

CHRISTOPHER SCHABERG

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English. University of California-Davis, June 2009.
Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory
Exam Field: 20th-century American Literature

M.A., English. Montana State University-Bozeman, May 2003.
Focus: Environmental Literature & Theory

B.A., English & Philosophy. Hillsdale College, May 2000.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2014 – present: associate professor of English, Loyola University of New Orleans

2009 – 2014: assistant professor of English, Loyola University New Orleans

Teaching interests: 20th-century and contemporary American literature, mobility studies, cultural & critical theory, and environmental humanities.

PUBLICATIONS

_Deconstructing Brad Pitt (Co-edited with Robert Bennett). Bloomsbury, 2014.

The Textual Life of Airports: Reading the Culture of Flight. Continuum, 2011; Bloomsbury, 2013.

Book review: *Working the Aisles: A Life in Consumption*, Robert Appelbaum. *New Orleans Review*, July 2014.

“Escape Velocity” (an essay on air travel and new media), *The New Inquiry*, March 2014.

“Plane Sighting.” *InVisible Culture* Issue 19, “Blind Spots,” November 2013.

“Moving Bodily Sideways.” *MediaCommons: The New Everyday*, October 2013.

“A Forgettable Passage to Flight: How the Jet Bridge Distills Air Travel, an Object Lesson.” *The Atlantic* Technology Channel, 5 September 2013.

“Environmentality and Air Travel Disasters: Representing the Violence of Plane Crashes.” *Beauty, Violence, Representation*, Ed. Lisa Dickson & Maryna Romanets. Routledge, 2013.

Encyclopedia entries: "Hemingway," "Barry Lopez: *Of Wolves and Men*," and "Cormac McCarthy: *The Road*." *Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature*, Ed. Geoff Hamilton & Brian Jones. McFarland, 2013.

Book review: *Standing Still in a Concrete Jungle*, Justin Nobel. *New Orleans Review*, Spring 2013.

Book review: *Speech Begins after Death*, Michel Foucault in conversation with Claude Bonnefoy. *New Orleans Review*, May 2013.

Book review: *Aerial Life: Spaces, Mobilities, Affects*, Peter Adey. *Interstitial: A Journal of Modern Culture and Events*, April 2013.

Book review: *Cormac McCarthy: All the Pretty Horses, No Country for Old Men, The Road*, Ed. Sara L. Spurgeon. *Western American Literature*, 47.4, Winter 2013.

"Hangar to Grave" (an essay on the Boeing Dreamliner), *The New Inquiry*, January 2013.

Book review: "Infinite Rest: On D.T. Max's Biography of David Foster Wallace." *New Orleans Review*, October 2012.

"Flying Objects, Sitting Still, Killing Time." *Transformations* 22, "Hyperaesthetic Culture," Ed. Erika Kerruish. September 2012.

"Missing Captain" (an essay on drones), *The New Inquiry*, Issue 6, "Game of Drones," July 2012. Reposted by *Salon.com*, September 2012.

"Gallatin Field Airport." *Narrative Magazine*, January 2012.

"Strange Flights." *The Millions*, September 2011.

"Avatars of 9/11." Editors' introduction (co-authored with Kara Thompson), *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture* Issue 11.2, "Cultural Productions of 9/11." July 2011.

"The Airport Screening Complex." *Media Fields Journal* Issue 2: *Media, Labor, Mobility*. March 2011.

Book review: *Quiet As They Come*, Angie Chau. *Western American Literature* 45.4, Winter 2011.

"The Work of Literature in the Age of the Office." *Merchants, Barons, Sellers and Suits: The Changing Images of the Businessman through Literature*, Ed. Christa Mahalik. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, November 2010.

"On Being Embedded: Some Notes on the Environmental Curiosities of Air Travel." Epilogue, *Curious Collectors, Collected Curiosities: An Interdisciplinary Study*, Ed. Janelle Schwartz & Norah Lucia Serrano. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, September 2010.

"Terminal Immaterial: The Uncertain Subject of the Hardy Boys Airport Mysteries." Chapter 3, *The Boy Detectives: Essays on The Hardy Boys and Others*, Ed. Michael Cornelius. McFarland, July 2010.

Book review: *Ordinary Affects*, Kathleen Stewart. *Western American Literature* 44.2, Summer 2009.

"Bird Citing: On the Aesthetics and Techno-Poetics of Flight." *Nebula* 6.2, June 2009.

Book review: *The Truth of Ecology: Nature and Culture in American Literature*, Dana Philips. *Western American Literature* 39.2, Summer 2004.

Book review: *Paradise Wild*, David Oates. *Western American Literature* 38.3, Fall 2003.

