

Thomas Oliver Beebee

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EDUCATION

1973-77 B.A. Dartmouth College (Summa cum laude) Major: Comparative Literature
1977-78 M.A. University of Michigan Field: Comparative Literature
1978-84 Ph.D. University of Michigan Field: Comparative Literature,

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

1984-86 Assistant Professor of German, Bowdoin College
1986-92 Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University
1992- Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University
Fall, 1993 Visiting Scholar (Fulbright), Department of English, Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil
2000-08 Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University
2000-01 Visiting Scholar, Romance Languages, The Johns Hopkins University
2008- Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University
2012- Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Comparative Literature and German, Penn State University

HONORS & AWARDS

1977 Phi Beta Kappa (Alpha of New Hampshire)
1979 Delta Phi Alpha Honor Society for German Scholars
1991 Honorary Inductee, Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Language Honor Society
1992 Class of 1933 Humanities Award, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University
1993 Eisenhower Award for Excellence in Teaching, Penn State University
2010 Faculty Scholar Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities, Penn State University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Penn State:

Comparative Literature:

Graduate Seminars: History of Literary Criticism and Theory; Contemporary Theory; Literary Translation; Literary Biography and Autobiography; Inter-American Literature; New World Apocalypse; Epistolarity; Transnationalism and Intranationalism (with Thomas Hale); The Teaching of World Literature (with Thomas Hale); Tragedy (with Dennis Schmidt).

Undergraduate Seminars: Senior Seminar in Literary Criticism and Theory; Inter-American Literature; Film and Literature; First-year Seminar in Diaries, Confessions, and Letters; First-year Seminar in The Power of Literature; Western Literary Heritage Since the Renaissance

Undergraduate General Education Lecture Courses: Literature of the Americas; Western Masterpieces since the Renaissance; Forms of World Literature; Introduction to Comparative Literature; The Development of Literary Humor; Crime and Detection in World Literature.

German:

Seminars: German Theory and Criticism; Wagner, Nietzsche, Mann; Classicism and Romanticism; The German Novel; German Cinema and History; Franz Kafka; German Literature as World Literature

Undergraduate Major Courses: German Literature in its Historical and Social Contexts; Introduction to Literature; Intermediate and Advanced Composition and Conversation; German Music and Literature in the 19th Century; Goethe.

Undergraduate General Education Lecture Courses: German Culture to WWII; Contemporary German Culture.

Global Studies:

Undergraduate Seminar: Globalization

Portuguese

Undergraduate Recitation Course: Portuguese 001, 002, and 003

Teaching (cont.):*Other Institutions:*

“What is Comparative Literature?” Series of five lectures delivered to the College of International Relations, Nihon University, Mishima, Japan, June 2006.

“Walter Benjamin and Contemporary Literary Theory.” Series of five invited lectures delivered to the College of the Humanities, State University of Londrina, Brazil, August 2007.

“Current trends in Cultural Studies.” Series of three lectures delivered to the Department of Foreign Languages, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, November 2007. (Also to the Department of Foreign Languages, National Sun-yat-Sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan).

“Brazilian Conto and Crônica.” Seminar for the Program in Inter-American Studies, University of Bielefeld, Germany, May 2013.

PUBLICATIONS**Single-Authored Books:**

Clarissa on the Continent: Translation and Seduction. University Park, PA: Penn State Press, 1990. xi + 228 pp.

The Ideology of Genre: A Comparative Study of Generic Instability. University Park: Penn State Press, 1994. viii + 303 pp.

Epistolary Fiction in Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. x+277 pp.

Millennial Literatures of the Americas, 1492-2002. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. xiii+248 pp.

Nation and Region in Modern European and American Fiction (220 pp.) Purdue UP Series in Comparative Cultural Studies, 2008. x+200 pp.

Citation and Precedent: Structural Couplings of German Law and Literature. New York: Continuum P, 2011.

Transmesis: Inside Translation's Black Box. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Edited Book:

Thomas O. Beebee, editor. *German Literature as World Literature.* New York: Bloomsbury, 2014. 212 + xii pp.

Translations:

With Qing-yun Wu. *The Remote Country of Women.* From the Chinese of Bai Hua. Honolulu: U of Hawaii P, 1994. 369 pp.

Kafka's Leopards. From the Portuguese of Moacyr Scliar. Lubbock: Texas Tech UP, 2011.

