

Despina Kakoudaki

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Department of Literature, American University (2013-)
Assistant Professor, Department of Literature, American University (2007- 2013)
Associate Professor, Harvard University (2006-2007, without tenure)
 Joint appointment in Visual and Environmental Studies (VES) and Comparative Literature
Assistant Professor, Harvard University (2001-2006)
 Joint appointment in Comparative Literature, VES, and the Literature Concentration
Visiting Lecturer in Film Studies, University of California at Berkeley (2000-2001)

EDUCATION

Ph. D., Comparative Literature, University of California at Berkeley, 2000
 Fields: English and American Literature, Ancient Greek, French
M. A., Comparative Literature, University of California at Berkeley, 1993
B. A., English and American Literature, Minor in Linguistics, University of Athens, Greece, 1991

HONORS AND AWARDS

Mellon Fund Research Support, American University, 2009 and 2013
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Award, 2004-2005
Clark-Cooke Grant for Research in the Humanities, Harvard University, 2001-2003 and 2004-2005
Levenson Teaching Prize Nomination, Harvard University, 2002
Course Innovation Award, Harvard University, 2002 and 2003
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of California at Berkeley, Spring 1998
Chancellor's Fellowship, University of California at Berkeley, Spring 1997
Fulbright Scholarship, 1991-1996
Class Valedictorian, University of Athens, 1991

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Anatomy of a Robot: Literature, Cinema, and the Cultural Work of Artificial People. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2014.

- Reviewed in: *Science Fiction Studies*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Technology and Culture*

Edited Volume

All About Almodóvar: A Passion for Cinema. Co-edited with Professor Bradley S. Epps. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009.

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters

- “Melodrama and Apocalypse: The Melodramatic Mode in *Contagion*.” In *Melodrama Unbound*. Eds. Christine Gledhill and Linda Williams. New York: Columbia University Press, 2018. 311-324.
- “The End of a Difference: Robot Narratives for the 21st Century.” In *Cyborg Futures*. Eds. Teresa Heffernan and Kathleen Richardson. Palgrave Macmillan. In progress. Accepted, Sept. 2017.
- “Affect and Machines in the Media.” In *Handbook of Affective Computing*. Eds. Rafael A. Calvo, Sidney K. D’Mello, Jonathan Gratch, & Arvid Kappas. Oxford University Press, 2014. 110-128.

- “Intimate Strangers: Melodrama and Coincidence in *Talk to Her*.” In *All About Almodóvar: A Passion for Cinema*. Eds. Bradley S. Epps and Despina Kakoudaki. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009. 193-238.
- “Approaching Almodóvar: Thirty Years of Reinvention.” In *All About Almodóvar: A Passion for Cinema*. Eds. Bradley S. Epps and Despina Kakoudaki. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009. 1-34. Co-authored critical introduction to edited volume.
- “Pin-up: The American Secret Weapon in World War II.” In *Porn Studies*. Ed. Linda Williams. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004. 335-369.
- “Pin-up and Cyborg: Exaggerated Gender and Artificial Intelligence.” In *Future Females, The Next Generation: New Voices and Velocities in Feminist Science Fiction Criticism*. Ed. Marleen S. Barr. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000. 165-195.

Refereed Journal Articles

- “A Virtual Winter: On the Absence of Ecology in *Game of Thrones*.” In *Film Quarterly*, forthcoming September 2019. Accepted. In progress.
- “Unmaking People: The Politics of Negation from *Frankenstein* to *Ex Machina*.” In *Science Fiction Studies*, Special Bicentennial Issue on Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. 45:2 (July 2018): 289-307.
- “Representing Politics in Disaster Films.” In *International Journal of Media & Cultural Politics*, 7:3 (Dec. 2011): 349-356.
- “World Without Strangers: The Poetics of Coincidence in Pedro Almodóvar’s *Talk to Her*.” In *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture, and Media Studies*—68. 23:2 (Sept. 2008): ii-39.
- “Studying Robots, Between Science and the Humanities.” In *The International Journal of the Humanities*, 5:8 (Dec. 2007): 165-182.
- “Spectacles of History: Race Relations, Melodrama and the Science Fiction/Disaster Film.” In *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture and Media Studies*—50. 17: 2 (May 2002): 109-153.
- “‘Rooms of Lonely Facts’: The Consumed Self, the Archive and the Apocalypse in Don DeLillo’s *Libra* and *Mao II*.” In *Critical Sense: A Journal of Political and Cultural Theory*. 7:1 (Winter 1999): 121-148.