“Swamp Things, or Common Curriculum Matters.” Loyola University New Orleans *Maroon*, On The Record: “Higher Education is Worth the Mess,” 23 March 2012.

“A Night Spent on the Tarmac, With No Complaints.” *The New York Times*, “Frequent Flier,” 21 December 2009.

“An Existentialist Adulthood.” *The New Yorker*, The Mail, 15 September 2008.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The End of Airports (forthcoming from Bloomsbury in September 2015)

This book is a sequel to my first book *The Textual Life of Airports: Reading the Culture of Flight*. Extending from the theories and questions of my first book, but written in a fresh style for a wider audience, *The End of Airports* traces a speculative path around and through airports, and proposes a series of contemporary puzzles and crisis points that increasingly riddle human air travel.

Airplane Reading (co-edited with Mark Yakich, under contract with Iff Books)

Stemming from our website airplanereading.org, this book collects a wide range of critical and reflective nonfiction essays on the culture of flight, written for general audiences. It is thus a nonfiction reader that has a site-specific (or experience-specific) topic. Mark and I plan to do a tour of airport bookstores around the country, reading alongside contributors from the book.

Criticism

I am guest editing a special issue on “Critical Air Studies,” forthcoming in 2015.

Up in Michigan

This book-in-progress is an eco-critical study of Michigan’s Leelanau Peninsula, especially the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Part ecological theory, part cultural criticism, and part autobiographical reflection, the book speculates about myriad objects, existences, and experiences in this unique region of the Midwest.

Object Lessons

Object Lessons (co-edited with Ian Bogost) is a series of concise academic books and brief essays based around singular objects and the lessons they hold. Each project starts from a specific prompt: an anthropological query, archeological discovery, historical event, literary passage, philosophical speculation, technological innovation—and from whatever starting point, the author develops an investigation or inquiry around the object of the title, gleaning a singular lesson or multiple lessons along the way. *Object Lessons* harnesses recent movements in critical theory and cultural studies, and also represents a series that will be of perennial interest, able to adapt and diversify over time and reflect fresh scholarly approaches as new objects and lessons appear.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Teaching at the End of the World.” (With Loyola colleagues Sarah Allison, Hillary Eklund, John Sebastian, and Timothy Welsh.) BABEL Working Group Biennial Conference: “On the Beach: Precariousness, Risk, Affect, Play, Forms of Life.” University of California Santa Barbara, October 2014.

“Mixed Realism & Air Travel: Three Object Lessons.” With Timothy Welsh at the annual conference for the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Notre Dame, October 2013.

“Conditions Beyond Control: Considering Airport Weather.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, May 2013.

“Flight Not So Fancy: The Crisis of Air Travel in *The Pale King*.” Panel on David Foster Wallace and “Our Nihilism Phase.” American Comparative Literature Association, Brown University, Providence, R.I., March 2012.

“The Elimination of Speed: Air Travel and Dead Time.” American Comparative Literature Association, Vancouver, B.C., April 2011.

“What Remains? The Last U.S. Century in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*.” American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, April 2010.

“Airport Screening: A New Type of Space, or Just Ground Zero Perception?” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 2006.

“Airport Art and the Misuses of Space.” Western American Literature Association, Los Angeles, California, October 2005 (with Dan Thomas-Glass).

“Strange Ecotones: Airports in the West.” Western American Literature Association, Big Sky, Montana, October 2004.

“Post-Western Poetics: Greg Keeler’s *Almost Happy* Sonnets.” American Literature Association, San Francisco, California, May 2004.

“Surveying Brad Pitt: Topographies and Tropes of the American West.” Western American Literature Association, Houston, Texas, October 2003.

“Phallogocentrism and Panopticism in Gary Snyder’s *Lookout Journals*.” Western American Literature Association, Tucson, Arizona, October 2002.

EDITORIAL & CONTRIBUTING POSITIONS

Founding co-editor (with Ian Bogost) of *Object Lessons*, a new book and essay series published by Bloomsbury Academic and *The Atlantic*.

InVisible Culture, Advisory Board member.

Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature & the Arts, Blind reviewer and guest editor.

Interstitial: A Journal of Modern Culture & Events, Editorial Board member.

Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture, Guest editor.

New Orleans Review, Book Review Editor.

[Airplane Reading](#), Founding co-editor.

The New Inquiry, Contributing writer.

Western American Literature, Book reviewer.

INVITED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

“Researchers Panel: What Scholars Look For When They Look For Scholarship.” Association of American University Presses annual conference, New Orleans, LA June 22 – 24, 2014.

