

Geoffrey Baker

curriculum vitae

Department of English
California State University, Chico
400 W First Street
Chico, CA 95929-0830 USA

Phone: 530.898.6277
Fax: 530.898.4450
Email: gabaker at csuchico.edu
Web: www.unhistoricacts.net

Academic Employment

Associate Professor, Department of English, California State University—Chico, 2011-present

Assistant Professor, Department of English, California State University—Chico, 2006-2011

Education

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2006
Dissertation: *The Limits of Realism: Empire, Empiricism, and Enchantment in Honoré de Balzac, Anthony Trollope, and Theodor Fontane*
Director: William C. Donahue
Committee: M. Josephine Diamond, Uri Eisenzweig, Bruce Robbins
M.A. in Comparative Literature, 2003

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Studies in Comparative Literature, 2001-2002

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
B.A. Double-major in English Literature and French Studies, 1996

Publications

Books

Realism's Empire: Empiricism and Enchantment in the Nineteenth-Century Novel (Ohio State UP, 2009)

Reviewed in: *Victorian Studies* 53.1; *Comparative Literature* 64.2; *German Quarterly* 84.1; *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 39.3/4; *Choice* Feb. 2010.

Chapter 6, on Anthony Trollope, “Global London and *The Way We Live Now*,” reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, vol. 274. Gale, 2013. 329-41. Print.

Realism's Others, ed., with Eva Aldea (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010)

Articles and Book Chapters

“A Belief in the Marvellous’: Credulity, Conviction, and the Evidence of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*.” Under consideration.

“Preachers, Gangsters, Pranksters: MC Solaar and Hip-Hop as Overt and Covert Revolt.” *The Journal of Popular Culture* 44.2 (2011): 233-255.

“Making a Spectacle of Ourselves: The Unpolitical Ending of Thomas Mann’s *Mario und der Zauberer*.” *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies* 45.4 (2009): 353-68.

Reprinted in *Short Story Criticism*, vol. 172. Gale, 2013. 244-253. Print.

“The Limits of Sympathy: J.M. Coetzee’s Evolving Ethics of Engagement.” *ARIEL* 36.1-2 (2005, special issue on Postcoloniality and Politics): 27-49.

“Empiricism and Empire: Orientalist Antiquing in Balzac’s *Peau de chagrin*.” *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature* 51 (2003-04): 167-74.

“Pressing Engagement: Sartre’s *Littérature*, Beauvoir’s Literature, and the Lingering Uncertainty of Literary Activism.” *Dalhousie French Studies* 63 (2003): 70-85.

“Nietzsche, Artaud, and Tragic Politics.” *Comparative Literature* 55.1 (2003): 1-23.

Reprinted in *Nietzsche and the Rebirth of the Tragic*. Ed. Mary Ann Frese Witt. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2007. 159-85.

“Other Capital: Investment, Return, Alterity and *The Merchant of Venice*.” *The Upstart Crow* 22 (2002, special issue on “Shakespeare and the Market”): 21-37.

“The Predication of Violence, the Violence of Predication: Reconstructing Hiroshima with Duras and Resnais.” *Dialectical Anthropology* 24:3/4 (1999): 387-406.

Book Reviews

Matz, Aaron. *Satire in an Age of Realism* (Cambridge Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture). Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2010. Review requested by *Pacific Coast Philology* 46 (2011): 109-112.

Lacroix, Chantal. *Immigrants, Literature and National Integration*. London: Palgrave, 2010. *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 19.1 (2011): 141-143.

Paul I. Anderson. *Der versteckte Fontane und wie man ihn findet*. Stuttgart: S. Hirzel, 2006. *Colloquia Germanica* 39.3/4 (2006): 411-13.

Martin Puchner. *Stage Fright: Modernism, Anti-Theatricality and Drama*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. *Comparative Literature* 56.1 (2004): 99-102.

Work in Progress

Literary Activism: The Purpose of Clarity and Confusion. Under consideration. 450 pages.

The Critique of Judgment: Belief in Evidence in the Nineteenth-Century Novel. Monograph in progress.

“Perils and Profits of Empire: Nineteenth-Century British, French, and German Indologists on the Origins of Sanskrit Drama”

“Unsustainable Trollope: Conservation and Conservatism in the Palliser Novels”

Awards

Faculty Development Award, Spring, California State University—Chico, 2014

Faculty Development Award, Spring, CSU—Chico, 2012

Faculty Development Award, Fall, CSU—Chico, 2008

Myles Tracy Outstanding Student Organization Faculty Adviser, CSU—Chico, 2008

CSU Research Award, Summer, CSU—Chico, 2008

Horst Frenz Prize, American Comparative Literature Association, for “Empiricism and Empire: Orientalist Antiquing in Balzac’s *Peau de chagrin*,” awarded to the best paper presented by a graduate student at the previous ACLA meeting, 2005

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Jahresstipendium, for a year of funded study in literature at the Freie Universität Berlin, 2001-2002