Invited Articles

- “‘Get out of the Shower’: The ‘Shower Scene’ and Hitchcock’s Narrative Style in *Psycho*.” In *PopMatters*, “Director Spotlight: Alfred Hitchcock,” Special Issue. 11 June 2010. 3749 words. <http://www.popmatters.com/pm/feature/126713-get-out-of-the-shower-or-surprise-and-suspense-the-shower-scene-and-/>.
- “The Horizon of the Meta-City: Urban Revival in Film.” With Miltos Katsaros. In *Metapolis: A Journal of Architecture and Urban Culture* 1:1 (Fall 1997) Athens, Greece. In Greek.
- “A Network of Puns and Parodies in Thomas Pynchon’s *Gravity’s Rainbow*.” In *Journal of the Metamodern*. Vol. I (Spring 1990) Athens, Greece. In English.

Reviews

- “*The Lodger* (1927).” In *PopMatters*, “Director Spotlight: Alfred Hitchcock.” 11 June 2010. 968 words. <http://www.popmatters.com/pm/feature/126797-hitchcock-101-day-one-1927-1934>.
- “*Dial M for Murder* (1954).” In *PopMatters*, “Alfred Hitchcock.” 18 June 2010. 1162 words. <http://www.popmatters.com/pm/feature/127050-hitchcock-101-day-six-1948-1954/P1>.
- “*Psycho* (1960).” In *PopMatters*, “Director Spotlight: Alfred Hitchcock.” 23 June 2010. 1349 words. <http://www.popmatters.com/pm/feature/127351-hitchcock-101-day-nine-1959-1960/P1>.
- “*Marnie* (1964).” In *PopMatters*, “Director Spotlight: Alfred Hitchcock.” 24 June 2010. 781 words. <http://www.popmatters.com/pm/feature/127386-hitchcock-101-day-ten-1963-1966/P1>.

Film Exhibitions

- “The Invisible Scent of History.” Responder to curated video exhibition of films from the Middle East, as part of exhibition, *Art in Response to Conflict*. Sponsored by The Middle East Institute, Washington DC. College Art Association Conference, Media Lounge/Artspace. February 3, 2016.
- “The International Cinema Series: Spanish Arts Showcase.” Presenter and discussion moderator for Spanish Non-Fiction Film Showcase. American University School of Communication, in partnership with The National Gallery of Art. January 2016.
- “The International Cinema Series: Athens Today.” Presenter and discussion moderator for Greek Cinema Showcase. American University School of Communication, in partnership with The National Gallery of Art. December 2014.
- “Objects in Motion: A Special Film Series for the Harvard Film Archive.” Curator of public film series on the visual power of objects. Series included experimental films, animation, award-winning short films and rare archival materials. Researched and selected films, collaborated with Harvard Film Archive staff and Director to develop public program and notes, introduced films. April-May 2006.
- “In The Trenches: Filming World War I.” Curator of public film series to coincide with my class “Silent Cinema.” Researched and selected films, collaborated with Harvard Film Archive staff and Director to develop public program and notes, introduced films, invited guest speakers, conducted post-film discussions. October-November 2005.
- “World Melodrama: A Special Film Series for the Harvard Film Archive.” Curator of public film series that included American and International films. Introduced films, invited guest speakers, conducted post-film discussions. Film series was listed and reviewed in *The Boston Globe*. March-May 2003.