Jorge Amado: The Penn State Lectures. Transcribed, Translated, and Edited by Thomas O. Beebee, Caroline Egan, and Dawn Taylor. Private printing.

Selected Refereed Journal Articles:

"The Letter Killeth: The Pli of Death in Jean-Paul Marat's Epistolary Fiction." *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, Philosophy of History* 21.3 (Spring 1992): 217-41. Translated into Chinese as "Huoxing baocang: Lun Mala xiaoshuo zhong de siwang heihan." *Zhongwai Wenxue* 263 (April 1994): 33-56.

"The Fiction of Translation: Abdelkebir Khatibi's *Love in Two Languages*." *Sub-stance* 23.1 (1994): 63-78.

"Talking Maps: Region and Revolution in Juan Benet's *Volverás a Región* and Euclides da Cunha's *Os Sertões*." *Comparative Literature* 47.3 (Summer 1995): 193-214.

"The Rifled Mailbag: Robber as Reader in Epistolary Fiction." *Revue de Littérature Comparée* (Jan.-Mar. 1996): 14-36.

Joshua M. Getz and Thomas O. Beebee. "The Epistolary Politics of Amos Oz's *Black Box*." *Prooftexts* 18.1 (January 1998): 45-65.

"Tryphtichs of Solipsism: *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner and *Fogo Morto* by José Lins do Rego." *The Comparatist* (1999): 63-88.

Thomas O. Beebee and Beverly Weber. "A Literature of Theory: Christa Wolf's *Kassandra* Lectures as Feminist Anti-Poetics." *German Quarterly* 74.3 (Summer 2001): 257-77.

Journal Articles (cont.):

- “Ways of Seeing Italy: Landscapes of Nation in Goethe’s *Italianische Reise* and its Counter-Narratives.” *Monatshefte* 94.3 (2002): 322-45.
- Thomas O. Beebee and Lenka Pankova. “Milorad Pavić’s Dictionary of the Khazars as Translational Fiction.” *Serbian Studies* 18.2 (2004): 339-59.
- “Carl Schmitt and the Myth of Benito Cereno.” *seminar* 42.2 (May 2006): 114-35.
- “Publicity, Privacy, and the Power of Fiction in the Gunning Letters.” *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 20.1 (2007): 61-88.
- “Publicity, Privacy, and the Power of Fiction in the Gunning Letters.” *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 20.1 (2007): 61-88.
- “The Canudos Perplex: Three Early Factions.” *Terra Roxa* 10.2 (2007): 3-20.
<http://www2.uel.br/cch/pos/letras/terraroxa/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=40>
- “Brazil without Brazilians: The Geopolitics of Amazônia in Márcio Souza’s Fiction.” *CLCWeb* 11.3 (Sept. 2009).
<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol11/iss3/4/>. 7300 words.
- Thomas O. Beebee and Ikuho Amano. “Pseudotranslation in the Fiction of Akutagawa Ryunosuke.” *Translation Studies* 3.1 (2010): 17-32.
- “Shoot the Traitor! The Translator as *Homo Sacer* in Fiction and Reality.” *The Translator* 16.2 (2010): 1-19.
- “The Triangulated Transtextuality of José Eduardo Agualusa’s *Nação Crioula: A Correspondência Secreta de Fradique Mendes*.” *Luso-Brazilian Review* 47.1 (2010): 190-213.
- “Can Law and Humanities Survive Systems Theory?” *Law and Literature* 22.2 (Summer 2010): 244-68.
- “What in the World does Friedrich Nietzsche have Against World Literature?” *Neohelicon*. 38.2 (2011): 367-79.

Selected Book Chapters:

- “The *Öffentlichkeit* of Jürgen Habermas: The Frankfurt School’s Most Influential Concept?” *Rethinking the Frankfurt School*. Ed. Jeffrey Nealon and Karin Irr. Albany: SUNY Press, 2002). 187-204.
- “Beyond Lecture and Discussion: The World’s Oldest Approaches to Literature.” *Teaching World Literature*. Ed. David Damrosch. New York: MLA, 2009. 266-79.
- “From Nobel to Nothingness: The Negative Monumentality of Rudolf C. Eucken and Paul Heyse.” *German Literature as World Literature*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2014. 137-56.

