

Curriculum Vitae

Susan Bernstein

Professor, Department of Comparative Literature

Professor, Department of German Studies

Education:

Ph.D. The Johns Hopkins University, 1991, in Comparative Literature

M.A. The University of California, Berkeley, 1983, in Comparative Literature,
emphasis in German and English

B.A. Yale University, 1979, cum laude with honors in German and Philosophy

study abroad:

Universität Heidelberg and Wesleyan Program Abroad, 1977

Freie Universität Berlin, 1979-81. Comparative Literature, Philosophy and German
study in Paris, 1985-86, at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, the Collège International
de Philosophie and the Sorbonne

Dissertation: "Virtuosity of the Nineteenth Century: Music and Language in Heine, Liszt and
Baudelaire." Directors: Professors Werner Hamacher and Neil Hertz

Appointments:

Brown University: 2007--: Professor, Comparative Literature and German Studies

Université de Paris Est-Créteil: Spring, 2012: Visiting Scholar

Technische Universität Berlin, Spring 2005: Visiting Professor, Department of German and
Comparative Literature

New York University, Spring 2003: Visiting Professor, Department of German

Brown University, 1998--2007: Associate Professor, Comparative Literature

Brown University, 1990-97: Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature

Brown University, 1989: Instructor, Comparative Literature

The Johns Hopkins University, 1987: Teaching Assistant, Humanities Center

The Johns Hopkins University, 1986-87: Language Instructor, Department of German

The University of California, Berkeley, 1983-84: Teaching Assistant, Department of
Comparative Literature

Research:

Books:

Walter Benjamin, *On Goethe*. Ed. and trans. Susan Bernstein, Peter Fenves and Kevin McLaughlin. Stanford, C.: Stanford University Press, 2024.

The Other Synaesthesia. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2023.

Housing Problems: Writing and Architecture in Goethe, Walpole, Freud and Heidegger. Stanford, Ca.: Stanford University Press, Meridian Series, 2008.

Virtuosity of the Nineteenth Century – Performing Music and Language in Heine, Liszt and Baudelaire. Stanford, Ca.: Stanford University Press, 1998.

Book Chapters:

"La Lucinde de Friedrich Schlegel et l'absolu littéraire." *La littérature sans condition*. Ed. Isabelle Alfandary. Le Bord de l'Eau: Lormont, France, 2020.

"Nietzsche et Wagner et la communicabilité démonique." *L'énigme Nietzsche*. Ed. Isabelle Alfandary and Marc Golschmidt. Editions Manucius, Paris, France, 2019.

"The *philia* of Philology." *Give the Word - Responses to Werner Hamacher's 95 Theses on Philology*. Ed. Gerhard Richter and Ann Smock. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019.

"The Other Synaesthesia." *Points of Departure: Samuel Weber Between Spectrality and Reading*, ed. Peter Fenves, Kevin McLaughlin, and Marc Redfield. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2016.

"Intensely Speaking." Ed. Aris Fioretis, *Babel – für Werner Hamacher*. Basel: Urs Engeler Editor, 2009. 41-48.

"Conference Call: Ronell, Heidegger, Oppen." Ed. Diane Davis, *Reading Ronell*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2009. 49-59.

"It Walks: the Ambulatory Uncanny." Ed. Simon Morgan-Wortham and Gary Hall, *Experimenting – Essays with Samuel Weber*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2007. 183-208.

"Liszt, Franz." *Europe. 1789-1914*. New York: Scribner and Sons, 2006.

"On Music Framed: the Eolian Harp in Romantic Writing." Ed. Phyllis Weliver, *The Figure of Music in Nineteenth-Century British Poetry*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005. 70-84.

"1824, October 2 - Heine's Versatility." *A New History of German Literature*. Ed. David Wellbery. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2005. 526-531.

"Fear of Music? Nietzsche's Double Vision of the 'Musical-Feminine.'" *Nietzsche and the Feminine*. Ed. Peter Burgard. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1994. 104-132.