SELECTED LECTURES

Refereed Papers Delivered at Professional Meetings

- “A Virtual Winter: On CGI, Climate Change, and the Absence of Ecology in *Game of Thrones*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Toronto, March 2018.
- “Melodrama and Apocalypse: The Melodramatic Mode in *Contagion*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, March 2017.
- “Artificial People in The Twilight Zone, 1959-1964.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Atlanta, March 2016.
- “Cinematic Melodrama in the 1960s and 70s.” American Comparative Literature Association. Presenter for Seminar: “Comparative Melodrama” organized by Matthew Buckley, Rutgers University. ACLA Boston, March 2016.
- “Technology on Stage: Karel Čapek’s *R. U. R.*, Eugene O’Neill’s *Dynamo*, and the Question of Technology in the 1920s.” Science Fiction Research Association, Stony Brook, May 2015.
- “Family Melodrama in the 21st Century.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, March 2013.
- “Language, Race, and Impersonality.” Modern Language Association, MLA Special Session on “Barbara Johnson’s Last Works.” Boston, January 2013.
- “Fresh New World: Fantasies of Earth and the Aesthetics of Closure in *Battlestar Galactica*.” Science Fiction Research Association, Detroit, June 2012.
- “War and Meaning: Resisting Closure in *The Hurt Locker*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, March 2012.
- “The Politics of Disaster: *2012* and the Disaster Film Genre After Katrina.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, New Orleans, March 2011.
- “Robots and Slaves: History, Allegory and the Structural Logic of the Robot Story.” Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association, Philadelphia, November 2011.

- “Deep Frame: Picturing the Body in Early Cinema.” History of Science Society, Pittsburgh, Nov. 2008.
- “The Robot as an Object of Study.” History of Science Society, Arlington VA, November 2007.
- “Objects and the Internet.” *Code*, Society for Literature, Science and the Arts, Portland, Nov. 2007.
- “Studying Robots, Between Science and the Humanities.” International Symposium on New Directions in the Humanities, Columbia University, February 2007.
- “Materiality on the Internet.” International Symposium on the Arts in Society, New York University, 2007.
- “Powers and Superpowers: The X-Men and American Politics.” Popular Culture and American Culture Associations Conference, Boston, April 2007.
- “Didactic Gestures in Early Cinema.” Modernist Studies Association, Chicago, November 2005.
- “When Things Come to Life: Technology, Modernity and the Narrative of Animation.” Modernist Studies Association, University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 2002.

Invited Lectures

- “Theorizing the Artificial Body: Bioethics and the *Frankenstein* Tradition.” Plenary speaker, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Anaheim, California, October 2018.
- “A Virtual Winter: On the Absence of Ecology in *Game of Thrones*.” Invited lecture, Loyola Marymount University, October 2018.
- “Robots and Slaves: Artificial People and the Historical Legacies of Slavery.” Plenary lecture, American Studies Conference, University of Alabama. October 2018.
- “Unmaking People: The Politics of Negation, from *Frankenstein* to *Westworld*.” Featured speaker for History of Science Lecture Series “From Automaton to AI.” University of King’s College, Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada, March 2018.
- “Unmaking People: The Politics of Negation, from *Frankenstein* to *Westworld*.” Featured speaker for “Frankenstein and Popular Culture” Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Medical History and Bioethics. October 2017.
- “Robots in Film and Popular Culture.” Featured invited speaker for “Escape Velocity,” Annual Convention of the Museum of Science Fiction. Washington DC, September 2017.
- “The End of a Difference: Robot Narratives for the 21st Century.” Featured speaker for “Animal Life, Social Robots, and Cyborg Futures” Workshop. Saint Mary’s University, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Halifax, Nova Scotia, April 2017.
- “The Mechanical Slave: Robot Stories and the Historical Legacies of Slavery.” Harvard University, Film and Visual Studies Colloquium, November 2015.
- “Robots and Rights: Robotics and Legal Discourse.” Tech Policy Lab, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, May 2015.
- “Robots and Slaves: History, Allegory and the Structural Logic of the Robot Story.” Center for Cultural Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz, May 2014.
- “Melodrama and Apocalypse: Genre, Politics and The End of the World.” Invited talk for “Screen Melodrama: Global Perspectives,” Columbia University and New York University, February 2013.
- “At Home and at War: The American Pinup in the 1930s and 40s.” Winthrop University Galleries Exhibition, “Between the Springmaid Sheets.” Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC. October 8, 2012.
- “The Animation of Matter: Alchemy, Modernity and the Artificial Person.” Invited talk for Maryland Colloquium on the History of Technology, Science, and Environment (MCHOTSE). University of Maryland, Department of History. April 1, 2010.
- “Are Robots Real? The Robot as an Object of Study.” Invited talk for the Maryland Institute of Technology “Digital Dialogues” Public Lectures Program. March 24, 2009.
- “Becoming Human: Race, Robots, and Civil Rights.” Invited speaker, Croxton Lecture Series “Culture and Politics,” Amherst College. Series included talks by Colin Dayan and Paul Gilroy. February 2006.
- “Digital Determinism Roundtable Discussion.” Invited speaker for Critical/ Digital Group, Harvard