Book Reviews and Review Essays in: *Biography*; *Clio*; *Comparative Literature Studies*; *German Quarterly*, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*; *Luso-Brazilian Review*; *Philosophy and Literature*; *Recherche Littéraire/Literary Research*; *Renaissance Quarterly*; *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*; *Signos*; *Yearbook of General and Comparative Literature*

RECENT PAPERS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Inside Translation’s Black Box.” Conference on Critical Inquiry, Tsinghua University, Beijing, June 2004.
- “Comparative Literature in the United States Today.” Remin University Conference on Chinese Studies, Beijing, June 2004.
- “Creole Nation: Angola in the Fiction of José Eduardo Agualusa.” MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, December 2004.
- “Colonial Letters: Towards a Taxonomy.” MLA Annual Convention, Washington, D. C., December 2005.
- “From E-pistles to E-mail.” ACLA Annual Convention, Princeton, NJ, April 2006.
- “Triangular Trade: The Co-Construction of National Identities in José Eduardo Agualusa’s *Nação Crioula*” and “From E-pistles to E-mail.” International Comparative Literature Association Triennial Convention, Rio de Janeiro, August 2007.

Professional Papers (cont.):

“Transmesis and Postcolonial Reason.” Invited lecture delivered to the Department of English, Taiwan National Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan, November 2007.

“Can Law and Humanities Survive Systems Theory?” John Jay College of Criminal Justice Conference on Law and Humanities, New York City, March 2008.

“The DNA of the Lamb: The Race for the End (Times) in American Millennial Fiction.” Colloquium on Violence and Religion Conference, Riverside, CA, April 2008.

“Censorship From Below: Pathways of Canonicity in Weimar Germany.” Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Conference, Boston, April 2009.

“Bordering Brazil: Political, Cultural, and Literary Frontiers of Latin America’s Largest Nation.” Conference on Beyond Borders, Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld, Germany, June 2009.

“Weimar 1919: Walter Benjamin’s Constitutional Criticism.” MLA Annual Convention, Los Angeles, January 2011.

“Together at the Ends of the Earth: Millennial Discourses of the Americas.” Annual Conference of the Association for Inter-American Studies. University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany, November 2011.

“Friedrich Nietzsche and the Question of World Literature.” 10th Triennial Congress of the Chinese Comparative Literature Association. Fudan University, Shanghai, China, August 2011. (Plenary address)

Roundtable participant, “Comparing Modern Literatures Worldwide: Can It Be Done within the Current MLA Structure?” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington, January 2012.

“What the World Thinks About Literature: A Manifesto.” Invited lecture to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Nebraska, March 2014.

“Reader Response: For Real, this Time?” Special Event Lecture to the Comparative Languages and Theory Group, Northeast Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, April 2014.

“Can Karl Kraus ‘Live Away’ from Austria? Translational Virtuality in Jonathan Franzen’s *The Kraus Project* (2013).” Berlin Program Summer Workshop on “Virtual Germans,” Free University of Berlin, June 2014.

“What is Kafkaesque? Ask My Lawyer: Citations of Kafka in the US Legal System.” German Studies Association Annual Convention, Kansas City, September 2014.

“Year of Double Death: The Goethe Centenary in Weimar 1932.” Triennial Conference of the Goethe Society of North America, University of Pittsburgh, October 2014.

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Editor-in-Chief: *Comparative Literature Studies* (2001-)

Editorial Boards: *Comparative Literature Studies* (1992-2001); *Diogenes’ Tub* (Bari, Italy); *Terra Roxa* (State University of Londrina, Brazil); *Signos* (Univates, Brazil)

Referee for journals: *CLCWeb*; *Comparative Literature Studies*; *College English*; *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*; *Philament* (University of Sydney); *Social Dynamics* (U of Capetown); *Senhas* (U of Santa Catarina, Brazil); *The Translator*; *Modern Language Studies*; *seminar*

Reader for presses: Bloomsbury P; Bucknell UP; Cambridge UP; Johns Hopkins UP; Modern Language Association; Penn State P; Purdue UP; Routledge P; U of Calgary P.

GRADUATE THESES SUPERVISED

Twenty doctoral dissertations (seventeen in Comparative Literature, three in German), have been completed under my orientation, with three more in progress. Altogether, I have served on more than 40 Penn State doctoral dissertation committees in Comparative Literature, English, French, German, Spanish, Philosophy, Speech Communication, Art Education, and Geography.