Articles:

- “Correspondances – Between Baudelaire and Heidegger.” *Modern Language Notes* 130, no. 3 (April 2015): 607-622.
- “Bells and Spells – Gothic Repetition and Romantic Redundancy.” *Differences* 21, no. 3 (fall 2010): 53-72.
- “The Dome of the Mind: Monticello in Weimar.” *MLN* 123, no. 5 (December 2008): 981-1005.
- “Memory Text: Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe (1940-2007).” *October* 122 (fall 2007): 121-127.
- “The Gift of Metaphor.” *differences* 16, no. 3 (fall 2005): 76-87.
- “It Walks: the Ambulatory Uncanny.” *MLN* 118, no. 5 (December 2003): 1111-1139.
- “Q - or, Heine’s Romanticism.” *Studies in Romanticism* 42, no. 3 (fall 2003): 369-391.
- “(Re)Viewing Stupidity, by Avital Ronell.” Review Article. *differences* 13, no. 3 (fall 2002): 143-160.
- “Goethe’s Architectonics: Bildung and Buildings in Classical Weimar.” *MLN*, December 1999.
- "Imagine (Kant)." *Germanic Review* 72, no. 2 (Spring 1997): 108-118.
- "In Formel: 'Wagner und Liszt.'" *New German Critique*. October 1996: 85-97.
- "Journalism and German Identity: Communiqués from Heine, Wagner and Adorno." *New German Critique* 66 (Fall 1995): 65-93.
- "Re-re-re-reading Jena." *MLN*, 110 (1995): 834-855.

Book Reviews:

- “Another Goethe.” Review of Jane K. Brown, *Goethe’s Allegories of Identity*. *Novel* 48, no. 3 (November 2015): 477-481.
- Susannah Young-Ah Gottlieb, *Regions of Sorrow: Anxiety and Messianism in Hannah Arendt and W.H. Auden*. *MLN* 118, no. 5 (December 2003): 1317-1323.
- Thomas Schestag, *Parerga and para-*. *MLN* 109.3. (April 1994): 567-573.
- Béatrice Didier, *La Musique des Lumières*. *MLN* 101.4 (1986): 959-965.

Invited Papers and Conferences:

- Discussant, book launch for Avital Ronell, *America – the Troubled Continent of Thought*. European

Graduate School, Saas-Fé, Switzerland. Jan. 21, 2025.

“Reading and the Future of Critical Theory.” Conference, “Thinking out of the Box – 25 Years of Critical Theory.” Paris, France. Dec. 6-8, 2024.

Discussant, book launch for Jonas Rosenbrück, *Common Scents – Poetry, Modernity, and a Revolution of the Senses*. Amherst College, Oct. 23, 2024.

“Frank O’Hara -- The Poem as Painting.” Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft symposium, “Vers und Prosa. Differenz – Interaktion – Interferenz.” Villa Vigoni, Lake Como, Italy. Sep. 1-5, 2024.

“Frank O’Hara – The Poem as Painting.” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Montreal. March 2024.

“Remarks on Rhythm.” Organizer, seminar on “Rhythm and Poetry.” American Comparative Literature Association conference, Chicago. March 2023.

“The Other Synaesthesia.” Invited lecture, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Johns Hopkins University. March 31, 2022.

“Reading, Philology.” Romantic Philologies Conference, Brown University. March 11, 2022.

“Heinrich Heine and Ludwig Börne revisited: Romance and Realism of German-Jewish Identity.” Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C. (via zoom), January 8, 2022.

“Liszt’s Double Vision.” Invited lecture and panel discussion, Tanglewood Learning Initiative, Lenox, Mass. August, 2020 (via zoom).

“The Other Synaesthesia.” Invited lecture, Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin, June 2020 (canceled due to covid-19).

“Reading Philology.” Conference, “Romantic Philologies,” Brown University, March 2020 (canceled due to covid-19).

" *La Lucinde* de Friedrich Schlegel et l'absolu littéraire Conference, "La littérature sans condition," Collège International de Philosophie, Paris, France. June, 2019.

"The Other Synaesthesia." Invited lecture, Department of Philosophy, Duquesne University, April 5, 2019.

"Rousseau's Material Vision." American Comparative Literature Association, Washington, DC, March 2019.