Graduate School of Design. Spring 2005.

Invited participant for “Discipline Problems,” Harvard Humanities Center Discussion Group on Rebuilding the Humanities, November 17, 2004.

“On Bodies, Real and Imaginary.” Invited speaker for the Humanities Center at Harvard, Twentieth Anniversary Conference, 20/20, October 22, 2004.

“The Fantasy of Animation: Modernity and the Animated Object.” Invited speaker for “Automata in History: Cultural Projections and Subversions,” The Southern California Colloquium in History of Science, Medicine and Technology, UCLA, Department of History. February 2003.

Conference Panels Chaired

“Artificial Bodies in Contemporary Media.” Organized and chaired panel for “Escape Velocity,” Annual Convention of the Museum of Science Fiction, showcasing the work of American University graduate students. Washington DC, May 2018.

“Literary Representations of Robots and AI.” Chaired panel for “Escape Velocity,” Annual Convention of the Museum of Science Fiction. Panelists included Thaddeus Howze (author of speculative fiction), DB Bauer (University of Maryland), Anastasia Klimchynskaya (University of Pennsylvania), June Pulliam (Louisiana State University). Washington DC, September 2017.

“*R.U.R.*: In Our Rationalized World.” Moderator and presenter. Panel on Karel Čapek’s play, coordinated with the Embassy of the Czech Republic. Roundtable presenters included Robert Rehak (Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the Czech Republic), Carl Gelderloos (SUNY, Binghamton), Anna Horakova (Cornell University), Evan Torner (University of Cincinnati). American University, October 2015.

“Queer Embodiments.” Co-chair with Katharina Vester, American University. Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, February 2009.

“Technology, Modernity and Early Cinema.” Organizer, Roundtable and Special Screenings. Roundtable presenters included Patrick Loughney (Library of Congress and George Eastman House), Charlie Keil (University of Toronto) and Kaveh Askari (University of California at Berkeley). Modernist Studies Association. Chicago, November 2005.

Invited University and Local Lectures

“Anatomy of a Robot: Author Talk.” Arts Club of Washington, March 2015.

“Origin Stories.” Invited talk for American University Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Nov 2014.

“The Politics of Disaster: Nation, Community and Trauma in Disaster Films.” Invited talk for the University of the District of Columbia, Honors Program Lecture Series. Washington DC, October 18, 2010.

“Cylons and Clones: Tales of the Professional Non-Human.” Invited talk for “The Humanities Initiative at American University” Lecture Series, American University April 1, 2009.

“Make Me a Real Boy: Theorizing the Artificial Body.” Invited talk for special session, Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, February 13-15, 2009.