DAAD Hochschulsommerkurs Stipendium, for the study of German at the Universität Bremen, 2000

Rutgers Excellence Fellowship for Graduate Studies, 1998-2003

Graduate Fellowship, Department of French, Brigham Young University, 1996-1997

Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship, BYU, 1995

Alvina Soffel Barrett Scholarship, BYU, 1995

Conference Papers, Local Talks, Invited Lectures, Workshops

Conference Papers and Panels (Selected)

- “Botching the Detectives: Realism’s Belief in the Law,” American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, WA, 2015
- “The Exemplary Particulars of Realist Narration: The Case of *The Jew’s Beech Tree*,” Modern Language Association, Vancouver, BC, 2015
- “Classifying Evidence: Detection, Character, and Belief in the Victorian Novel,” North American Victorian Studies Association, London, Ontario, 2014
- “Realism and the Problem of Empiricism in Annette von Droste-Hülshoff’s *Die Judenbuche*,” German Studies Association, Kansas City, MO, 2014
- “Persuasive Belief in Evidence,” for special seminar on Science and Religion (led by George Levine), NAVSA, Pasadena, 2013
- “‘Different Kinds of Clarity’: Bertolt Brecht and the Science of Political Art,” GSA, Denver, CO, 2013
- “Sartre’s ‘Black Orpheus,’ Carpentier’s ‘Marvelous Real,’ and the Problem of Global Realism,” ACLA, U of Toronto, 2013
- “‘A Belief in the Marvellous’: Imagination and the Arrested Development of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*,” Society for Novel Studies, Duke University, 2012
- “Naturalism, Activism, and the Crisis of Clarity,” ACLA, Brown University, 2012
- “The Function of the Intellectual: Matthew Arnold, Thomas Mann, Julien Benda,” ACLA, Vancouver, 2011
- “Critique of Judgment: The Problem with Evidence in the Nineteenth-Century Novel,” ACLA, New Orleans, 2010
- “Against the World: Local and Global in Freytag’s *Soll und Haben* and Trollope’s *The Way We Live Now*,” ACLA, Harvard, 2009
- “Realism, Romance, and the Place of Adultery in Theodor Fontane’s Novels,” GSA, St. Paul, MN, 2008
- “‘Berlin wird Weltstadt’: Nation, City, and World in Theodor Fontane’s *Cécile*,” GSA, San Diego, CA, 2007
- “Unmapping Realism: Alternative Cartographies in Novels by Balzac, Trollope, and Fontane,” ACLA, Penn State, 2005
- “Empiricism and Empire: Orientalist Antiquing in Balzac’s *Peau de chagrin*,” ACLA, Michigan, 2004
- “Discipline and Patience: Pynchon’s Beat Retreat and Houellebecq’s Millennial Monastics,” ACLA, U of Colorado, 2001
- “Sartre’s *Literature*, Beauvoir’s Literature, and the Status of Literary Activism,” The Republic of Letters 2000, St. Catherine’s College, Oxford, 2000
- “Parataxis as Tactics: The Narrative Development of Subaltern Rebellion in Joyce’s Novels,” International James Joyce Symposium, Goldsmith’s College, University of London, 2000
- “Pressing Engagement: Sartre, Beauvoir, and the Uncertainty of the Intellectual,” ACLA, Yale, 2000
- “Prose Combat: Strategies of Subaltern Revolt in James Joyce and MC Solaar,” ACLA, Montréal, 1999

Local Talks

“‘For Love of Clarity’: Émile Zola and the Political Aesthetic of Realistic Literature,”
CSU—Chico, Humanities Center, May 2013

“Chinese Figures in 19th-Century European Realism,” CSU—Chico, Humanities Center,
May 2012

“‘Metropolitan Danger’: Global London in Anthony Trollope’s *The Way We Live Now*,”
California State University—Chico, Humanities Center, February 2007

Invited Lectures

“Bertolt Brecht’s *Kleines Organon zum Theater*,” Duke University, Department of
German, graduate seminar, November 2013

“Postcolonial Theory’s Relevance to German Studies” and “Theodor Fontane’s *Effi
Briest* and Empire,” Duke University, Department of German, graduate seminar,
October 2006

Workshops

“Dialogues,” The Council on Undergraduate Research, Alexandria, VA, April 2009

“Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research,” Sponsored by the Council on
Undergraduate Research, California State University—Sacramento, November
2008

Teaching and Research Interests

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Literature (primarily British, French, and German)
Realism

Imperialism in Nineteenth-Century Literature

Fiction, Empiricism, and Science

Fiction and the Supernatural

The *Bildungsroman*

The History and Theory of the Novel

Political Aesthetics

Teaching Experience (selected courses)

At California State University, Chico

Undergraduate courses:

ENGL 130: Academic Writing (2 sections)

ENGL 260: Great Books (12 sections)

ENGL 277: Survey of Later British Literature (5 sections)

ENGL 340: Approaches to Literary Genres (8 sections)

ENGL 356: Literature, Politics, and Activism (3 sections)

