

**YI-PING ONG**  
Humanities Center  
Johns Hopkins University  
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## **EMPLOYMENT**

Assistant Professor of the Humanities, 2010 –  
Humanities Center, The Johns Hopkins University

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in English, November 2009  
Harvard University

M.A. in English, 2006  
Harvard University

M.A. in Philosophy, 2004  
Harvard University

Second B.A. in Philosophy and Theology, 2001  
Oxford University, St. John's College

B.A. in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, 1999  
Columbia University

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Book in Progress***

*Literary Forms, Philosophical Uses: Existentialism, Realism, and the Novel*

### ***Articles***

"Simone de Beauvoir's Theory of the Novel: Imitating Opacity, Ambiguity, and the Impartiality of Life," forthcoming in *Philosophy and Literature*.

"Lectures on Ethics: Kafka and Wittgenstein," in *Wittgenstein and Literary Modernism*, ed. Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé and Michael LeMahieu, University of Chicago Press, forthcoming in 2015.

"Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: *Mad Men* and Moral Ambiguity," Special Issue on Television and Philosophy, The Comparative Literature Issue of *Modern Language Notes*, 127:5 (2012): 1013-39.

"Of Voice and Vulnerability: Experience as Inexperience in Cavell's *Little Did I Know*," The Comparative Literature Issue of *Modern Language Notes* 126:5 (2011): 962-71.

"The Language of Advertising and the Novel: Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas*," *Twentieth-Century Literature* 56:4 (2010): 462-92.

"A View of Life: Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and the Novel," *Philosophy and Literature* 33:1 (2009): 167-83.

Introduction and Notes, *Tao Te Ching*. New York: Barnes and Nobles Classics, 2005.

“Marriages are Made in Heaven,” *Harvard Review* 25 (2003): 174-86. Chosen by Best *American Short Stories 2004* as one of the 100 Distinguished Stories of 2003.

### ***Articles in Progress***

“Lessons in Bewilderment: Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” under revision.

### ***Reviews***

Review of *Stanley Cavell and Literary Studies* (2011), ed. Richard Eldridge and Bernard Rhie, forthcoming in *Modern Philology* 111:4 (2014).

### **ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

*External Faculty Fellow*, Humanities Center, Stanford University, 2013-2014

*Howard Mumford Jones Prize* -- Best doctoral dissertation on some aspect of literature between 1789 and 1917, Department of English, Harvard University, 2010

*New Faculty Fellow*, American Council of Learned Societies, 2010-2012 (declined as condition of employment)

*Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities*, Stanford University, 2010-2012 (declined as condition of employment)

*Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities*, Center for the Humanities at Tufts University, 2010-2012 (declined as condition of employment)

*Horst Frenz Prize* -- Best conference paper presented by a graduate student at ACLA 2009, American Comparative Literature Association, 2009

*Whiting Dissertation Completion Fellowship* -- one of ten in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 2008-2009

*Dexter Traveling Fellowship*, Department of English, Harvard University, 2008

*Graduate Bursary Award*, Center for the Novel, University of Aberdeen, 2008

*Harvard Graduate Society Merit Fellowship* -- sole recipient in Department of English that term, Harvard University, 2008

*Mellon Seminar on Power and its Representations* -- one of eight graduate students, multi-disciplinary seminar with funding, Harvard University, 2003

*Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies*, Mellon Foundation, 2001-2002

*St. John's College Book Prize*, Oxford University, 1999-2000

*Euretta J. Kellett Fellowship* -- two years of post-graduate study at Oxford University, Columbia University, 1999-2001

*David B. Truman Award* -- Most Distinguished Contribution from the Class of 1999 to the Academic Affairs of the College, Columbia University, 1999

*Phi Beta Kappa*, 1998

## INVITED TALKS

“The Limits of Ethical Criticism: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” *Theorizing* -- Lecture Series on Literature and Philosophy, Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, November 25, 2014.

“The Novel and Philosophy: Simone de Beauvoir’s Theory of the Novel,” Class of 1960’s Scholars Program in English, Williams College, October 28, 2014.

“The Problem of Ethics and Literature: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” The Philosophy and Literature Group, Stanford University, May 28, 2014.

“The Form of the Novel and Existentialism,” The Humanities Center, Stanford University, April 22, 2014.

“Lessons in Bewilderment: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, April 30, 2013.