“*A.I. Artificial Intelligence*: Technology, Identity and the Artificial Child.” Invited speaker for “Kidding Around: The Child in Film and Media” Conference, University of the District of Columbia, Washington DC, September 2008.

“On Presence.” Invited speaker, Sophomore Colloquium of the Literature Concentration, Harvard University, February 24, 2005.

“Folklore and Early Cinema.” Invited speaker for Film, Fantasy and Folklore Conference, Harvard University, February 11, 2005.

“Cinema, Computer Generated Imaging and Performance Theory.” Guest lecture for Professor Joan Jonas, Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. April 2003.

“Modernity and Space in W.F. Murnau’s *Sunrise*.” Invited Speaker for Film and Architecture Group, Harvard Graduate School of Design, November 21, 2002.

“Thinking about Disaster Films, Before and After September 11, 2001.” Invited speaker, Senior Common Room Public Lecture, Quincy House, Harvard University, October 22, 2002.

“The Cyborg Vernacular: Film and the Artificial Body in the 1990s.” Invited speaker, Working Group in “Ecology, Technology, Cybernetics,” Harvard University, Barker Center for the Humanities, Feb 2002.

Media Appearances—Radio

Mainstreet, With Chris Murphy. Recorded interview titled “From Frankenstein to Westworld -- what fiction teaches us about our creations, our anxieties, and ourselves.” Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1198030915987>. March 29, 2018.

Science for the People. Recorded interview for one-hour Episode #348, “Artificial Intelligence.” <http://www.scienceforthepeople.ca/episodes/artificial-intelligence>. December 18, 2015.

The Kojo Nnamdi Show/ Tech Tuesday. “How Scientific Fact Informs Science Fiction.” WAMU 88.5. Live interview hosted by Jennifer Golbeck (University of Maryland). Guests included: Bert Ulrich (Multimedia Liaison for Film and Television Collaboration, NASA), David Lavery (Program Executive, Solar System Exploration, NASA), Ann Merchant (Deputy Executive Director, Office of Communications at The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine). <http://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2015-11-17/how-scientific-fact-informs-science-fiction>. November 17, 2015.

Studio 360. “Sexy Robots.” PRI, Public Radio International. Recorded interview on robots and sexuality. <http://www.studio360.org/story/sexy-robots/>. April 16, 2015.

“A.I. XOXO.” *Imaginary Worlds* Podcast, produced by Eric Molinsky. Recorded interview. Available on iTunes. <http://www.imaginaryworldspodcast.org/>. January 28, 2015.

The Kojo Nnamdi Show. “Robots and Pop Culture.” WAMU 88.5. Live interview on my book, *Anatomy of a Robot*. Interviewed by Todd Kliman, *Washingtonian Magazine*. <http://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2014-07-31/robots-pop-culture>. July 31, 2014.

The Kojo Nnamdi Show. “Summer Reading.” WAMU 88.5. Live interview. Invited to create Science Fiction Classics Reading List in honor of Ray Bradbury, and discussion new books with guests Barbara Hoffert (Editor, *Library Journal*); and Ron Charles (fiction editor and weekly critic, *Washington Post Book World*). <http://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2012-06-14/summer-reading>. June 14, 2012.

Studio 360. “Take Me to Your Leader.” PRI, Public Radio International. Recorded interview. Interviewed by producer Eric Molinsky on the historical implications of alien invasion narratives. <http://www.studio360.org/story/107936-take-me-to-your-leader/>. December 12, 2008.

Media Appearances—Video and Internet

Quartz Media. Interviewed and featured in “Machines with Brains” web film series. “Brought to Life: Why the most human characters in movies and TV are often robots.” Film by Jacob Templin. <https://qz.com/se/machines-with-brains/1017224/why-the-robots-in-tv-and-movies-like-her-and-wall-e-are-so-human-like/>. July 13, 2017. Video viewed 685k times as of August 18, 2017.

Sciencefiction.com. Interviewed and quoted for “How Real Is *The Martian*? Science Fiction, or Fictional Science?” by Dave Taylor. <http://www.lifetzette.com/popzette/how-real-is-the-martian/>. October 8, 2015.