“Airports in the American Imagination.” Plenary speaker at Uppsala University, Sweden. Nordic Association of English Studies: “Places and Non-places,” October 2013.

“How to Write a Conference Paper.” Presentation for Loyola University New Orleans Peace Conference students, 11 April 2012.

“Thoughts on *The Ecological Thought*.” Guest lecture, “Green Literature,” Professor Janelle Schwartz, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, October 2010.

“Finding Environment in Airline Emergency Briefing Cards.” Guest Lecture, “Introduction to Environmental Studies,” Professors Janelle Schwartz & Joelle Underwood, Environmental Studies, Loyola University New Orleans, April 2010.

“On Myths of the English Degree & Myths in General.” Invited Lecture for English Majors at Loyola University New Orleans, March 2010.

“Desk Jobs: A Theory.” Sigma Tau Delta lecture, Loyola University New Orleans, January 2010.

[On the literature classroom, blogs, and the balance of old space and new media](#). Guest post on the literature blog *Changing Minds, Changing Lives*, U-Mass Dartmouth, May 2009.

“Not What Nietzsche Had in Mind: *United 93* and the Problem of Playing Ourselves.” UC Davis Film Symposium, 6 May 2009.

“Melting Plastic, Bird Strikes, and the Aerodynamic Stall: What We Talk About When We Talk About Plane Crashes.” Graduate Scholars Symposium, Department of English, University of California, Davis. 26 February 2009.

“Bird Citing: Airports and Avian Imagery.” Graduate Scholars Symposium, Department of English, University of California, Davis. March 2008.

“Introduction to *Airport Reading*.” Presentation to the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission Selection Committee for new public artwork in the modernized Terminal B of the Sacramento airport. 27 March 2008.

“Dead Time: Uses and Abuses of Airport Waiting.” Graduate Scholars Symposium, Department of English, University of California, Davis. January 2007.

“Finding the Wilderness in S.U.V. Advertisements.” English 184 “Literature of Wilderness,” Dr. Michael Ziser, UC Davis Summer Session II, August 2005.

“Focus and Distraction in Hemingway’s ‘A Clean Well-Lighted Place.’” English 177, Dr. Peter Hays, UC Davis, July 2005.

“Perspectives: Nietzsche’s *Genealogy of Morals*.” History 430, “European Intellectual History,” Dr. Michael Reidy, Montana State University, April 2002.

HONORS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

Bobet Fellowship, *The End of Airports*, College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans, Summer 2014.

Faculty Research Grant, *_Deconstructing Brad Pitt*, Loyola University New Orleans, Spring 2014.

Loyola Undergraduate Collaborative Scholarship. College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans, Spring 2014.

Marquette Faculty Fellowship, *_Deconstructing Brad Pitt*, Loyola University New Orleans, Summer 2012.

Faculty Research Grant, *The Textual Life of Airports*, Loyola University New Orleans, September 2010.

Bobet Fellowship, *The Textual Life of Airports*, College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans, June 2010.

Dissertation Quarter Fellowship, Department of English, UC Davis, Winter 2009.

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UC Davis, May 2008.

Dissertation Research Grant, Department of English, UC Davis, Summer 2007.

David Noel Miller Scholarship Essay Prize. “Air Force One: Sovereignty at the Edge,” Department of English, UC Davis, Fall 2005.

College of Letters and Science Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching, Montana State University, Spring 2003.

COURSES TAUGHT

“Interpreting Airports.” Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Spring 2014 & Fall 2014. This course draws from my research and writing about air travel, and picks up on current events and campaigns around the culture of flight. I have taught two versions of this course: one time as a common curriculum English course, and one time as an Honors First-Year Seminar. This course teaches basic lessons in close reading, semiotics, and cultural critique.

“Editing and Publishing Internship: *New Orleans Review*.” Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2014. In this course students are given hands-on experience with the front and back ends of literary journal publishing, from reading and commenting on submissions, writing and work-shopping book reviews, to social media presence and

dealing with back issues of our journal. The course is an invaluable, unique practicum in the ins and outs of contemporary publishing, both print and online.

“Contemporary Nonfiction.” Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Spring 2014. In this course we read widely across nonfiction published since 2000. We covered authors such as Ariel Levy, Maggie Nelson, Timothy Morton, Jonathan Franzen, John Jeremiah Sullivan, Roxane Gay, David Foster Wallace, Annie Proulx, Lydia Davis, and David George Haskell. It is safe to say that this course had a certain (if sometimes strange) environmental register.

