

Joshua Landy

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Education

PhD: Comparative Literature, Princeton University, 1997
MA: Cambridge University, 1991
BA: French & German, Churchill College, Cambridge, 1988

Academic Employment

1996-present Stanford University (Assistant Professor of French 1996; Associate Professor of French 2004; Full Professor of French 2013; Andrew B. Hammond Chair 2013; Professor of Comparative Literature 2013)
1995-1996 University Lecturer, Princeton University

Visiting Professorships

2004 (Fall) Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago

Fellowships and Awards

2011-12 Fellowship at the National Humanities Center
2008-09 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center
2001 Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University
1999-2000 Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center
1999 The Walter J. Gores Award for Teaching Excellence, Stanford University
1994-95 Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorary Fellowship in the Humanities

Directorships

2004-present Co-founder and co-director of the Philosophy and Literature Initiative. (Includes role as Director of Undergraduate Studies for a set of major tracks.)
2013-present Director of the Structured Liberal Education program.

Academic Publications

Books:

- *How to Do Things with Fictions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- *Philosophy as Fiction: Self, Deception, and Knowledge in Proust*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Edited volumes:

- *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, with Michael Saler. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2009.
- *Thematics: New Approaches*, with Claude Bremond and Thomas Pavel. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1995.

Articles and book chapters:

- “[Conditional Goods and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: How Literature \(as a Whole\) could Matter Again.](#)” *SubStance* 42:2 (2013): 48-60.
- “[Sobre uma recensão estranha na *Forma de Vida*](#),” *Forma de Vida* 3 (2013), online.
- “[Deceit, Desire, and the Literature Professor: Why Girardians Exist.](#)” *Republics of Letters* 3:1 (2012), <http://rofl.stanford.edu/node/108>.
- “[The Devil, the Master-Criminal, and the Re-Enchantment of the World \(on *The Usual Suspects*\)](#).” *Philosophy and Literature* 36 (2012): 37-57.
- “[Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities.](#)” *Poetics Today* 33:2 (2012):167-214.
- “Μια ωραία ζωή” [“A Beautiful Life”], trans. Chrysoula Mentzalira. *The Athens Review of Books*, July-August 2011, 14-18.
- “Il falso di sacre teorie,” an interview with Remo Ceserani. *Il Manifesto*, May 22 2011, 10-11.
- “[Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*](#).” *Critical Inquiry* 37 (3), 2011: 497-514.
- “‘Un égoïsme utilisable pour autrui’: le statut normatif de l’auto-description chez Proust.” *Morales de Proust*, ed. Mariolina Bertini & Antoine Compagnon, Paris: L’Harmattan, 2010: 83-99.
- “[Corruption by Literature.](#)” *Republics of Letters: A Journal for the Study of Knowledge, Politics, and the Arts* 1, no. 2 (April 3, 2010): <http://arcade.stanford.edu/journals/rofl/articles/corruption-literature-by-joshua-landy>.
- “[Passion, Counter-Passion, Catharsis: Beckett and Flaubert on Feeling Nothing.](#)” *The Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Literature*, ed. Garry Hagberg & Walter Jost, Oxford: Blackwell, 2010: 28-38.
- “[Secular Magic in a Rational Age.](#)” *The Human Experience* (<http://humanexperience.stanford.edu/thinkingtwice-enchantment>), February 2010.
- “Re-Enchantment.” (With Michael Saler) *The American Scholar*, Summer 2009: 10-11.
- “[The Abyss of Freedom: Love and Legitimacy in Constant’s *Adolphe*](#).” *Nineteenth Century French Studies* 37, 2009: 193-213.
- “Modern Magic: Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin and Stéphane Mallarmé.” *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, ed. Joshua Landy and Michael Saler, Stanford University Press, 2009: 102-29.
- “The Varieties of Modern Enchantment.” With Michael Saler. Introduction to *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, ed. Joshua Landy and Michael Saler, Stanford University Press, 2009: 1-14.
- “[A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction.](#)” *Art and Ethical Criticism*, ed. Garry Hagberg, Oxford: Blackwell, 2008, 63-94.
- “Mallarméan Magic: Retrospective Necessity, Lucid Illusion, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” *Symbolism* 8, 2008, 259-78.
- “[A Beatrice for Proust?](#)” *Poetics Today* 28, 2008: 607-18.
- “[Philosophical Training Grounds: Socratic Sophistry and Platonic Perfection in *Symposium* and *Gorgias*](#).” *Arion* 15:1, 2007: 63-122.
- “[Proust, his Narrator, and the Importance of the Distinction.](#)” *Poetics Today* 25, 2004: 91-135.
- “[Nietzsche, Proust, and Will-to-Ignorance.](#)” *Philosophy and Literature* 26, 2002: 1-23.
- “[Philosophy as Self-Fashioning: Alexander Nehamas’s *Art of Living*](#),” with R. Lanier Anderson. *Diacritics* 31, 2001:25-54.
- “[The Texture of Proust’s Novel.](#)” *Cambridge Companion to Proust*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001: 117-34.
- “[Les moi en moi: The Proustian Self in Philosophical Perspective.](#)” *New Literary History* 32, 2001: 91-132.
- “Treason of the Readers: Karl Heinz Bohrer and the Autonomy of the Aesthetic.” *Stanford Presidential Lectures Forum* (<http://prelectur/lecturers/bohrer/commentary/landy.html>), October 1998.
- “Introduction.” *Thematics: New Approaches* (with Claude Bremond and Thomas Pavel), Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995: 1-6.
- “[Music, Letters, Truth and Lies: ‘L’Après-Midi d’un Faune’ as an *ars poetica*](#).” *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature* 42 (1994): 57-69.

