- 2016 "Specters of the Ballad," *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, Vol. 71, No. 2, 176-196.
- 2008 "Who Reads Poetry?" *PMLA*, vol. 123, no. 2, January, 181-187.
- 2008 "The Story of Boon; or, Parables of the Poetess," *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, vol. 54, nos. 1-4, December, 240-268.
- 2007 "'The Poetess' and Nineteenth-Century American Women Poets" (with Eliza Richards), *Poetess Archive Journal*, vol. 1, no. 1
2005. "American Victorian Poetry: The Transatlantic Poetic," *Victorian Poetry*, 43:2, Summer (Virginia Jackson, Guest Editor), 157-164.
- 2005 "Dickinson Undone," *Raritan* (Spring), Vol. XXIV, Number 4, 128-148.
- 2000 "Poetry and Experience," *Raritan* (Fall), Vol. XX, Number 2., 126-135.
- 2000 "Poe, Longfellow, and the Institution of Poetry," *Poe Studies*. Vol. 33, numbers 1 and 2, 23-28.
- 1999 "Lyrical Studies" (with Yopie Prins), *Victorian Literature and Culture* 27:2 (Fall). 521-530.
- 1998 "Longfellow's Tradition; or, Picture-Writing a Nation," *Modern Language Quarterly* 59:4 (December). 471-496.

Chapters in Edited Collections:

- 2022 "Old Lyric Things," *What Kind of Thing is a Medieval Lyric?* ed. Nicholas Watson and Cristina Cervone. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2019 "Poe's Common Meter," in *The Oxford Handbook of Edgar Allan Poe*, ed. J. Gerald Kennedy and Scott Peeples (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), 121-139.
- 2019 "The Cadence of Consent: Francis Barton Gummere, Lyric Rhythm, and White Poetics," in *Critical Rhythm: The Poetics of a Literary Life Form* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2019), 87-106.

- 2014 "Longfellow in His Time," Chapter 11 of *The Cambridge History of American Poetry*, ed. Alfred Bendixson and Stephen Burt (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 238-259.
- 2012 "The Poet as Poetess," *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Poetry*, ed. Kerry Larson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 54-76.
- 2012 "Lyric," *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*. Fourth Edition, ed. Roland Greene, et. al. (Princeton: Princeton University Press), 826-834.
- 2010 "Periodization and its Discontents," Introduction to *On Periodization: Selected Papers from the English Institute, 2008*
- 2008 "Thinking Dickinson Thinking Poetry," in *The Blackwell Companion to Emily Dickinson*, ed. Mary Loeffelholz and Martha Nell Smith (Blackwell Publishing), 205-221.
- 2008 "Bryant; or, American Romanticism," in *The Traffic in Poems: Nineteenth-Century Poetry and Transatlantic Exchange*, ed. Meredith McGill (Rutgers University Press, 2008), 185-204.
- 1997 "'Faith in Anatomy': Reading Emily Dickinson," in *Dwelling in Possibility: Women Poets and Critics on Poetry*, ed. Yopie Prins and Maera Shreiber (Ithaca: Cornell University Press). 85-108.
- 1996 "Dickinson's Figure of Address," in *Emily Dickinson and Audience*, ed. Martin Orzeck and Robert Weisbuch (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press). 77-103.

Collaborative Writing:

- 2021 "The Poetry of the Past" (with Meredith Martin), *Avidly, Los Angeles Review of Books*, February 18, <http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2021/02/18/the-poetry-of-the-past/>
- 2021 "The Poetry of the Future" (with Meredith Martin), *Avidly, Los Angeles Review of Books*, January
<https://www.google.com/search?q=the+poetry+of+the+future+avidly>
- 2014 (with Yopie Prins), General Introduction, "Genre Theory," "Models of Lyric," "Anglo-American New Criticism," "Structuralist Reading," "Post-Structuralist Reading," Frankfurt School and After," "Phenomenologies of Lyric Reading," "Avant-Garde Anti-Lyricism," "Lyric and Sexual Difference," Comparative Lyric," *The Lyric Theory Reader*, ed. Virginia Jackson and Yopie Prins (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins), 60,000 words.
- 2013 (with Lisa Gitelman), Introduction to "*Raw Data*" is an Oxymoron, ed. Lisa Gitelman (Cambridge: The MIT Press), 1-14.

