

SAMUEL COHEN
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York (CUNY), 2003
Dissertation: "The Novel of Retrospect in American Fiction of the 1990s:
Pynchon, Morrison, Roth" (Louis Menand, director; Nancy K. Miller, Morris
Dickstein)
M.A. in English (Creative Writing), Binghamton University, SUNY, 1995
Creative fiction thesis: "Drive Carefully, Now" (Director: Barry Targan)
B.A. with Honors, Swarthmore College, English and Sociology/Anthropology, 1989

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Missouri (MU), 2004-
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Lehman College, CUNY, 2003-
2004
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Baruch College, CUNY, 2003
Spring
Special Projects Coordinator, CUNY Writing Across the Curriculum Initiative, 2002 Fall
Writing Fellow, CUNY Writing Across the Curriculum Initiative, 2001-2002
Visiting Lecturer, Department of English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 2001
Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Brooklyn College, CUNY, 2000
Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Baruch College, CUNY, 1995-2001
Instructor, Department of English, Binghamton University, SUNY, 1994-1995

PUBLICATIONS

Work in Progress

"What Comes Next: American Fiction 1996-2010," book manuscript. The book follows my first book in examining American writers' ideas about and representations of American history, in this case exploring the work of the generation of American fiction writers who have followed the generation of writers born in the 1930s, whose work towers over American letters (including Pynchon, Roth, Morrison, DeLillo, all of whom I wrote about in my first book). "What Comes Next" reads the work of a number of younger writers—such as David Foster Wallace, Jonathan Lethem, Jhumpa Lahiri, ZZ Packer, Michael Chabon, George Saunders, and Junot Diaz—for the ways in which it engages with the work of the previous generation and, in particular, with that generation's own engagement with American history.

"*Infinite Jest* and the Problem of Ending," article manuscript

Books

After the End of History: American Fiction in the 1990s. University of Iowa Press, 2009.

Articles

- “The Novel in a Time of Terror: *Middlesex*, History, and Contemporary American Fiction” in “After Postmodernism,” Special Issue, *Twentieth-Century Literature* 53.3 (Fall 2007), 371-93
- “Triumph and Trauma: *In the Lake of the Woods* and History,” in *Clio: Journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History* 36.2 (Spring 2007), 219-36
- “Mason & Dixon & The Ampersand,” in *Twentieth-Century Literature* 48.3 (Fall 2002), 264-91
- “Tinkering toward WAC Utopia,” in *Journal of Basic Writing* 21.2 (Fall 2002), 56-72 (entries in *The Bedford Bibliography for Teachers of Basic Writing*, ed. Linda Adler-Kassner and Gregory R. Glau, for the Conference on Basic Writing, and *The WAC Clearinghouse Bibliography*, ed. Andrea Wenker and Tracy Pearce)
- “Composition and Construction: Belief, Identity, and the Teaching of Writing,” in *Dialogue: A Journal for Writing Specialists* 6.1 (Fall 1999), 30-36

Reviews

- “The Cloud of Unknowing,” review of John McClure’s *Partial Faiths: Postsecular Fiction in the Age of Pynchon and Morrison*, forthcoming in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*
- “It’s the End of the World as We Know It,” review of Walter Benn Michaels, *The Shape of the Signifier: 1967 to the End of History*, in *Twentieth-Century Literature* 51.1 (Spring 2005), 98-104 (excerpted in *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 22 September 2006, Volume 53, Issue 5, Research & Publishing, A14; also <<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v53/i05/05a01401.htm>>)

Textbooks

- 50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*, 3rd ed. (New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s), forthcoming 2010
- Literature: The Human Experience*, 10th ed., ed. Richard Abcarian, Marvin Klotz, Samuel Cohen (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2009)
- “Looking Farther” Casebooks, *Literature: The Human Experience*, Shorter 9th ed., ed. Richard Abcarian, Marvin Klotz (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2007), pp. 299-308, 710-18, 946-62
- 50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*, 2nd ed. (New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2006)
- “Looking Farther” Casebooks, *Literature: The Human Experience*, 9th ed., ed. Richard Abcarian, Marvin Klotz (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2006), pp. 354-64, 675-90, 977-85, 1277-92, 1485-1514
- 50 Essays: A Portable Anthology* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2003)