“Three Lectures on Ethics: Wittgenstein, Kafka, and Coetzee,” Conference on Stanley Cavell’s Aesthetics, University of Chicago, March 3, 2012.

“Existentialism and the Novel,” The Philosophy and Literature Group and Department of English, Stanford University, March 10, 2011.

“Speaking of Ethics: Coetzee and Wittgenstein on Words in the World,” Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature, Duke University, February 20, 2010.

“Contingency and the Form of the Novel: Rohinton Mistry’s *A Fine Balance*,” Department of English, University of Massachusetts, February 9, 2010.

“Literary Forms, Philosophical Uses: J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, January 28, 2010.

“Being-in-the-world: Kierkegaard, Heidegger, and the Realist Novel,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, January 27, 2010.

“Representations of Choice: The Novel of Marriage and Kierkegaard’s Ethics,” Department of English, University of Vermont, January 22, 2010.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Ordinary Language Philosophy and Aesthetics,” Roundtable on Analytic Philosophy and Modernism, Modernist Studies Association conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November 8, 2014.

“The Difficulty of Imagining the Whole: Doing Justice to Coetzee’s ‘The Lives of Animals,’” Modern Language Association conference, Chicago, IL, January 11, 2014.

“Lectures on Ethics: Kafka and Wittgenstein,” German Studies Association conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 6, 2012.

“Speaking for Others: On Dialogic Community in Coetzee and Cavell,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Brown University, April 1, 2012.

“Running against the Boundaries of Language: Lectures on Ethics by Kafka and Wittgenstein,” Modern Language Association conference, Seattle, WA, January 5, 2012.

“On Voice and Vulnerability,” Symposium on Stanley Cavell’s *Little Did I Know: Excerpts from Memory*, Johns Hopkins University, April 22, 2011.

“Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: *Mad Men* and Moral Ambiguity,” International Symposium on Philosophy and New American Television Series, Johns Hopkins University, April 15, 2011.

“Speaking of Ethics: Coetzee and Wittgenstein on the Importance of the First Person,” Modern Language Association conference, Los Angeles, CA, January 9, 2011.

“Lost in Translation: Philosophy, Literature, and the Problem of Self-Knowledge in Cavell’s *The Claim of Reason*,” Modern Language Association conference, December 29, 2009.

“Literature as Life Philosophy: Nietzsche and the Novel,” Modern Language Association conference, Philadelphia, PA, December 27, 2009.

“Poets and Philosophers of the Everyday: Stein and Wittgenstein on Language, World and Meaning,” Modernist Studies Association conference, Montreal, Canada, November 6, 2009.

“Towards a Life View: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and the Novel,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Harvard University, March 29, 2009. Received Horst Frenz Prize for best graduate student paper.

“The Shame of All Her Kind: Spenser, Nietzsche, and the Allegory of Duessa Unveiled,” Modern Language Association conference, San Francisco, CA, December 30, 2008.

“Strange Bedfellows: *Playboy*, Existentialism, and American Cold War Propaganda,” Modern Language Association conference, San Francisco, CA, December 28, 2008.

“Between the Furniture Sale and the Fate of the Soul with *Madame Bovary*: Against an Empirical Understanding of Realism in the Novel,” The Novel and its Borders conference, University of Aberdeen, July 9, 2008.

“Art’s Rebellious Subjects: Breaking the Pose in *L’Oeuvre*, *The Marble Faun*, and *Emma*,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Long Beach, CA, April 25, 2008.

“Commercial Reality and the Illusory Constructions of a Former Sign Painter: The Language of Advertising in Naipul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas*,” Postcolonialism and the Hit of the Real conference, New York University, March 8, 2008.

“Plotinus on Matter,” Globalizing Philosophy: Eastern and Western Approaches to the Central Metaphysical Issues of Philosophy and Science, Columbia University, April 17, 1999.

## WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR PAPERS

“How Shall We Let This Text, or Anything, Teach Us?: Lessons in Bewilderment -- Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*,” Andrew W. Mellon Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, May 3, 2012.

Invited Scholar, Young Scholars Workshop on Philosophy, Literature, and Film, Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature, Duke University, April 5-6, 2012.

“On the Future of Literature and Philosophy,” Humanities Center – Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Futures Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, October 28, 2010.

“Responsibility and the Limits of Moral Community,” Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University, November 8, 2004.