Reviews:

- 2021 "Triptych for Lauren," *Critical Inquiry Blog*, July 19, 2021
<https://critinq.wordpress.com/2021/07/19/triptych-for-lauren/>
- 2021 "How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?" *The Georgia Review*, Spring 2021
<https://thegeorgiareview.com/posts/how-does-it-feel-to-be-a-problem/>
- 2015 "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 12, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/function-criticism-present-time>
- 2011 "Please Don't Call It History," <http://nonsite.org/the-tank/being-numerous>

Invited Lectures (selected)

- 2021 “Before Modernism: Inventing American Lyric in the Nineteenth Century,” Bain-Swiggett Seminar in Poetics, Princeton University, March
- 2019 “The Silence of Poetry,” Johns Hopkins University, Department of English, March
- 2019 “Frances Ellen Watkins Harper and American Lyric,” University of Maryland, Baltimore, March
- 2018 “Forgetting Lyric” and “What is Genre?” University of Michigan, American Studies Consortium and Poetry & Poetics Workshop, October
- 2018 “Lyric Orientalism and the Invention of World Poetry,” SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) University of London, May
- 2018 “Forgetting Lyric: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper and American Sentiment,” University of Cambridge, Faculty of English, May
- 2018 “Kindred Spirits: Transatlantic Romantic Poetics,” New Literary History Romanticism Symposium, University of Virginia, April
- 2018 “Becoming Lyric,” Center for Poetry and Poetics, University of Virginia, April
- 2017 “Slow Poetics,” Keynote, “Historical Poetics in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries: A Symposium,” Connecticut College, November
- 2017 “Forgetting Lyric,” Keynote, Situating Lyric (International Society for the Study of the Lyric), Boston University, June
- 2016 “American Poetry in Public,” Joseph M. Duffy Lecture, University of Notre Dame, Department of English, April
- 2016 “American Poetry in Public,” Simpson Center, University of Washington, March
- 2015 “Specters of the Ballad,” Yale University, Department of English, September
- 2015 “American Romanticism Five Ways,” Boston University, Romanticism in the Atlantic World Symposium, November
- 2015 “American Poetry in Public” and “Before Modernism,” Barbara Packer Lectures, Department of English, UCLA April
- 2014 “Poetry and Media: C19/C20/C21,” University of Aarhus, Denmark, Symposium on Poetry and Media, December
- 2014 “Bad Poetry,” Keynote Address, UC Riverside Disjunctions Conference, “Irreverent Readings,” April
- 2014 “The Lyric Theory Reader,” UCLA, Boundary 2: The Social Life of Poetic Language, April
- 2013 “Whitmania,” Northwestern University, Department of English, June
- 2013 “It Must Be Abstract,” University of California, Davis, Department of English,
- 2012 “Poetry as Idea,” Keynote address, Conference on Contemporary Poetry Between Genres, Art Forms, and Media, Aalborg University, Denmark, October
- 2012 “After Poetry,” Yale University, Department of English, January
- 2011 “The Beginnings of Poetry,” University of Toronto, November
- 2011 “Before Modernism,” CalTech University, November
- 2011 “Poetry’s Audience,” Brown University, April
- 2011 “Reading Sayings,” University of California, Irvine, February
- 2010 “After Modernism,” University of Chicago, Franke Institute for the Humanities,
- 2010 “Whitman’s Publics,” Rutgers University, Poetry and Poetics Colloquium/American Literature Working Group, October
- 2009 “Reading Lyrically,” Cornell University, Department of English, September
- 2009 “Whitman’s Publics,” University of Iowa, Department of English, April
- 2009 “Poetry in Public,” Peters Rushton Seminar Lecture, Department of English University of Virginia, April

- 2008 “Dickinson Undone,” Emily Dickinson Birthday Lecture, Emily Dickinson Museum, Amherst, MA, December
- 2008 “Whitman’s Media,” Florida State University, Tallahassee, Department of English, October
- 2008 “American Poetry in Public” University of California at Berkeley, Department of English, April
- 2008 “How Not to Write a Book,” Princeton University, Department of English, April
- 2008 “Lyric, Theoretically,” Poetics Workshop, Departments of English and Comparative Literature, Stanford University, March
- 2007 “Reading Sayings” Yale University, Americanist Colloquium, November
- 2007 “Poetry By Other Means,” University of Utah, October
- 2007 “Reading Sayings,” The English Institute, Harvard University, September
- 2007 “Whitmania,” Barrs lecture, Northeastern University, Department of English
- 2006 “Generic Communities” Columbia University, Department of Anthropology
- 2006 “On Not Hearing Whitman,” Notre Dame University, April
- 2006 “On Not Hearing Whitman,” Loyola University, Chicago, April
- 2006 “Who Reads Poetry?” University of Pennsylvania, Department of English
- 2005 “Thinking Dickinson Thinking Poetry,” invited lecture, University of Maryland, College Park, Department of English, November
- 2005 “Your Name and Walt Whitman’s,” Cornell University, Department of English
- 2001 “Your Name and Walt Whitman’s” The English Institute, Harvard University

Papers delivered (selected)