Encyclopedias

- “Bob Marley,” “Ngugi wa Thiong’o,” “Richard Wright,” in *Encyclopedia of the World’s Minorities*, ed. Carl Skutsch (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004)
- “Frederick Barthelme,” “T. Coraghessan Boyle,” “John Casey,” “Richard Ford,” and

“Mona Simpson,” in *Encyclopedia of American Literature*, ed. Steven Serafin (New York: Continuum Press, 1999), pp.78-79, 114-15, 164, 391-92, 1045-46
 “Russell Banks,” “Frederick Barthelme,” “T. Coraghessan Boyle,” “Mona Simpson,” “Robert Stone,” and “Peter Taylor,” in *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century*, ed. Steven Serafin (Detroit: St. James Press, 1999), v. 1, pp. 194-95; v. 1, p. 210; v. 1, pp. 321-22; v. 4, pp. 110-11; v. 4, pp. 226-27; v. 4, pp. 301-02

PRESENTATIONS

- [“The Legacy of David Foster Wallace,” roundtable participant, at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2009]
- [“*Infinite Jest* and the Problem of Ending,” at the fourth annual symposium of Post•45, MU, 2009
 Post•45 is a collective of younger scholars working on American literature and culture since 1945. It has met annually—at Concordia, Harvard, and Yale—to discuss new work in the field.]
- [“At the Far Frontiers of the Monroe Doctrine: Joan Didion’s *The Last Thing He Wanted*,” for panel, “Political Fictions: Joan Didion and the Political Novel,” at the Annual meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO, 2009 (panel organizer and chair)]
- “A Terminally Bad Time: The American Historical Imagination and the End,” for the Permanent Section on Literary Criticism, “Criticism After the Cold War,” at the Annual meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis, MN, 2008 (panel organizer and chair)
- “No Alternative: ‘The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation’ and the False Promises of Genre” for the meeting of the Division on Nonfiction Prose Studies Excluding Biography and Autobiography, “Alternative Approaches to Telling History,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, 2007
- “Teaching Uncertainty,” for the meeting of the Division on the Teaching of Literature, “Why Do We Teach Literature, Anyway?” at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, 2007
- “Realism in Theory of the Novel,” for the Permanent Section on Literary Criticism, “Realism in Theory,” at the annual meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Cleveland, OH, 2007 (panel organizer and chair)
- “On Minimalism and Literary History,” for panel, “Maximum Minimalism,” at the International Conference on Narrative, Washington, D.C., 2007
- “Diminished Expectations: Minimalism and the Crisis of American Confidence,” for panel, “What We Talk About When, Etc.: Historicizing Minimalism,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2006 (panel organizer)
- “The Novel in a Time of Terror,” at “‘Beyond Ground Zero’: 9/11 and the Futures of Critical Thought,” the John Douglas Taylor Conference, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 2006
- Panelist, “Roth Bound: A Roundtable on the Occasion of the Library of America Editions,” English Department Colloquium, MU, 2006
- “History is What Heals,” for panel, “Future Anterior: History, Time, and the Event in

- Post-World War II United States Fiction,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, Washington, D. C., 2005 (panel organizer)
- Respondent, “Poetics and History,” at the annual meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Milwaukee, WI, 2005
- “American Trauma,” at the Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture Conference, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, 2005 (panel chair)
- “*In the Lake of the Woods* and History,” for panel, “The Trauma of the Present: Historicizing Recent Fiction,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2004
- “Walter Benn Michaels, The New Historicism, and Me,” for colloquium on Walter Benn Michael’s *The Shape of the Signifier*, English Department Colloquium, MU, 2004
- “The Novel of Retrospect in the American Nineties,” at the Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, 2003
- “Tinkering toward WAC Utopia,” at Sixth National Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, Rice University, Houston, Texas, 2002
- “‘Fettered by History’: Philip Roth’s *American Pastoral* and the Ironies of Historical Representation,” at the annual meeting of the American Literature Association, Long Beach, California, 2000
- “American Paradise: Roth, Morrison, and the Post-Cold War Historical Novel,” at the annual meeting of the Northeast Modern Language Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1999
- “Composition and Construction: Belief, Identity, and the Teaching of Writing,” at the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication, Atlanta, Georgia, 1999
- “What’s the Subject: Identity and the Composition Teacher,” 21st Annual Conference of the CUNY Association of Writing Supervisors, New York, New York, 1997
- “‘There ain’t no such view in the world’: Jewett’s Constructive Realism,” at the annual meeting of the Northeast Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1997
- “Howells, Jewett, and Realism,” at the annual New York Conference on Language and Literature, State University of New York, Cortland, 1996