GRANTS

1990	NEH Travel to Collections Grant for research in Paris, France. \$750
1991	Jacobs Research Fellowship (Penn State); one semester teaching release. \$7000
1991	Folger Institute Grant-in-Aid (to attend Folger Seminar and conduct research). \$1367
1993	Fulbright Lecturing/Research Fellowship, Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil. \$21,000
1997	Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies Grant (Penn State) for research in Bahia, Brazil. \$1500
1998-2000	Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies Term Fellowship (Penn State). \$6000
2014	Humanities in a Digital Age Initiative Grant (Penn State). \$6000 (additional \$4000 granted for Spring)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

1994-98	NEH Evaluation Committee: Summer Stipend Grants (French, German, and Slavic; again 2005-07, 2012)
1995-97	CIES Disciplinary Advisory Committee for Fulbright Scholar Awards (Comparative Literature)
2003-	President, Phi Beta Kappa Lambda Chapter, Penn State University
1999-2001	Representative of the ACLA to the Field Committee for the National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage Project
2004-07	Member, ACLA Advisory Board (3-year term)
2008-14	Member, Executive Committee, MLA Division on Comparative Studies in 20 th -Century Literature
2010	ACLS Fellowships Review Panel

Tenure and Promotion: Evaluator for Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), Boston University, Cornell University, Haverford College, Queen's College (CUNY), Ramapo State University, UCLA, University of Illinois – Urbana, University of Illinois – Chicago, University of North Texas.

RECENT PENN STATE SERVICE

University Service

Faculty Senate, University Senate Service, Faculty Affairs, Comparative Literature & German. (August 2008 - Present).

Faculty Advisory Committee to the President of the University, elected member (August 2012 – Present)

College Service

Committee Member, Selection Committee for Paterno Fellows Director. (March 11, 2013 - April 15, 2013).

Faculty Scholar Medal Selection, Committee Member, Faculty Scholar Medal Selection Committee. (January 15, 2011 - Present).

Committee Member, Weiss Chair Search Committee (LA College). (December 20, 2010 - May 30, 2012).

Department Service

Organized (with Martina Kolb) and sponsored (from research budget) the visit of Eckhart Nickel to campus, 23-25 January 2014. Nickel gave a seminar and delivered a lecture.

Organized reading by Brazilian poet Salgado Maranhao and his translator, Alexis Levitin, at Penn State UP

Translation slam 2012, Organizer. (October 9, 2011 - October 11, 2011).

Invited and helped bring translator/theorist Lawrence Venuti to UP campus, and organized a translation reading featuring his work.

Administrative Support Work

Publications Coach, Advisor. (August 15, 2012 - Present).

Advise and encourage graduate students in journal article publication. This includes special office hours, and the organization of a special workshop with an invited expert (Nicholas Birns).

Assistance to Student Organizations

Penn State Yoga Club Advisor, Advisor. (September 20, 2011 - 2013).

Advisor, Phi Beta Kappa Lambda. (December 2010 - Present).

Advisor, 2nd Floor Standup Comedy Club. (August 2009 - Present).

Committee Work at Department, College, Campus and University Levels

Committee Member, GRSL Search Committee. (November 15, 2013 - February 25, 2014).

Committee Member, Strategic Plan Committee. (September 2013 - February 2014).

Member, SIP Promotion and Tenure Committee Member. (October 25, 2012 - October 29, 2012).

Graduate Placement Advising - GSSL. (August 15, 2012 - Present).

Member, Search Committee for Asst. Prof. of German Lit. and Culture. (October 2011 - March 2012).

SIP Promotion, Member, SIP P & T Committee. (September 15, 2011 - November 30, 2011).

Promotion and Tenure Committee (GSSL). (September 1, 2011 - Present).

Committee Work, Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee CMLIT. (September 1, 2011 - May 1, 2013).

African/Arabic Search, Member, CMLIT Search Committee. (September 1, 2011 - February 15, 2012).

Committee Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee (CMLIT). (September 1, 2010 - June 30, 2014).

Committee Member, Graduate Committee (CMLIT). (September 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012).

German Day, Judge, Poetry Reading. (April 2, 2014).

Select the winner in reading/dramatic interpretation of German poetry

Organization of symposia and conferences

With Michael Naydan, organized a symposium on translation called "Majoritizing Minor Literatures through Translation". The event was kicked off by a "Translam!" reading of international poetry in translation.