

Geoffrey Baker

curriculum vitae

geoffrey.baker at yale-nus.edu.sg

Academic Employment

Associate Professor, Literature, Division of Humanities, Yale-NUS College, 2015-present

with a courtesy joint appointment in the Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore (2016-present)

Associate Professor, Department of English, California State University—Chico, 2011-2015

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

The Aesthetics of Clarity and Confusion: Literature and Engagement since Nietzsche and the Naturalists. Palgrave Studies in Modern European Literature. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

Realism's Empire: Empiricism and Enchantment in the Nineteenth-Century Novel. Columbus, OH: Ohio State UP, 2009. Print.

Reviewed in: *Comparative Literature* 64.2; *German Quarterly* 84.1; *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 39.3/4; *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 50.1; *Victorian Studies* 53.1; *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

"The Use and Abuse of Romance: Realist Revisions of Walter Scott in England, France, and Germany," in *Romantic Legacies: Transnational and Transdisciplinary Contexts* (Routledge Studies in Comparative Literature), ed. Shun-liang Chao and John Corrigan, Routledge, 2019, pp. 50-66.

"Empiricism, Evidence Law, and *Emma*." *Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal On-Line* 38.3 (2018).

"Legal Others: The Knowledge of National Community in Nineteenth-Century British Legal Theory and Wilkie Collins's *Man and Wife*." *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 40.3 (May 2018): 239-54.

"I know the man': Evidence, Belief, and Character in Victorian Fiction." *Genre* 50.1 (April 2017): 39-57.

"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: A Review of International English Literature* 36.1-2 (2005): 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): 21-37.

Revision and reprint in *Of Levinas and Shakespeare: “To See Another Thus.”* Ed. Moshe Gold and Sandor Goodhart. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue UP, 2018. 123-45.

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

Incidental and Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Spaces that Matter: Reflections on Berlin in the Field of German Literary Production.” *Andererseits: Yearbook of Transatlantic German Studies*, forthcoming.

“Social Mobility in Reagan-era Teen Films: From Inaugural Optimism to the Invention of Generation X.” *Magazine Americana* online (September 2006).

Work in Progress

“Contact Nodes: Ports, Connection, and the World in Trollope’s Later Fiction,” invited contribution to *Pacific Gateways*, ed. Laurence Williams and Stephen Clark

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

Book Reviews

Sotirios Paraschas. *The Realist Author and Sympathetic Imagination*. Studies in Comparative Literature 28. Oxford: Legenda, 2013. *Comparative Literature Studies* 55.1 (2018): 229-31.

Nancy E. Johnston, ed. *Impassioned Jurisprudence: Law, Literature, & Emotion, 1760-1848*. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell UP, 2015. *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 39 (2017): 137-139.

Matz, Aaron. *Satire in an Age of Realism* (Cambridge Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture). Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2010. *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.

Awards

Yale-NUS Bodleian Visiting Fellowship, University of Oxford, May-December 2018
 Internal Research Grant, Yale-NUS College, 2018-2021 (\$10,000)
 Faculty Start-Up Grant, Yale-NUS College, 2015-18 (\$20,000)
 Faculty Development Award, Spring, CSU—Chico, 2014 (.2 FTE release)
 Faculty Development Award, Spring, CSU—Chico, 2012 (.2 FTE release)
 Faculty Development Award, Fall, CSU—Chico, 2008 (.2 FTE release)
 Myles Tracy Outstanding Student Organization Faculty Adviser, CSU—Chico, 2008
 CSU Research Award, Summer, CSU—Chico, 2008 (\$5,000)
 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)

“Age of Enchantment: (Im)Maturity and (In)Credulity in Balzac’s *La Peau de chagrin*,” Nineteenth-Century French Studies, Sarasota, Florida, 2019
 “Evidence, Consensus, and the Court of Public Opinion in George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*,” George Eliot 2019—An International Bi-Centenary Conference, University of Leicester, 2019
 “The 1820s: Age of Evidence,” The 1820s: Innovation and Diffusion Conference, University of Glasgow, 2019
 “Contact Nodes: Ports, Connection, and the World in Trollope’s *Australia and New Zealand* and *The Way We Live Now*,” North American Victorian Studies Association, St. Petersburg, Florida, 2018
 “The Shifting Epistemological Status of Belief in British Empiricism and the Emergence of Modern British Evidence Law,” Epistemic Vices Conference, University of Leiden, 2018
 “Pacific Travels, Pacific Ports, and the World in Trollope’s Later Fiction,” Pacific Gateways Conference, University of Tokyo, 2017
 “Austen Legal: Evidence Law, Empiricism, and *Emma*,” Immortal Austen Conference, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia, 2017

- “Social Justice: Evidence, Character, and the Court of Public Opinion in Nineteenth-Century European Fiction,” American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, 2017
- “The Use and Abuse of Romance: Revising Walter Scott in Nineteenth-Century Realism,” Romantic Legacies (Enlightenment and Romanticism Network), National Chengchi University, Taipei, 2016
- “Social Justice: Evidence, Character, and the Court of Public Opinion in George Eliot’s Novels,” North American Victorian Studies Association, Phoenix, AZ, 2016
- “Legal Others: Law as Imagined Community in Nineteenth-Century Fiction,” Modern Language Association International Symposium, Düsseldorf, 2016
- “Realism and the Problem of Evidence in Jane Austen and Annette von Droste-Hülshoff,” ACLA, Harvard University, 2016
- “Natural and Unnatural Histories: Evidence Law, Empiricism, and *Sense and Sensibility*,” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies, Asheville, NC, 2016
- “Botching the Detectives: Realism’s Belief in the Law,” ACLA, Seattle, WA, 2015
- “The Exemplary Particulars of Realist Narration: The Case of *The Jew’s Beech Tree*,” MLA, Vancouver, BC, 2015
- “Classifying Evidence: Detection, Character, and Belief in the Victorian Novel,” NAVSA, 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
- “The Predication of Violence, the Violence of Predication: Reconstructing Hiroshima with Duras and Resnais,” Twenty-Fourth Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film, West Virginia, 1999
- “Prose Combat: Strategies of Subaltern Revolt in James Joyce and MC Solaar,” ACLA, Montréal, 1999