INVITED LECTURES/INTERVIEWS

- “‘Big Winner’: Nuclear Fear in the U.S. Before and After 9/11,” Colloquium Series, Department of Sociology, MU, September 11, 2009
- Keynote Speaker, BAKEA International Symposium of Western Cultural and Literary Studies, Pamukkale University, Denizli, Turkey, October 7-9, 2009 (invitation declined)
- “DeLillo after the End of History,” Graduate Student Welcome Day, Department of English, MU, 2009
- “The Bloody Crossroads: Writing about Politics,” Professional Writing Seminar, Department of English, MU, 2008
- Interview on David Foster Wallace, “Off the Clock,” KBIA Radio, Columbia, Missouri, September 19, 2008
- “Philip Roth’s *American Pastoral*,” “Between the Wars,” Scholar in Residence lectures, Congregation Sinai, Milwaukee, WI, 2008

Response, “Being Frank,” play by Kevin Babbitt, Dir. Heather Carver, Corner Playhouse, MU, February 3, 2007

Special Commentary, Discussion of Guy Adams’ *Unmasking Administrative Evil*, Center for Arts & Humanities 2006 Tuesdays Noon Faculty Colloquia, MU, September 19, 2006

Interview on T. C. Boyle, “Thinking Out Loud,” KBIA Radio, Columbia, Missouri, June 13, 2006

“The Novel in a Time of Terror: History and Contemporary American Fiction,” English Graduate Student Association Faculty Speaker Lecture, MU, 2006

“*Maus*, Trauma, and Postmemory,” Art History 2850, Introduction to American Visual Culture, MU, 2006

“Politics and Practice in the Teaching of Composition,” English 8010, Theory and Practice of Composition, MU, 2006

STUDENT COMMITTEES

Undergraduate Honors Theses Committees

Cameron Reisenberger, Senior Honors Thesis, MU; director, 2010

Carrie Wade, Senior Honors Thesis, MU; director, 2009

“A Splendid Connection: An Exploration of Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics in Don DeLillo’s *White Noise*,” Stephanie Strinko, Senior Honors Thesis, MU; director, 2009

“‘A memory for the boy’: Fathers, Sons, and History in Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*,” Alex Streiff, Senior Honors Thesis, MU; director, 2009

“Superman Kills America’s Victory Culture: The Effect of 9/11 and the Iraq War on Superhero Comics,” Joshua Bixby, Senior Honors Thesis, MU; director, 2006

“Factors in *The Jungle*’s Success,” Jennifer Sandknop, Senior Honors Thesis, MU; director, 2005

“Hemingway and Professionalism: Reading ‘Indian Camp’ and ‘Hills Like White Elephants,’” Jennifer Dills, Senior Honors Thesis, MU; second reader, 2005

Masters Committees

Michael Horton, M.A. Thesis, MU; director, 2010

Nell McCabe, M.A. Thesis, MU; director, 2010

Eric Thomas, M.A. Thesis, MU; director, 2009

“Roth and War: Two Cases,” Brian Van Reet, M.A. Thesis, MU; second reader, 2009

“‘Swaddled in White String’: Breaking Loose from the Ties of Family Memory in *Everything Is Illuminated*,” Elizabeth Ansfield, M.A. Thesis, MU; director, 2007

“A Resurgence of the Moral Novel in the Wake of 9/11,” Elizabeth Reilly, M.A. Thesis, UM; director, 2007

Amanda Salov, M.F.A. May 2007 (Art, MU)

“‘Perverter of Language’: Pynchon Revising Eliot and Pound,” Andrew Milward, M.A. Thesis, MU; second reader, 2005

“Modernism Revisited in Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*,” Christopher Ramos, M.A. Thesis, Lehman College, CUNY; director, 2004