- 2020 “Poetry of the Americas,” MLA Poetry Division Panel, January
- 2020 “The Poem Which Is Not One,” Virtual C19 Conference: Dissent, February
- 2018 “The Poetics of White Supremacy,” American Comparative Literature Conference, UCLA, April
- 2017 “The Institution of World Poetry,” American Comparative Literature Conference, Utrecht, July
- 2016 Seminar Leader, “Why We Can’t Read Nineteenth-Century American Poetry,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists,” Penn State, March
- 2016 “The Problem of ‘World Poetry’: Comparative Poetics and Comparative Publics,” Modern Language Association, Austin, January
- 2015 “Nineteenth-Century by Twenty-First-Century Poetic Crossings,” Modern Language Association, Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel, Vancouver, January
- 2014 “The Lyric Theory Reader,” Plenary Session, American Comparative Literature Association, NY, NY, March
- 2014 Chair, “The Neo-Garde,” Modern Language Association, Poetry Division Panel, Chicago, January
- 2013 “Historical Poetics,” NAVSA, Huntington Library, Pasadena, October
- 2013 “Lyric Theory,” Panel Chair, Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, January
- 2012 “American World Poetry,” Modernist Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV, October
- 2011 “The Beginnings of Poetry,” American Comparative Literature Association, Vancouver, B. C., April
- 2011 “Imaginary Rhythm,” Poetry Division (Chair), Modern Language Association, Los Angeles, CA, January 8-11
- 2010 “After Modernism,” Post-*45: The Conference, Brown University, November 5

- 2010 “The Beginnings of Poetry,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 16-18
- 2010 “Before Modernism,” *Crossing the Bar: Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Poetics*,” University of Pennsylvania, March 5-6
- 2009 Chair, Seminar on “Choreography and Poetics II,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University, April
- 2009 “Sir William Jones and the Sanskrit Lyric,” Harvard University, March
- 2008 “Lyric, Lyric, Lyric.....” Modern Language Association, December
- 2008 “Poet Princess,” Rutgers University, conference on The Global Poetess. May
- 2008 “The New Lyric Studies,” University of Michigan, Nineteenth-Century Working Group, April
- 2007 “Poetic Cultures, Poetic Genres,” seminar chair and organizer, American Comparative Literature Association, Puebla, Mexico, April
- 2006 Invited participant, Roundtable on “How to Read Nineteenth-Century American Poetry,” American Literature Association, San Francisco, May
- 2006 “Critical Lyric,” Poetry and Poetics Group, University of Chicago, April
- 2005 “Lyric Citizenship,” American Literature Division Panel, MLA Convention, Washington, D.C., December “Victorian Americas,” University of Maryland, College Park, November, 2005
- 2005 “The Forms of Phillis Wheatley,” American Literature Association Symposium on Poetic Form, San Diego, California, September
- 2005 “Dickinson’s Things,” invited lecture, Amherst College and the Dickinson Homestead Trust, May
- 2005 “Addressing the Dead: Bryant’s ‘Thanatopsis’, ‘Too Familiar for Words,’” Rutgers University, April
- 2005 “Critical Lyric,” American Comparative Literature Association, March
- 2005 “Translating Transcendentalism,” American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November
- 2004 “Longfellow’s Translations,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, April
- 2004 “The Lyric as Norm,” Poetics and Theory Institute Conference, NYU, April
- 2004 “Bryant’s Histories,” Poetry and History Seminar, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, February
- 2003 Chair, special session on “American Romanticism,” NASSR conference, Fordham University, New York, August
- 2002 “Romantic Affections--Bryant to Whitman,” “The Traffic in Poems: Nineteenth-Century Trans-Atlantic Poetry,” Rutgers University, September
- 2002 “Bryant’s Literary Democracy,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April
- 2001 “Envelope,” Modern Language Association, Division on Criticism and Theory, New Orleans, Louisiana, December
- 2000 Chair, “Emily Dickinson and the Victorians,” Modern Language Association, December

Professional Service

Director, Poetics|history|Theory@uci

<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/poeticshistorytheory/>

Founding Member, Historical Poetics Working Group <https://www.historicalpoetics.com>

Advisory Board, Princeton Prosody Archive <http://prosody.princeton.edu/?q=home>

Faculty, International Whitman Week Seminar and Symposium, Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association

Trustee, The English Institute, 2020-
 Supervisor, The English Institute, Harvard University, 2007-2010; Chair of the Board of
 Supervisors, 2009-2010
 Advisory Board, C19, 2008-
 MLA Poetry Division Executive Committee, 2010-2015 (Chair, 2013)
 Selection Committee, MLA Morton N. Cohen Award, 2008-2011; Cohen Committee
 Chair, 2011-2012.
 Manuscript Reader for Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Cornell, Oxford, Duke, Chicago,
 and Cambridge University Presses
 Tenure and Promotion Reviews: NYU, Northwestern, Yale, U C Davis, University of
 Michigan, Princeton, Yeshiva University, U C Berkeley, Johns Hopkins, Harvard
 Referee, *Modern Language Quarterly*, *PMLA*, *American Literature*, *ESQ*, *Emily
 Dickinson Journal*, *J19*
 Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2005-2020
 Foerster Prize Committee, American Literature Section, MLA, 2005
 Horst Frenz Prize Committee, ACLA, 2005-2017
 Editorial Board Member, *Emily Dickinson Journal*, 2007-2013
 Editorial Board Member, *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, 2007-2013

UCI Service

Divisional Senate Assembly, 2022-2023
 First Generation Faculty Committee, SOH, 2022-
 For the Department of English, 2012-2023:
 Graduate Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Placement Director, Undergraduate
 Committee, MA Committee
 Director, poetics|history|theory@uci