"Nietzsche et Wagner et la communicabilité démonique." Conference, "L'Enigme Nietzsche,"

- Collège International de Philosophie, Paris, France. June, 2018.
- "The Other Synaesthesia." Keynote address at conference, "Synaesthesia," Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France. Jan., 2018
- "The Unworking of Synaesthesia in Huysmans' *A Rebours*." American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 7-9, 2017.
- "Reading in Kierkegaard – Repetition with Difference." Conference, Repetition/s: Performance and Philosophy in Ljubljana, Slovenia. September, 2016.
- "Synaesthesia and the *Gesamtkunstwerk*." Centre for Comparative Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Lisbon, June 2, 2016.
- "The Other Synaesthesia." American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, Ma., April, 2016.
- "*Lucinde* and the Literary Absolute." German Studies Association, Washington D.C., Oct. 2015.
- "Baudelaire and Synaesthesia." Keynote address, Baltimore Liederweekend, Baltimore, Md. Oct. 2014.
- "Heine's Image of the Heart." German Studies Association, Kansas City, Sep. 2014.
- "Time and the Capital." American Comparative Literature Association, New York, April, 2014.
- "Le Temps et la Majuscule." Conference, *Ponctuations*. La Sorbonne and le Collège International de la Philosophie, Paris, March 2014.
- "Correspondance." Presented in Prof. Avital Ronell's seminar, NYU. Oct., 2013.
- "The *Philia* of Philology." Modern Language Association Convention, Boston, 2013.
- "The Flowering of Lyric." Department of French and German, the Johns Hopkins University, April, 2012.
- "Worte wie Blumen – What's the Problem?" American Comparative Literature Association, Brown University, April, 2012.
- Presentation of *Housing Problems*. Université de Paris Est – Créteil, Department of English. March 2012.
- "Liszt's Double Vision." Conference, "Visions of Liszt." Brown University, Nov. 6, 2011.

“Absolute Baudelaire.” Conference, “Absolute Art: Abstraction and Materiality in Literature, Music and Painting.” University of Oregon, Eugene, April 14-14, 2011.

“The Lyric as Flower.” Modern Language Association Convention, Los Angeles, Ca. January 6, 2011.

“Wagner and Nietzsche.” Co-led seminar on “Nietzsche” in the Department of German, Yale University, with Avital Ronell and Paul North. October, 2010.

“The Other Synaesthesia.” Borchard Foundation colloquium, “Parting With: A partir du travail de Samuel Weber,” Château de la Bretesche, Missillac, France, July 4-7, 2010.

“What Was I Thinking?” Participated in performance-lecture with Avital Ronell at Hau 3 Theater in Berlin. June, 2010.

“Mixed Shades: Theory and Poetry in Baudelaire on Color.” American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans. April, 2010.

“Building Complexes.” Keynote address, Humanities Department Student Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder. February, 2010.

“Iterability.” Conference, “Communicability and Iterability in Benjamin and Derrida,” Department of Comparative Literature, Northwestern University. May, 2009.

“The Other Synaesthesia.” American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March, 2009.

“The Dome of the Mind.” German Studies Association, St. Paul, Minnesota. October, 2008.

Constellation. Workshop, Aby Warburg Haus, Hamburg, Germany. Hosted by Profs. Barbara Hahn and Marianne Schuller. June, 2008.

“Transantigone.” Catastrophe and Caesura: Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe Today. New York University, La Maison Française. April, 2008.

“Reason of Flower: Synaesthesia, Correspondence and Community.” Conference, *The Flowering of Baudelaire*. Brown University, October, 2007.

“Goethes Wahlverwandtschaften.” Lecture in Samuel Weber’s seminar in Theaterwissenschaft, University of Giessen, July, 2007.

“Memory Text.” Memorial for Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe, NYU. March, 2007.

“Housing Desire in H.D., Goethe and Freud.” Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Virginia. March, 2007.

“Bells and Spells: Romantic Repetition and Gothic Redundancy.” Harvard University Humanities Center, February, 2007.

“Gothic Revival and its Failure: *Castle of Otranto* and *Wahlverwandtschaften*.” Department of German, Yale University. November, 2006.

“Gothic Revival and its Failure: *Castle of Otranto* and *Wahlverwandtschaften*.” Department of Comparative Literature, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main. July, 2005.

“The Gothic Incursion.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. Boulder, Colorado, Sep. 9-12 2004.

“The Uncanny.” Two guest seminars held at the Department of German, Northwestern University. May, 2004.