Christian Science Monitor. Interviewed and quoted in “*The Martian*: A Look at the Hopeful Messages of Recent Sci-fi Movies,” by Molly Driscoll. <http://www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/Movies/2015/1002/The-Martian-A-look-at-the-hopeful-messages-of-recent-sci-fi-movies>. October 2, 2015.

Io9. Featured expert for live online Q and A session on robots and popular culture. Invited by editor Annalee Newitz. <http://io9.com/ask-an-expert-about-the-history-of-our-fascination-with-1622203672>. August 15, 2014.

WTOP 103 FM. Interviewed and quoted in “Making the Case for Young Adult Literature,” by Alicia Lozano. <http://www.wtop.com/541/3671200/Making-the-case-for-young-adult-literature>. July 21, 2014.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University, Department of Literature, 2007-

- “Frankenstein and Beyond.” Interdisciplinary graduate seminar.
- “Literature, Technology and Culture, 1870s-1920s.” Interdisciplinary graduate seminar.
- “Readings in Genre: Cinema.” Graduate seminar in film theory.
- “Apocalyptic Cinema.” Advanced interdisciplinary seminar.
- “Robots: Imagination, Fiction and Reality.” Advanced interdisciplinary seminar.
- “Film and the Human Body.” Advanced film studies seminar.
- “Silent Cinema.” Advanced film studies seminar.
- “Melodrama.” Advanced film studies seminar.
- “Alfred Hitchcock in Context.” Advanced film studies seminar.
- “Cinema and the 20th Century.” General education course/ Historical survey course.
- “Critical Approach to the Cinema.” General education course.
- “Imagining the Future.” General Education course. “Complex Problems” First Year Seminar.

Harvard University, Comparative Literature and Visual and Environmental Studies, 2001-2007

- “Literary Theory: Graduate Proseminar in Comparative Literature.” Designed and co-taught with Barbara Johnson. This redesigned approach to the required class for first year PhD students became the standard for the department for subsequent years.
- “Graduate Proseminar in Comparative Literature.” Co-taught with John Hamilton.
- “Graduate Proseminar in Comparative Literature.” Co-taught with Christopher Johnson.
- “Vision in Motion: Approaching Early Cinema.” Graduate seminar.
- “Film Theory/ Film Practice.” Undergraduate seminar and studio practicum. Designed and co-taught with filmmaker Robb Moss.
- “Film and the Human Body.” Advanced film studies seminar.
- “Studies in Film Genre: Melodrama.” Advanced film studies seminar.
- “Things Come To Life: Imagining Animate Objects in Literature, Philosophy and Culture.” Advanced interdisciplinary seminar.
- “Robots: Imagination, Fiction and Reality.” Advanced interdisciplinary seminar.
- “Turning the Century: Culture, Technology and Representation, 1870-1920.” Advanced interdisciplinary seminar.
- “Histories of Cinema I: Moving Pictures from the 1890s to the 1930s.” Undergraduate lecture course in film studies.
- “Introduction to the Study of Film.” Foundational lecture course for film studies and for Core Humanities requirements. Enrollment: 200 undergraduate and graduate students.
- “Reading Across Media: Methods of Literary Study.” Sophomore tutorial.
- “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literary Study.” Sophomore tutorial.

University of California at Berkeley, Department of Rhetoric and Film, 2000-2001

- “Film History, II: Film, Sound and Narrative.” Undergraduate lecture course in film studies.
- “The Real, the Virtual and the Cinematic: Representing Technology in Film.” Undergraduate lecture course in film studies.

