

HOWARD FISHER

(HE/HIM/HIS)

Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

EDUCATION

University of California Berkeley

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature (English, German, and French), December 2021

Dissertation: “Possibility, Singularity, Disqualification: Experimental Fiction and the Queerness of Language-in-Use”

Committee: Michael Lucey (director), Stephen Best, Catherine Flynn, Niklaus Largier

Research interests: critical writing studies, queer rhetorics, fictional rhetoric, 20th and 21st century counterpublic discourses, sexuality studies

Boston University

Bachelor of Arts, May 2010

Double major in English and German

Graduated summa cum laude

SELECTED COURSES & WORKSHOPS TAUGHT

Art of Writing Program, UC Berkeley

Co-Instructor, “Designing a Writing-Based Course: An Online Workshop” | Summer 2021

Led a three-week workshop alongside Professor of English and Composition scholar Joseph Harris that led new and experienced graduate student instructors through the process of designing a writing course. Presentations familiarized participants with the distinction between a writing-intensive and writing-based course. Workshop units focused on the development of a course overview, a single writing assignment, and a scaffolded plan of in-class writing and larger projects.

Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, UC Berkeley

Reader, LGBT 145: “Interpreting the Queer Past” | Spring 2021 (online)

The course introduced students to multidisciplinary research methods for studying LGBTQ+ social and political movements in the U.S. Worked with lead instructor to select course readings, read student papers, responded to student work in on-on-one conferences, and helped lead discussion on course readings. Course texts included archival materials, manifestos, historical studies, and a longer work of fiction.

Department of Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley

Instructor, R1B: “Beyond the Charmed Circle” | Fall 2020 (online)

Writing-based course introduced fundamental skills of written inquiry, analysis, argumentation, research, and supporting practices, such as revision and collaboration. Took up sexuality to consider social identities’ relationship to writing, incorporating literary studies, queer theory, and linguistic anthropology.

Instructor, R1A: “The Art of Conversation” | Spring 2020

Explored how narrative representations of conversation generate critical perspectives on social structures.

Teaching Assistant, 60AC: “All the Feels: Race, Literature, Emotion | Summer 2019

American Cultures lecture course led by Professor Dora Zhang. Engaged with theories of affect as part of the landscape of contemporary political life in the United States. Course texts included novels, essays, scholarly works of political science, and performances produced between 1955 and 2019.

Instructor, 60AC: “Utopian Creature Science” | Summer 2019

American Cultures seminar engaged with science fiction’s frameworks for critique of race, gender, and sexuality in the history of the U.S. Course texts included novels, short stories, and films produced between 1845 and 2019, including texts by Poe, M.R. Delany, S. Delany, Lovecraft, Riley. Supporting materials included works of history, critical race theory, and literary criticism.

Instructor, R1B: “The Dialects of Modernism” | Spring 2017

Examined the correlations between difficulty of literary texts, linguistic diversity, and beliefs about language use and social identity. Readings included dialogs, novels, and films contextualized with works in linguistics, anthropology, and literary criticism.

Teaching Assistant, CL 20: “Why Long Novels?” | Fall 2016

Introductory course to history and theory of the novel, led by Professor Michael Lucey. Led two discussion sections for undergraduate lecture course. Presented lecture on differences of characterization in works by George Eliot and Dostoevsky.

Co-Instructor, R1B: “The Wide World of Genre” | Spring 2016

Considered genres as condensations of interpretive practices of sociocultural groups and publics. Responsibilities included training co-instructor. Course materials included works of lyric poetry, novels, classical tragedy, and film. Supporting texts included works of philosophy, sociolinguistics, and literary theory.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Program Coordinator, Art of Writing Tutoring Program | 2018-2020

Administered the Townsend Center for the Humanity’s inter-departmental program, designed to support teaching of Reading & Composition in the departments of Comparative Literature, English, Film & Media, and Rhetoric. Collaborated with department faculty to

integrate tutoring into R&C courses. Designed and implemented assessment tools to track and report program effectiveness. Helped program staff cultivate private donors to support program. Designed materials to facilitate online, remote tutoring.

Departmental Coordinator, Art of Writing Tutoring Program | 2017-2018

Designed tutor training materials. Recruited and trained undergraduate majors in Comp Lit, English, Film & Media, and Rhetoric. Mentored undergraduates in semester-long research projects on composition pedagogy.

Officer, Consortium on the Novel, a Townsend Center Working Group | 2015-2019

Organized and facilitated regular series of events on history and theory of the novel. Collaborated with Stanford's Center for the Study of the Novel for the biannual Forum on the Novel joint graduate conference. Composed and monitored semi-annual budget. Recruited guest lecturers and visiting authors, including Marta Figlerowicz, Josefine Klourgart, and Alex Woloch.

Chair, Comparative Literature Graduate Teaching Committee | 2014-2017

Co-founded and managed departmental writing tutor program. Supported departmental pedagogy of literature and writing through regular workshops for graduate students. Collaborated with faculty in authoring departmental policy on teaching observations.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Daniel E. Kosbland, Jr. Professional Self-Development Grant | Fall 2020

Funds awarded to pursue research on evaluation of student writing and the use of digital video technologies in delivering feedback on writing

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Graduate Fellowship | 2018-2019

Collaborative program of lectures and seminars with scholars in Literary Studies, Linguistics, and Anthropology

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award | 2017

Awarded for exemplary teaching in Comparative Literature

Daniel E. Kosbland, Jr. Art of Teaching Writing Fellowship | Summer 2017

Fellowship awarded for participation in an intensive summer seminar on teaching undergraduate writing courses

Comparative Literature Summer Research Grant | Summer 2016

Awarded to support archival research at the Beinecke Rare Manuscript Library

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship | Summer 2015

Intensive Turkish Language and Culture Program at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

Comparative Literature Foreign Language Study Grant | Summer 2013

Kenneth Weisinger Memorial Fellowship | 2012-2013

Awarded to one first-year graduate student in Comparative Literature for study in German

PUBLICATIONS

“Queering Language in Writing for Transfer,” submission for edited collection, *Radical Frameworks for Writing Transfer*, forthcoming from Peter Lang Publishing, winter 2022

“The Emergence of Resemblances between People: Stein’s Diagrams in *The Making of Americans*,” forthcoming in *Journal of Modern Literature*, Indiana University Press, winter 2022

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Organizer, “Normativity, Interaction, Custom: Some Social Theses for Queer Studies”
Recruited and led faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students in a three-day seminar hosted by the American Comparative Literature Association, online, April 2021

“Sexual Classification, Sexual Metapragmatics in *The Making of Americans*”
Presented as part of the Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar on sexuality, literary studies, and linguistic anthropology, UC, Berkeley, March 2019

“Ernst Mach and William James on the Discursive Fields of Empirical Science”
Presented on the panel “Empiricism and its Discontents,” at the American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles, March 2018

“‘Everything in them must be important to us’: Crisis of Attention in Gertrude Stein’s Fiction”
Presented at the conference “Everything Is Not Going to Be Okay: Optimism in the Age of Catastrophe,” at SUNY, Buffalo, April 2015

LANGUAGES

English (fluent)

French (advanced reading)

German (advanced reading, writing, and speaking)

Turkish (intermediate speaking and reading)