“Moral Community, Blame and Responsibility,” Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop,  
Department of Philosophy, Harvard University, May 9, 2004.

“On Moral Relativism and the Virtues,” St. John's College Graduate Lectures, Oxford University,  
April 2000.

## **TEACHING**

### ***Courses – Johns Hopkins University, 2010-***

The Literature of the Everyday: Realism in the 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Novel  
The Modernist Novel: Mann, Woolf, and Joyce  
Forms of Moral Community: The Post-1950 World Novel  
Philosophy and/of the Novel (graduate seminar)  
The Ancient Quarrel: Literature and Philosophy (graduate seminar)  
Literature and/as Ethics (graduate seminar)  
The Good Life: Philosophical and Literary Texts (graduate seminar)  
The Modernist Novel: James, Woolf and Joyce  
Great Books at Hopkins  
Film and Philosophy: Moral Perfectionism and the Comedy of Remarriage

### ***Independent Studies – Johns Hopkins University, 2010-***

The Victorian Novel and the City  
David Foster Wallace and Contemporary Ethics

### ***Courses – Harvard University, 2003-2010***

Course Head, Moral Community in the Post-1950 Anglophone Novel (junior honors tutorial)  
Course Head, Virginia Woolf (junior honors tutorial)  
Head Teaching Fellow, Self, Freedom, and Existence  
Head Teaching Fellow, Art and Thought of the Cold War  
Teaching Fellow, The Classic Phase of the Novel  
Teaching Fellow, Shakespearean Tragedy  
Teaching Fellow, Contemporary Political Philosophy  
Teaching Fellow, Existentialism  
Teaching Fellow, Justice

### ***Invited Lectures on Pedagogy – Harvard University Bok Center for Teaching***

“What To Do if Your Students Haven’t Read,” Harvard University Teaching Conference, Fall  
2007

“Making Difficult Material Accessible,” Harvard University Teaching Conference, Fall 2005 and  
2006

### ***Teaching Awards***

Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2010  
Nominated for Harvard University Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, Spring 2008  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2007  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2006  
*Lead Teaching Fellow*, Derek Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard University, 2005-2006 (One  
selected in each department; declined for fellowship.)

Nominated for Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, Spring 2006  
*Graduate Writing Fellow*, Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard University, Spring 2005  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2005  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2004  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2004  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2003

## **EDITORIAL BOARDS**

Co-Executive Editor, The Comparative Literature Issue -- *Modern Language Notes*, 2010 –

Editorial Board, *Modern Language Notes*, 2010 –

Contributing Editor, *Ordinary Language Philosophy and Literary Studies Online*, 2009 –

## **CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

*Conference Panel Organizer*, “Forms of Community,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Brown University, March 30-April 1, 2012.

*Conference Panel Organizer*, “Literary Genres, Philosophical Uses,” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Harvard University, March 28-29, 2009.

*Conference Panel Organizer*, “Defining the Politics of Asian Identity: Human Rights and Asian Values,” Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations conference, Sydney, Australia, August 15-18, 2002.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

*Mellon Postdoctoral Selection Committee*, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2014 -

*Organizer and Founder*, Philosophy and Literature Reading Group (faculty reading group with members from the departments of Art History, English, German and Romance Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, and the Humanities Center), 2012 –

*Krieger School Status of Women Committee*, Johns Hopkins University, 2012 -

*Organizer*, Graduate Symposium (Practice Job Talks), Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2011-

*Graduate Admissions Committee*, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2010-

*Director*, Undergraduate Honors Program, Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, 2010-2011

*Committee Member*, numerous Ph.D. defenses in Humanities Center, Department of English, and Department of Art History, Johns Hopkins University, 2010-

*Departmental Liaison and Undergraduate Resident House Advisor*, Department of English, Harvard University, 2007-2009

*Assistant Senior Tutor of Fellowships and Resident Tutor in Philosophy and English*, Kirkland House, Harvard University, 2002-2008

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Modern Language Association  
American Comparative Literature Association  
Modernist Studies Association

**LANGUAGES**

Japanese (Advanced)  
French (Intermediate Reading)  
Chinese (Basic Mandarin, Conversant in Cantonese)

**REFEREES**

Philip Fisher, Felice Cowl Reid Professor of English, Harvard University

Stephen Greenblatt, Cogan University Professor, Harvard University

Louis Menand, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of English, Harvard University

Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value,  
Harvard University