“A House in the South - Climate, Memory and Displacement” at "Some Like it Hot, others Don't:

Embodiment of Glocal Knowledge." The Ninth Quadrennial International Conference on Comparative Literature. Comparative Literature Association of the Republic of China, Dept. Of Foreign languages and literatures, National Taiwan University, Taiwan. June 18-20, 2004.

Introduction for Prof. Geoffrey Hartman at Lessons and Legacies VIII - International Conference on the Holocaust: "From Generation to Generation" Brown University, November 4-7, 2004.

“The ‘Marcelized’ Reader: Observing the Unobserved in Diderot’s Salons.” Division on 18th-century French Literature, MLA, San Diego. December 2003.

“Freud’s House in Ruins – The Romantic House and Poetic Displacement .” North American Association for the Study of Romanticism Conference, New York City, August 2003.

“Exposition Rooms: Housing Desire through H.D., Freud and Goethe.” Deutsches Haus, New York University, March, 2003.

Moderator, “Max Ophuls Beyond Borders,” College of William and Mary, March, 2003.

“Exposition Rooms: Housing Desire through H.D., Freud and Goethe.” Colloquium of the Institute for German Cultural Studies, Cornell University. April 2002.

“On Music Framed: the Eolian Harp in Romantic Writing.” Conference on 19th-Century Music in Britain. Royal College of Music, London. July, 2001.

Discussant, "Benjamin Now." Conference sponsored by the Malcolm S. Forbes Center for Research in Culture and Media Studies, Brown University, Providence. April 2001.

"Freud's Couch, or: Hold Everything." Conference, Interpretation of Dreams, Dreams of Interpretation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Oct. 5-8, 2000.

"Referential Drift: Musical Ruptures of Historical Time." Roundtable paper, International Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music, Egham, England. June 2000.

"Freud's Couch." Colloquium on Ortschaften, Department of German, Princeton University. April 13-14, 2000.

"Replies to Shelley's 'Ozymandias' - Poetry, History and Inscription." Société des anglicistes de l'enseignement supérieur. Université de Savoie, Chambéry, France.

"Memory House: Collection and Commemoration in Goethe's Weimar." Conference on "Cultures of Memory." Cornell University. April 1999.

"Goethe's Architectonic: Bildung and Buildings in Classical Weimar." German Department, the Johns Hopkins University. March 1999.

"Paganini in Paris: Music, History and Reference." American Conference on Romanticism, Santa Barbara, Ca. October, 1998.

"Goethe's Architectonics: Bildung and Buildings in Classical Weimar." Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, New York University. March, 1998.

Respondent, "Virtuosity": Conference sponsored by the Department of Music, Brown University, November, 1997.

Moderator, "The Formalities of Orientalism" (panel). German Studies Association Conference, Seattle, October 1996.

"In Formel: Wagner und Liszt." Conference, Columbia University, "Wagner and the Consequences," 1995.

"écho/césure/syncope." Conference, Duke University, "On the Work of Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe and Jean-Luc Nancy, 1994.

"Rererereading Jena." MLA, 1993.

"Wagner and Heine: Geographical Margins of the Musical German Heimat." MLA, 1992.

"Genius' Silhouette, or: Connect the Dots, from Kant to Schiller." International Association of Philosophy and Literature, 1992.

"Fichte's Sublime Science: a Metaphysics of Suffering." Dartmouth Colloquium on Modern Literature and Theory on The Sublime, 1990.

"The Poe Effect." MLA, 1988.

"The Musical Heartbeat of Lyric Voice: Heinrich Heine." NEMLA, 1988.

"Heinrich Heine: Virtuoso of History." MLA, 1987.

Translations:

Werner Hamacher, "Fictions of Method," paper delivered at the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, April, 1997.

Odo Marquard, "Indicted and Exonerated Man in 18th Century Philosophy." *Farewell to Matters of Principle: Philosophical Studies*. Ed. Vincent Descombes and Josué Harari. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Werner Hamacher, "Lectio - De Man's Imperative." *Reading De Man Reading*. Ed. Wlad Godzich and Lindsay Waters. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989. 171-201.

Pierre Klossowski, "Between Marx and Fourier (Benjamin)." *On Walter Benjamin - Critical Essays and Recollections*. Ed. Gary Smith. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1988.

Werner Hamacher, "But: We," delivered at The University of Alabama, 1987.