University of Athens, Department of Theater Studies, Greece, June 1998

- “Teaching Visual Culture: Theater, Cinema and Pedagogical Approaches to Multimedia.” Intensive summer program, graduate course. Designed for teachers of theater in secondary education.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

At American University

University and College of Arts and Sciences

- Founding Director, Humanities Lab, College of Arts and Sciences. 2014-present.
- Elected Representative for College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate. 2014-2016.
- Pre-tenure review committee member for Mike Treanor, Assistant Professor, Game Lab and Computer Science. 2015.
- Facilitator, College of Arts and Sciences Humanities Retreat, January 2014.
- Honors Faculty Mentor, 2012.
- Member, Steering Committee in American Studies, 2008-2012.
- Member, Anthropology Exams Committee for PhD student Elijah Edelman, 2008-2010.
- Member, Humanities Initiative Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, 2008-2010.

Department

- Chair, Department of Literature Committee on Film Studies, 2011- present.
- Member, Executive Committee, Dpt. of Literature, 2008-2010, 2011-2012, 2015-2016.
- Member, Reappointment and Tenure Committee, 2013-present.
- Adviser for Cinema Studies Track and Cinema Studies Minor, Dpt. Of Literature, 2012- present.
- Member, Tenure Line Faculty Merit Review Committee, Dpt. of Literature, 2008-10, 2015-16.
- Organizer, Cinema Studies Information Session, 2012-present.
- Judge, Graduate Essay Prize, 2008, 2011, 2014.
- Member, College Writing Faculty Merit Review Committee, Department of Literature, 2012-2013.
- Presenter, “*Apocalypse Now*: Meaning and Closure in the War Film.” For Literature Colloquium, October 23, 2013.
- Moderator, film screening of *Apocalypse Now* for Literature Colloquium, October 2013.
- Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Film Studies, Department of Literature, 2007-2011.
- Presenter, “The Film Adaptation of Kundera’s *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*” for Literature Colloquium, October 4, 2008. Developed film-related resources for Colloquium at Media Services.
- Member, Grievance Committee, Department of Literature, 2010.
- Member, Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee, 2010.
- Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Literature, 2007-2009.

Curriculum Development

- Coordinated transition of Literature curriculum into the new CORE program at American University.
- Developed proposal for new Complex Problems class, participated in pilot program and faculty development events.
- Worked with CAS Advisers and Registrar to create new identifying codes for Literature undergraduate students in the four new tracks of the major. Implemented 2014.
- Developed proposal for new undergraduate track in Creative Writing. Coordinated approval process and implementation. Approved 2014.
- Developed proposal for new General Education course, titled “Creative Writing Across Media.” Approved 2014.
- Revised listed requirements and AU Catalog text for Literature Department. 2014.
- Developed proposal for new undergraduate track in Cinema Studies. Approved 2010.
- Developed proposal for new General Education course in Film Studies, titled “Cinema and the 20th century.” Approved 2010.
- Developed proposal and sample syllabus for new undergraduate theory course, with other members of Undergraduate Committee. Approved 2010.
- Developed proposal for new graduate course in Film Studies, titled “Readings in Genre: Cinema.” Approved 2009.

Advising

- Adviser for graduate students (MFA and PhD) from Departments of History, Anthropology, Art.
- Adviser for graduate students (MA and MFA) from School of Communication.
- Adviser or thesis mentor for MA students in Literature:
 - Sarah Papazoglakis (PhD candidate, UC Santa Cruz)
 - Aaron Long (PhD candidate, University of Kansas)
 - Rose O'Malley (PhD Candidate, CUNY Graduate Center)
 - Nora Alfaiz (PhD Candidate, George Washington University).
- Adviser or thesis mentor for more than fifteen undergraduate students on senior year projects and theses, Department of Literature.

Student Groups

- Faculty Adviser for Hellenic Culture Undergraduate Student Group, 2010-2014.
- Faculty Adviser for Film Critics' Club Student Group, 2013-2014.