“Literature & Environment.” Department of English & the Environment Program, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2013. What is an environment? Where do you go to find Nature? How do you know when you’re in a wilderness zone? And what do these things have to do with literature? In this class we ask these sorts of questions, and we sketch out tentative answers by reading and discussing a wide array of literary texts across periods and genres. We discuss the history of this nexus—*literature and environment*—and we also work to get a sense of how these two things inflect and shape one another. We explore *eco-criticism*, or the interpretive mode that thinks about things in relation to environmental factors and questions. And we practice being eco-critics: reading, thinking, and observing with *environment* in mind.

“Writing about Texts.” Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2013. In this course, a required course for first-year English majors, I tried something bold: we read *The Great Gatsby* a few pages a day over the entire semester, and wrote extremely focused and detailed papers on syntax, style, imagery, and form. I can’t even begin to describe here how much fun it was, and how it turned that novel upside down (and rejuvenated it) for the students, many of whom began the class rolling their eyes.

“Reading Historically II.” Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2012. This new course, the second in a two-course sequence designed to replace traditional surveys, introduces English majors to literary forms and developments from 1700 to the present, using foundational anchor texts.

“Great Figures: David Foster Wallace.” Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2011. This is a small seminar organized around the works of David Foster Wallace.

“Environmental Theory.” Department of English & the Environment Program, Loyola University New Orleans, Spring 2011. This class is about contemporary theories of environment, ecology, nature, the Earth, and animals. The trajectory of the course moves through the writings of mountain guides, environmental historians, cultural anthropologists, philosophers, and literary critics who have puzzled over ideas of environment.

“Reading (w/) the Digital Human.” An experimental seminar in the Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2010–Spring 2011. This course utilizes the Apple iPad as a new media device for contemporary practices of reading, writing, and thinking.

English 485: Interpretive Approaches. Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2010, Spring 2012, Spring 2013. This upper division course surveys theoretical movements across the 20th-century and up to the present, including Marxism, structuralism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, feminist theory, queer theory, affect theory, and other spurs off what is broadly termed “critical theory”—all with an eye toward how these movements involve distinct interpretive modes.

English 349: 20th-Century American Fiction, Loyola University New Orleans, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013. In this course I generally assign about ten novels and intermittent short stories, all interwoven by a specific (if also flexible) theme. I have organized this course around topics such as *speculations*, *frontiers*, *bad romance*, and *transgressions*. To me the goal of this course is not necessarily coverage, but a sense of how a problem can develop and get complicated across a century of literary traditions and experimentation.

First-Year Seminar: "Thinking Space," Loyola University New Orleans, Spring 2010. This seminar is an introduction to the many ways that humans think about space. It is also a space for thinking about a wide variety of subjects—and in particular about the human subject—from a range of disciplinary perspectives. We consider theories of space in architecture, ecology, psychology, geography, philosophy, and literature to spur critical thinking about what humans make of space.

English 487: Contemporary Critical Issues – "Apocalypse: Literature & Theory," Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2009. I teach this upper level seminar as a literary and theoretical critique of contemporary strains of apocalypticism.

English 210: Texts & Theory, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012. This course is an introduction to Literary Theory for lower division Honors students.

American Studies 101F: "The Ecology of Beauty" (a Special Topics seminar originally conceived by Professor Michael Smith), UC Davis, Spring 2009. This course is a general introduction to visual culture that paid special attention to collisions and collusions of ecology and aesthetics.

University Writing Program 101: Advanced Composition, UC Davis, Summer Session I, 2008. In this class I taught traditional genres of narrative, description, explanation, analysis, and argument through blog posts. Students completed 100% of the writing content of this class on their own blogs that they created and maintained. I called this course "Paperless Writing," and I developed a corollary blog in which I created assignments, facilitated collaborative writing projects, monitored individual student work, and posted my own reflections on teaching a "green," digital humanities writing course.

English 004: Critical Inquiry – "Ideologies of Transport," UC Davis, Fall 2006. I designed this course to investigate mythologies of transportation in 20th-century and contemporary American literature and culture, particularly in terms of how narrative structures and poetic devices are deployed to reflect or critique the logic of travel.

English 003: Introduction to Literature, UC Davis, Fall 2005 to Spring 2007. This course served as an introduction to poetry, narrative, and drama, and ranged across historical periods. I taught this class in several ways, from designing syllabi based on aesthetic movements (one class, for instance, made connections between Romanticism, Naturalism, Modernism, and Postmodernism), to courses structured entirely around the careful study of literary devices and rhetorical figures across genres and periods.

English 001: Expository Writing, UC Davis, Fall 2003 to Spring 2005. I arrange my composition courses around studies of popular culture, semiotics, and new media forms of communication. My aim in teaching composition is for students to experience writing as a distinct way of being in—and paying attention to—the world.