ENGL 454: Comparative Literature (*The Bildungsroman*) (2 sections)

ENGL 454: Comparative Literature (*Fiction and the Supernatural*) (4 sections)

ENGL 454: Comparative Literature (*Literary Activism*)

ENGL 454: Comparative Literature (*Literature and Film Confront the Holocaust*)
ENGL 456: The Victorian Novel (*Country, City, and World*)
ENGL 456: The Victorian Novel (*The “Making” of Gender and Class*)
ENGL 456: The Victorian Novel (*The Novel and the Law*)
ENGL 468: 20th-Century and Contemporary British Literature (3 sections)

Graduate seminars:

ENGL 657: Comparative Literature (*The Bildungsroman*)
ENGL 657: Comparative Literature (*Literary Activism*)
ENGL 657: Comparative Literature (*The Postsecular*)
ENGL 657: Comparative Literature (*Realism*)
ENGL 661/662: Literary Criticism and Theory (6 sections)

At Rutgers University

Expository Writing (2 sections)
Introduction to World Literature (2 sections)
Introduction to Short Fiction
Beginning and Intermediate German (2 sections)

Academic Service

To the Department of English, CSU—Chico

Undergraduate Adviser (our equivalent to Director of Undergraduate Studies), 2010-2015

Executive Committee, 2013-present

Assessment Committee, 2011-present

Library Committee, 2006-present

Chair, 2009-present

Literature Committee, 2006-present

Chair, 2013-present

Search Committees, 2006-07 (18th-century British Lit), 2014-present (Chair,

Shakespeare/Renaissance Lit)

Graduate Studies Committee, 2008-2011

Curriculum Committee, 2006-08, 2011-2014

Faculty Adviser, Sigma Tau Delta, English Honor Society, 2007-2010

Grader, MA Foreign Language Exams in French, Italian, and German, 2006-2014

To the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, CSU—Chico

Humanities Advisory Committee, 2007-present

Humanities Center Advisory Board, 2011-present

College Library Chair, 2009-present

To the University, CSU—Chico

Student Grievance Committee, 2010-present
University Library Committee, 2009-present
Faculty Grievance Committee, 2008-2014
Outstanding Thesis Committee, 2007-2013
To the Profession

External Examiner, PhD dissertation, Sandra Sokowski (Rutgers University), *Subversive Bodies in Nineteenth-Century Narratives of Paris and London*, 2011
Delegate Assembly, Modern Language Association, 2005-2007

Conference Panels Organized and (Co-)Chaired

“Global Realism,” co-organized with Ayelet Ben-Yishai, ACLA, U of Toronto, 2013
“Realism, Naturalism, and Catastrophe,” ACLA, Brown University, 2012
“Theory, Practice, Engagement: Texts and Intellectuals in the World,” ACLA, Vancouver, 2011
“Hybrid Realism?” ACLA, New Orleans, 2010
“The Novel in the Shrinking World: Local and Global in Nineteenth-Century Narrative,” ACLA, Harvard, 2009
“Realism, Modernity, and Place,” co-organized with Katra Byram and John Lyon, GSA, St. Paul, MN, 2008
“Realism’s Others,” ACLA, Princeton, 2006
“Slouching Toward the Post-Secular: Religion, Spirituality, and Contemporary Literature and Film,” ACLA, U of Colorado, 2001

Referee Work

College Literature
Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies

Theses Directed

Julia Gerhard, *Control and Resistance in the Dystopian Novel: A Comparative Analysis* (MA, English; CSU—Chico, Spring 2012)
Sheri Gitelson, “*Fifty Pairs of Eyes are not Enough*”: *A Complicated Portrait of Making Meaning in Virginia Woolf’s To the Lighthouse and Mrs. Dalloway* (Honors in English; CSU—Chico, Spring 2012)
Janis Barnett, *Transformational Grace in Victor Hugo’s Les Misérables* (MA, English; CSU—Chico, Spring 2012)
Carol Lane, *Demonstrations of Power in the Marriage Plots of Daniel Deronda, The Eustace Diamonds, and Phoebe Junior* (MA, English; CSU—Chico, Fall 2010)
Ryan Aiello, *The Wire: Politics, Postmodernism, and the Rebirth of American Naturalism* (MA, English; CSU—Chico, Summer 2010)

Chelsea Froome, *Adultery and Social Class in Flaubert and Tolstoy* (Honors in English; CSU—Chico, Spring 2009)

Tania D. Darlington, *Wedded to the Nation: The Geopolitics of the Marriage Mart in Marianne Spencer Stanhope's Almack's: A Novel* (MA, English; CSU—Chico, Spring 2007)

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association
North American Victorian Studies Association
American Comparative Literature Association
German Studies Association
American Association of University Professors
California Faculty Association

Working Groups

Humanities Center, CSU—Chico

Languages

English, German, French, Spanish (reading), Italian (reading), Danish (reading), Norwegian (reading), Dutch (reading), classical Greek (rudimentary)

Nationality

USA, Republic of Ireland