Ph.D. Committees

Joseph Aguilar, Ph.D. Candidate, MU
 Cindy Bartels, Ph.D. Candidate, MU
 Nicole Beers, Ph.D. May 2007, MU
 Melanie Fallon, Ph.D. Candidate, MU
 Jennifer Ford, Ph. D. Candidate, MU
 Gretchen Henderson, Ph.D. February 2009, MU
 Shelley Ingram, Ph.D. Candidate, MU
 Mike Kardos, Ph.D. May 2007, MU
 Jason Koo, Ph.D. May 2007, MU
 Nick Kremer, Ed.D. Candidate, MU
 Joanna Luloff, Ph.D. Candidate, MU
 John Nieves, Ph. D. Candidate, MU
 Nathan Oates, Ph.D. 2008, MU
 Jeff Pethybridge, Ph.D. 2008, MU
 Katie Pierce, Ph.D. May 2007, MU
 Anthony Rafalowski, Ph. D. Candidate, MU
 Todd Richardson, Ph.D. Candidate, MU
 Amy Day Wilkinson, Ph.D. May 2009, MU
 Ramsay Wise, Ph.D. Candidate, MU
 Sarah Zurhellen, Ph.D. Candidate, MU

COURSES TAUGHT (MU)

Political Fictions (graduate)
 Theory of the Novel (graduate)
 The Reality Effect (undergraduate/graduate)
 Contemporary Critical Approaches (graduate)
 Job Placement Workshop (graduate)
 Contemporary American Fiction and the Metafictional Impulse (graduate)
 Western Mythology in the Contemporary Graphic Novel (graduate independent study)
 Philip Roth (undergraduate/graduate)
 Historical Trauma in Post-1945 American Literature (undergraduate/graduate)
 Honors Seminar: Historicism (undergraduate)
 Topics: The Cold War in American Literature and Culture (undergraduate)
 Topics: Global History/World Fiction (undergraduate)
 Topics: The Problem of Evil (undergraduate)
 Capstone: History and Contemporary Fiction (undergraduate)
 American Literature II (undergraduate)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Provost's Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching Award, MU, 2008
 Summer Research Fellowship, MU, 2006
 Writing Fellowship, CUNY Writing Across the Curriculum Initiative, 2001-03
 Alumni and Doctoral Faculty Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY,
 1999-2000
 University Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 1995-97

Distinction, Comprehensive Exam, Ph.D. Program in English, The Graduate Center,
CUNY, 1996

S. I. Newhouse Award in Fiction, Binghamton University, SUNY, 1993

University Fellow, Binghamton University, SUNY , 1993-94

GRANTS

Research Grant, Center for Arts and Humanities, MU, 2009

Research Grant, Center for Arts and Humanities, MU, 2007

Research Grant, Center for Arts and Humanities, MU, 2006

Research Grant, Center for Arts and Humanities, MU, 2005

Research Grant, Center for Arts and Humanities, MU, 2004

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Review committee, Provost's Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching Award, MU, 2009

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of English, MU, 2004-2009

Composition Committee, Department of English, MU, 2008-

Graduate Critique, Painting, Art Department, MU, November 9, 2006

McNair Scholars Personal Statement Workshop, MU, October 9, 2008

"CV Doctors," job application advisement, Professional Development Seminar Series,

Preparing Future Faculty Initiative, The Graduate School, MU, 2006, 2008

"Cover Letters and Vitas for Academic Jobs," Professional Development Seminar Series,

Preparing Future Faculty Initiative, The Graduate School, MU, October 11, 2006

Graduate Critique, Painting, Art Department, MU, September 28, 2006

Ph.D. Admissions Committee, Department of English, MU, 2006-2007

Center for the Literary Arts Scholar Series Committee, Center for the Literary Arts,
MU, 2005-2006

Co-Chair, Colloquium Committee, Department of English, MU, 2005-2007

Presented at Graduate Student Job Market Workshop, Department of English, MU, 2004

M.A. Exam Committee, Department of English, MU, 2004-2007

Graduate Student Funding Committee, Ph.D. Program in English, The Graduate Center,
CUNY (GC-CUNY), 1999-2000

Placement Committee, Ph.D. Program in English, GC-CUNY, 1998-2000

Graduate Council, GC-CUNY, 1998-1999

Elections Committee, Ph.D. Program in English, GC-CUNY, 1996-1998

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Manuscript reader for *Novel*

Manuscript reader for *Contemporary Literature*

Manuscript reader for *Twentieth-Century Literature*

Manuscript reader for *Studies in American Fiction*

Manuscript reader for *Modern Language Studies*

Manuscript reader for W. W. Norton, Inc., Composition list

Web module, "A Return to Literature: Rethinking the Place of The Literary for Teaching

Basic Writers," for the McGraw-Hill "Teaching Basic Writing" program,

<http://auth.mhhe.com/socscience/english/tbw/>, November 2005