Articles forthcoming and under review:

- “Mental Calisthenics and Self-Reflexive Fiction.” Forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Approaches to Literature*, ed. Lisa Zunshine, 2015.

Reviews:

- “[The Point of the Pyramid: Michael Fried’s *Flaubert’s ‘Gueuloir*,”](#)” Los Angeles Review of Books, July 20th, 2013.
- “[Proust Among the Psychologists.](#)” *Philosophy and Literature* 35:2 (2011): 375-387.
- “[Philosophy to the Rescue](#)”: Review of Mark William Roche, *Why Literature Matters in the Twenty-First Century*, and Frank B. Farrell, *Why Does Literature Matter?* (*Philosophy and Literature* 31, 2007: 405-19).
- “[The Paradox of Perfection.](#)” *Poetics Today* 26:1, Spring 2005: 161-8.
- “[Accidental Kinsmen: Proust and Nietzsche.](#)” *Philosophy and Literature* 27, 2003: 450-5.
- “Pearson on Mallarmé.” *Nineteenth Century French Studies* 26, 1998: 463-5.

Radio Appearances

- “[Fiction and Morality](#)” (To the Best of Our Knowledge, NPR), May 4, 2014.
- “[Haunting](#)” (The Stanford Storytelling Project, Episode 407), October 29, 2012.
- “[How Fiction Shapes Us](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, recorded October 10, 2012.
- Interview with Melissa Culross, KCBS San Francisco, July 15, 2012.
- *Peninsula Report*, KZSU Stanford, July 13, 2012.
- Interview with Scott Lettieri, KGO San Francisco, July 11, 2012.
- “[Thinking Inside the Box](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, October 28, 2011 (34:40-40:50).
- “[Reading, Narrative, and the Self](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 28, 2010.
- “[The Uses of Literature](#),” *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, April 20, 2010.
- “[The Art of Living](#)” (with Lanier Anderson), *Forum*, KQED, May 4, 2009.
- “[Serious Fun](#)” (The Stanford Storytelling Project, Episode 206), January 29, 2009.
- “[The Language of Fiction](#),” *Philosophy Talk*, KALW San Francisco, November 22, 2005.
- “[Marcel Proust](#),” *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, November 8, 2005.

Radio Appearances as Guest Host

- “On Beauty,” parts [one](#) and [two](#) (with Alexander Nehamas), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, February 15 2011.
- “[The Uses of Philosophy](#)” (with John Perry and Kenneth Taylor), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, February 13 2011.
- “[The Re-Enchantment of the World](#)” (with Michael Saler), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, May 19 2009.
- “[Language and Thought](#)” (with Lera Boroditsky), *Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)*, KZSU Stanford, November 4, 2008.

Invited Lectures

- “Proust and Consciousness.” Stanford Consciousness Workshop, October 30, 2014.
- “The Value of a Liberal Education.” Stanford Alumni Association of Paris, May 27, 2014.
- “Literature and the Brain: Promises and Perils of the Cognitive Turn.” Closing address, “Impression & Object,” Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, March 28, 2014.
- “Fictions that Train Your Brain.” Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, January 13, 2014.
- “Literature and Cognitive Science in the Classroom.” Learning and the Brain conference, San Francisco, February 16, 2013.
- “Fictions: The Worlds Writers and Artists Create.” aMuse Gallery, San Francisco, January 20, 2013.