Local Talks

- “The Problem with Knowing in Gothic Novels and *Frankenstein*,” *Frankenstein Revisited* (one-day program for secondary-school students), Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, November 2018
- “The Aesthetics of Clarity and Confusion,” United World College (Dover Campus), Singapore, June 2017
- “The Aesthetics of Clarity and Confusion,” Yale-NUS College Literature Works-in-Progress Series, September 2016
- “‘For Love of Clarity’: Émile Zola and the Political Aesthetic of Realistic Literature,” CSU—Chico, Humanities Center, May 2013
- “Some Uses of 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 and Seminars

- “German Literary Institutions—Der Literaturbetrieb: An Introduction to the Key Players,” Notre Dame Berlin Seminar, July 2016
- “Usable Literature,” ACLA workshop led by Joseph Slaughter and Sarah Brouillette, Cambridge, MA, March 2016
- “Dialogues,” The Council on Undergraduate Research, Alexandria, VA, April 2009
- “Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research,” Sponsored by CUR, California State University—Sacramento, November 2008

Teaching and Research Interests

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Literature
 Realism and Naturalism
 Imperialism in Nineteenth-Century Literature

Fiction and Empiricism
Literature, Secularization, and Religion
Fiction and the Supernatural
The *Bildungsroman*
The History and Theory of the Novel
Political Aesthetics

Teaching Experience (selected courses)

At Yale-NUS College

YCC1111: Literature and Humanities 1 (Fall 2015 and 2016)
YCC1112: Literature and Humanities 2 (Spring 2016, 2017, 2018 [2 sections], and 2019)
YHU2302: Realism and Naturalism (Fall 2019)
YHU3210: Pro-Seminar in Literary Studies (Fall 2015 and 2016)
YHU3272: Literary Activism: Aesthetics, Texts, Politics (Fall 2017)
YHU3296: Fiction and the Supernatural (Spring 2019)
YHU4102: Senior Capstone Writing Seminar (Fall 2017)
YHU4217: Novel Evidence: 19th-Century British Fiction and the Law (Spring 2017, Fall 2019)

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)

Service

To Yale-NUS College

Head of Studies, Literature, Fall 2015 (interim), Spring 2020-present
Committee on Integrity and Discipline, Spring 2019-present
Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Advising, Co-Chair, Spring 2018; Chair, Fall 2019-present
Division Evaluation Committee (for contract renewal), Spring 2019
Division Evaluation Committee (for tenure review), Spring-Fall 2017
Chair, Division Evaluation Committee (for tenure review), Fall 2017-Spring 2018
Course Facilitator, Literature and Humanities 2, Fall 2016-Spring 2019
Taskforce on Teaching with Technology, 2016
Committee on Academic Standards, Fall 2015-present
Search Committee, Literature, 2015-16

To the Department of English, CSU—Chico

Undergraduate Adviser (i.e., Director of Undergraduate Studies for Literature and English Studies), 2010-2015
Executive Committee, 2013-2015
Assessment Committee, 2011-2015
Library Committee, 2006-2015
Chair, 2009-2015
Literature Committee, 2006-2015
Chair, 2013-2015
Search Committees
2014-2015 (Chair, Shakespeare/Renaissance Lit)
2006-07 (18th-century British 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, 2006-2015

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

Humanities Advisory Committee, 2007-2015
Humanities Center Advisory Board, 2011-2015
College Library Chair, 2009-2015

To the University, CSU—Chico

Student Grievance Committee, 2010-2015
University Library Committee, 2009-2015
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

Editorial and Advisory Work

Advisory Board, *Asia-Pacific and Literature in English* series, Palgrave

Referee Work

PMLA (x3)

College Literature (x2)

Nineteenth-Century French Studies (x1)

Comparative Literature Studies (x1)

Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies (x1)

Conference Panels Organized and (Co-)Chaired

“The Evidence of Literature: Epistemology, Narrative, Surveillance,” co-organized
with Jeffrey Clapp, ACLA, Utrecht, 2017

“The Evidence of Realism,” ACLA, Harvard, 2016

“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 John Lyon and Katra Byram,
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

Ph.D. Dissertations Directed

Yu Jing, “*That which is apparently local should be really universal*”: *Thomas Hardy
and English Cosmopolitanism, 1871-1918* (PhD, English Literature; National
University of Singapore, in progress)

M.A., Honors, and Senior Theses Directed

Benson Pang, Phua Chu Kang *and Singaporean Identity* (BA with Honours,
Literature; Yale-NUS College, Spring 2018), co-directed with Ma Shao Ling

Felicia Soh Weiting, *Transculturality in K-Pop Fan Fiction: The Writing of Real
Person Fiction as Cultural Interaction* (BA with Honours, Literature; Yale-
NUS College, Spring 2018), co-directed with Ma Shao Ling

- Christopher Tee, *Happily Never After: Mastering Infinite Ends in Metafictional Retellings of "Little Red Riding Hood"* (BA with Honours, Literature; Yale-NUS College, Spring 2017), co-directed with Ma Shao Ling
- 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

Current:

American Comparative Literature Association
German Studies Association
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association
Jane Austen Society of Australia
Modern Language Association
North American Victorian Studies Association

Former:

American Association of University Professors
California Faculty Association

Working Groups

Former:

Humanities Center, CSU—Chico