At Harvard University

University and Curriculum development

- Helped create the Film Studies Undergraduate major in the department of Visual and Environmental Studies. Approved 2004.
- Participated in development of proposal to create PhD Program in Film Studies, 2005-2007.
- Co-chair, with Professor Bradley S. Epps, Radcliffe Advanced Seminar on Pedro Almodóvar, March 2005. Seminar invited an international group of scholars. Published volume of essays.
- Co-Founder, with Professor Eric Rentschler: "Interdisciplinary Dissertation Workshop in Film Studies." Sponsored by The Humanities Center at Harvard, 2002-2004, and by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2005-2007.
- Member, Harvard Film Archive Senior Curator Search Committee, 2004-2005.
- Member, Junior Search Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2005, 2006.
- Member, Visual and Environmental Studies Junior Search Committee, 2002.

Department

- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2001-2007.
- Academic Job Market Placement Adviser for PhD students in Comparative Literature. 2005-2007.
- Member, Committee on Degrees in Literature, 2001-2007.
- Member, Committee on Degrees in Women's Studies, 2002-2005.
- Freshman Adviser, 2004-2006.
- Member, Hoopes Prize Committee 2001-2003. 2006.
- Member, Jonathan Fay Prize Committee, 2003.
- Member, The Junior Essay Prize Committee for Women's Studies, 2003.

Advising

- Faculty adviser, dissertation writing and prospectus supervision for graduate students in the Departments of Comparative Literature, English and American Language and Literature, History of American Civilization, Germanic Languages, History of Science, and The Harvard Law School.
- Dissertation adviser or committee member for PhD candidates, including:
 - Allyson Nadia Field (PhD, Comparative Literature. Associate Professor, Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago)
 - Andrea Bachner (PhD, Comparative Literature. Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, Cornell University)
 - Sally Livingston (PhD, Comparative Literature. Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, Ohio Wesleyan University)
 - Brigitta Wagner (PhD, Dpt. Of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Filmmaker)
 - Nancy Tewksbury (PhD, Comparative Literature. Lecturer, Dpt of Comparative Studies, Ohio State University)
 - Elena Marx (PhD, American Civilization)

Julie Regan (PhD, Religion), Eyal Diskin (Harvard Law School)

Guillermo Bleichmar (PhD, Comparative Literature), Polixeni Tenerelli (PhD, Comparative Literature), Svetlana Rhukhelman (PhD, Comparative Literature)

- Mentor, Daniel Reynolds (PhD UC Santa Barbara. Assistant Professor, Film and Media Studies, University of Georgia).
- ALM thesis adviser for the Harvard Extension School, Nick Carls, Film Studies.
- Undergraduate thesis director or adviser for students in the Departments of Literature, Women, Gender and Sexuality, Social Studies, History of Science and Visual and Environmental Studies.
- Undergraduate Senior Thesis director or adviser:
 - Clint Froelich (PhD Candidate, University of Chicago)
 - Renee Pastel (PhD Candidate, UC Berkeley)
 - Kris Trujillo (PhD Candidate, UC Berkeley)
 - Jonah Westerman (PhD, 2014, CUNY Graduate Center. Postdoctoral Research Associate at Tate Gallery, UK)

EXTERNAL SERVICE

External Examiner

- External examiner for PhD candidate Anna Shilova, State University of New York, Stony Brook. June 2014.
- External examiner and Committee Chair for PhD candidate Elena Lipsos, University of Exeter, United Kingdom. February 2014.

Service to the Profession

- Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities. Course Connections Grants. December 2017.
- Peer Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships. Literary Theory and Film panel. July 2014.
- Reviewer, Grant Proposal, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. February 2013.

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- Anonymous reader, book manuscripts: MIT Press, Palgrave Macmillan
- Anonymous reader, articles: *PMLA*, *Canadian Journal of Film Studies/Revue canadienne d'études cinématographiques*, *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*
- Reviewer, textbook publications and essay anthologies: Oxford University Press
- Editor, *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture*. West Coast Editorial Board, 2000-2002.

MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA)

Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSA)

Comparative Literature Association (CLA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

History of Science Society (HSS)

Modernist Studies Association (MSA)

Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA)

LANGUAGES

Modern Greek (native), English, French, Ancient Greek, Latin