Werner Hamacher, "But-----", delivered at the Collegium Phenomenologicum, Perugia, Italy, 1987.

Service:

Concentration Advisor, Comparative Literature, 2023-24

Sophomore Advisor, 2023-24

Search Committee for Modern Chinese Literature, Comparative Literature, 2023 - 2024

START program, Sheridan Center, 2022

Chair, DIAP Committee, Comparative Literature

Chair, Hiring Plan Committee, Comparative Literature

First-year Advisor, 2022-23

Concentration Advisor, Comparative Literature, 2022-23

Promotion Committee for Kristina Mendicino, 2022-23

Chair, Promotion Committee for Zachary Sng, 2020-21
 Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, July, 2021 – July 2023
 MLA Lowell Prize Selection Committee, 2020, 2021.
 Howard Foundation Board of Administration, 2019 - 2023
 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of German Studies, 2018 -- 2020
 Graduate Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2017-2018
 Acting Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, July 2017- June 2018
 Organized seminar, "Literature, Theory and Interarts," ACLA, Utrecht, July 2017.
 Chair, External Review Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, Cornell University, April 2016.
 Graduate Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2015-17.
 Sophomore Advisor, 2016-17.
 Self-Study Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2016.
 Tenure Committee for Peter Szendy, 2017.
 Freshman Advisor, 2015-16.
 Cogut Humanities Center Board, 2015-.
 External Review Committee, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, March 2015.
 Tenure Committee for Thomas Schestag, 2015
 Tenure Committee for Peter K. Saval, 2014.
 External Review Committee, Department of German, Reed College, Nov. 2014
 Post-Doc Search Committee, Pembroke Center, 2013-14.
 Search Committee, Department of German Studies, 2012-13.
 Acting Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, July – December 2012.
 Member, Graduate Committee, Department of Comparative Literature: 1989-90, 1991-93; 1995—2006; 2011—13.
 Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, July 2008 – June 2011.
 Self-Study Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2007-2008.
 Academic Priorities Committee, Fall 2007.
 Faculty Advisor, Mellon Graduate Workshop, "Ethics and Aesthetics," 2006-07.
 Acting Director of Graduate Studies, Comparative Literature, 2005-6.
 Humanities Research Center Board. September, 2004 –Fall 2007.
 Search committee member, Department of Comparative Literature and German, 2003-4
 Search committee member, Department of Comparative Literature, 2001-2
 Plenary Speaker, Points of the Compass, August 2001
 Reader, Committee for Senior Thesis Publication Prize, 2000-02
 Graduate Advisor, Department of Comparative Literature, 1998--2003
 Lecture Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 1996--99
 Cap Advisor: 1990-2, 1994-96 (6), 1997-98 (12)
 Sophomore Advisor: 1991-2, 1994-1995 (12)
 Associated Faculty, German Studies Program, 1994--; German Council, 1995--.
 Graduate Admissions and Teaching
 Departmental Library Liaison: 1992-94
 Faculty Advisor, Brown Zen Group, 1994—2013; 2016--.

University Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Matters, 1995--6
Points on the Compass: "Aesthetics," with Prof. Stephen Foley.
August 1996, 1997, 1998

Academic Honors:

Pembroke Center Faculty Fellow, Brown University, 2019-20
Faculty Fellow, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University, Spring 2017.
Edwin and Shirley Seave Faculty Fellow, the Pembroke Center, Brown University, 2014-15.
The John Rowe Workman Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Humanities
May, 2013.
OVPR grant, summer 2010.
OVPR grant, summer 2009.
OVPR grant, summer 2008.
Fulbright Senior Scholar Award. March-June, 2005.
Wriston Course Development Grant. Summer, 2003.
Wayland Collegium Grant, course development. Summer, 2003
Visiting Scholar, American Academy in Rome, May, 2000
Salomon Research Award, Brown University, 1998
Research Fellow, The Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Radcliffe Research and Study
Center (declined)
Small Grants Fund Award, Brown University, to support summer research in Germany,
1997, 1998
Wayland Collegium, with Prof. Karen Newman, 1994: grant for curriculum
development
Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship, 1994
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, 1993: stipend for research in Germany
Owen Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 1984-86
Regents' Intern Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, 1981-84
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst stipend for study in Berlin, 1979-80

prepared in November, 2025