English 121: College Writing, Montana State University, Bozeman, Fall 2001 to Spring 2002.

As these courses were primarily comprised of students from rural Montana, I taught through frameworks of environmental aesthetics and nature writing. By exposing students to the long histories of place-based writing, the class mapped an intellectual terrain that was both accessible and yet connected students to a broad field of ideas.

English 110B: "Introduction to Literary and Critical Theory," *Teaching Assistant* for Professor Scott Shershow, UC Davis, Fall 2008.

English 177: "Single Author Seminar: Ernest Hemingway," *Teaching Assistant* for Professor Peter Hays, UC Davis, Summer Session I, 2005.

English 40: "Love's Plots: Narrative Form and 'Natural' Feelings," *Teaching Assistant* for Professor Elizabeth Freeman, UC Davis, Spring 2009.

SERVICE

Chair, College Planning Team, College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans, 2013 – present.

Affiliate Faculty Member, Environment Program, Loyola University New Orleans, 2009 – present.

University Senate, Loyola University New Orleans, 2010 – 2013.

Search Committee Co-Chair: Tenure-track line for a scholar of Romantic or Victorian literature, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2012.

Co-organizer (with Tim Welsh) of a visit by Dr. Ian Bogost (Georgia Tech), to give a lecture entitled "Fun." Biever Lecture Series, Loyola University New Orleans, 29 November 2012.

Mission & Identity Committee to the Board of Trustees, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2011.

Academic Advising: I advise around 20 students each year at Loyola University New Orleans.

Protocol Committee: Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2011 – 2013.

Organizer of a visit by Dr. Scott Shershow (UC Davis), to give a lecture entitled "The Sacred Part: Dignity and the Right to Die." Biever Lecture Series, Loyola University New Orleans, 19 April 2012.

Administrative Committee: Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2010 – 2013.

Co-organizer (with Janelle Schwartz) of a visit by Dr. Timothy Morton (Rice University), to give a lecture entitled "Hyperobjects." Biever Lecture Series, Loyola University New Orleans, 2 November 2010.

Literature Concentration Curriculum Revision Committee, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Spring – Fall 2010.

Search Committee: Tenure-track line for Digital Humanities with sub-specialty in 20th- & 21st- century British and/or Postcolonial Literature position, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2010.

Search Committee: Tenure-track line for an African American Literature position, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, Fall 2009.

Course Development: "Reading (w/) the Digital Human: An Experimental Seminar." Collaborating with my colleagues Janelle Schwartz and Robert Bell at Loyola University New Orleans, I developed a pilot course in digital media that utilizes the Apple iPad, for the academic year of 2010 – 2011.

Graduate Co-Director: "California, the University, and the Environment." Multi-disciplinary conference at UC Davis, May 7 – 8, 2009.

Digital Humanities Directed Reading Group: An interdisciplinary graduate cluster considering questions concerning digital and other new media practices in the humanities. Sponsored by the Davis Humanities Institute, University of California, Davis, Fall 2008.

Research Assistant: Professor Timothy Morton, Fall 2005 to Winter 2006
Compiled, edited, and arranged notes for *Ecology without Nature: Rethinking Environmental Aesthetics* (Harvard, 2007).
Prepared the index for *The Cambridge Companion to Shelley* (Cambridge, 2006).

English Teaching Assistant Consultant: In this role I provided peer-based pedagogical support for graduate student instructors of introductory literature for the academic year of 2007–2008, Department of English, University of California, Davis.

Public Blog: "What is Literature?" I created this blog for my work as Teaching Assistant Consultant at UC Davis in 2008, in order to explore new media possibilities for the instruction of university-level literature courses. I continue post to my blog regularly, to show my students that I write in a public forum, as well as to track my writing, research, and teaching interests as they appear in or converge with contemporary literature and culture:
<http://whatisliterature.blogspot.com/>

Co-Chair: Scholars Symposium. English Graduate Program, University of California, Davis, 2005–2006. I worked collaboratively to plan and host three symposia during the year.

Co-Chair: English Graduate Student Association. University of California, Davis, 2004–2005. In this role I sat in on English faculty meetings, took part in Graduate Committee meetings, and organized forums in which English graduate students discussed funding issues, exam preparation, curriculum changes, awards, pedagogical matters, and future faculty hires.

REFERENCES

Robert Bennett
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Timothy Morton
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Peter Olson
Associate Dean of Health, Business, & Technology, North Central Michigan College,
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Associate Professor of Communications (Internet and new media studies), Tulane University,
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Mark Yakich
Professor of Poetry Writing, Loyola University New Orleans, yakich@hotmail.com