- “Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities.” Philosophy and Literature Workshop, University of Chicago, May 10, 2012.
- “Bringing Philosophy To An End: How To Do Things With Beckett.” French Cultural Studies Workshop, National Humanities Center, 20 February 2012.
- “Formative Fictions: Imaginative Literature and the Training of the Capacities.” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins, 13 February 2012.
- “Proust’s *Recherche*: Why a Novel?” Department of German and Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins, 14 February 2012.
- “The Uses of Literature.” East Carolina University, 17 November 2011.
- “The Future of the Humanities.” Department of German and Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins, 10 November 2011.
- “Clarification, Formal Models, and Training-Grounds.” University of San Francisco, 10 April 2011.
- “Literature, Narrative, and the Shape of a Life.” London Aesthetics Forum, 17 March 2011.
- “How I Think about Literature.” Division of Literatures, Cultures and Languages, November 4, 2010.
- “Philosophical Training Grounds: Socratic Sophistry and Platonic Perfection in *Symposium* and *Gorgias*.” Classics Department, UC Berkeley, September 30, 2010.
- “Narrative Form and the ‘Meaning’ of a Life.” Institute for Philosophy and Religion 41st Annual Lecture Series: “Narrative Wisdom—Narrative Meaning.” Boston University, November 4, 2009.
- “The Shape of a Life.” The ‘Last Lecture’ Series, Stanford University, May 18, 2009.
- “Molly Springfield’s ‘Translation.’” Steven Wolf Fine Arts, San Francisco, February 14, 2009.
- “Metaphor and Faith: The Parables of Jesus.” Space, Time, and God Workshop, Stanford University, February 10, 2009.
- “The Devil, the Master-Criminal, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” Aesthetics Workshop, Stanford University, January 21, 2009.
- “Literature, Narrativity, and the Self.” Annual Philosophy and Literature lecture, University of Notre Dame, April 24, 2008.
- “Corrupting Literature.” Keynote Talk, Comparative Literature Graduate Conference (“Corruption”), Stanford, April 5, 2008.
- “‘Un égoïsme utilisable pour autrui’: le statut normatif de l’auto-description chez Proust.” Collège de France, Paris, March 25, 2008.
- “The Parable of the Sower.” Stanford Humanities House, Feb 13, 2008.
- “Literature, Narrativity, and the Self.” Nef Lecture Series, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, Jan 14, 2008.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction,” London Aesthetics Forum, March 21, 2007.
- “Passion, Counter-Passion, Catharsis: Beckett and Flaubert on Feeling Nothing.” Nef Lecture Series, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, Feb 1, 2007.
- “Chambres d’hiver / La chambre de ma mère: Home, Self, and Self-Oblivion in Beckett and Proust.” Closing address, “Envisioning Home,” Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, November 4, 2006.
- “How One Becomes What One Is: Finding Yourself in Marcel Proust.” Stanford Alumni Association, Tucson AZ, May 26, 2005.
- “Taketh the Moralitee, Goode Men: on the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction.” Princeton University, April 21, 2005.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: on the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction.” Johns Hopkins University, November 15, 2004.
- “Authors, Writers and Rumors of Death,” Conference on Antoine Compagnon’s *Literature, Theory, and Common Sense*, University of Chicago, November 5, 2004.
- “Self, Deception, and Knowledge: *Philosophy as Fiction* Reconsidered,” Modern France Workshop, University of Chicago, October 15, 2004.
- “Within a Budding Grove,” The Proust Society of America (San Francisco Chapter), September 8 2004.

- “Nietzsche’s Style,” American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), Pasadena, March 26, 2004.
- “The Paradox of Perfection: Thomas Pavel’s *La Pensée du roman*,” Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University, January 15, 2004.
- “A Nation of Madame Bovarys: On the Possibility and Desirability of Moral Improvement through Fiction,” Modern France Workshop, University of Chicago, May 23, 2003.
- “What is behind the Martinville Steeples? Perspective, Knowledge and Imagination in Proust,” UC Berkeley French Department, December 5, 2001.

Other Talks

- “John on Walton on Thoughtwriting.” APA Pacific Division, April 6, 2012.
- “The Function of Modernist Reflexivity.” Modernist Studies Association conference, Buffalo NY, 7 October 2011.
- “The Shape of a Life.” Ethics@Noon, Stanford, 29 April 2011.
- “Valentine’s Day.” “*Deceit, Desire and the Novel Fifty Years Later*,” Stanford, 15 April 2011.
- “Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*.” *Film and Philosophy III*, University of Warwick, July 17, 2010.
- “Proust sans son époque? The Case of *Jean Santeuil*.” *Proust et son époque* conference, University of Illinois, April 10, 2010.
- “Still Life in a Narrative Age: Charlie Kaufman’s *Adaptation*.” *Film and Philosophy*, Stanford University, January 16, 2010.
- “Literary Narrative as Formal Model.” “What Is Narrative?” panel, Stanford University, June 4, 2009.
- “Futile Teasers: Beckett, Rorty, and the End of Philosophy.” Philosophy and Literature Conference, University of Sussex (UK), June 13, 2008.
- “To Have and Have Not: Romantic Irony and Cognitive Science.” *Literature and Cognitive Science Roundtables*, Stanford, February 22, 2008.
- “Futile Teasers: Beckett, Rorty, and the End of Philosophy.” *Beckett at 100* conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee FL, February 11, 2006.
- “The Shape of Faith: Mallarmé, Allegory, and the Re-Enchantment of the World.” *Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference*, Austin TX, October 28, 2005.
- “Literature and (Analytic) Philosophy: A Future for the Humanities?” Third International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, New Hall College, Cambridge, August 2, 2005
- “Science and Fiction: Robert-Houdin and Villiers de l’Isle-Adam,” *Rethinking Secularization: International Society for Intellectual History Conference*, UC Davis, April 2, 2005.
- “Perspective and Metaphor (or Metonymy) in Proust,” Department of French and Italian Lecture Series, Stanford University, February 19, 2002.
- “Teaching and Fiction,” *Association of Literary Critics and Scholars Conference*, San Francisco, Oct. 27, 2001.
- “A Response to Roger Chartier,” Stanford University Presidential Lecture Series, Stanford, Oct. 17, 2000.
- “Parables and Perplexity,” *The Pious and the Profane: Western Humanities Alliance Conference*, University of Washington, Oct. 14, 2000.
- “Les moi en moi: Self and Selves in Proust,” *Celebrating the Century?: Twentieth Century French Studies Conference*, University of Pennsylvania, March 31, 2000.
- “The Unpurloined Letter: Nietzsche, Proust and a Meta-Will-to-Ignorance,” *Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference*, Marymount University, March 26, 2000.
- “Fictions of the Self,” *Stanford Humanities Center Colloquium Series*, January 18, 2000.
- “Science and Fiction: Robert-Houdin and Villiers de l’Isle-Adam,” *Nineteenth-Century French Studies Conference*, Pennsylvania State University, Oct. 23, 1998.
- “The Game of Skill: Illusions, Delusions and the Mallarméan Poetics,” *Mallarmé: Music, Arts, Letters*, Indiana University, September 1994.

Events Organized

- 2014 “Science of Story and Imagination: Perspectives from Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, and the Humanities” (March 1-2).
- 2013 “Narrative Self, Lyric Self, Absent Self: Literary, Psychological, and Philosophical Approaches to Self-Fashioning,” Stanford University (February 22-23).
- 2011 “Film and Philosophy II,” Stanford University (January 15-16).
- 2010 “Film and Philosophy,” Stanford University (January 15-16).
- 2009 “Evolution, Cognition, and the Arts,” Stanford University (March 13).
- 2008 “Literature and Cognitive Science,” Stanford University (February 22).
- 2007 “Imagination,” Stanford University (June 22-24).
- 2004-present Lecture Series on Philosophy and Literature, Stanford University.
- 2004 Philosophy and Literature Graduate Student Colloquium, Stanford University (March 13).
- 2002-03 Colloquium and Lecture Series on Philosophy and Literature, Stanford University.
- 1995 Comparative Literature Colloquium, Princeton University.

Administrative: French and Italian

- 2013-present, 2005-06 Director of Graduate Studies in French.
- 2006-07 Chair of the Department of French and Italian.
- 2003-05, 2000-02, 1998-99 Director of Undergraduate Studies in French.

Administrative: Editorial

- 2014-present Editorial board, Oxford Series in Philosophy and Literature.
- 2009-present Editorial board, “Arcade”.