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# Prof. Dr. Thomas Claviez

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**PROFESSOR FOR LITERARY THEORY**  
**Co-DIRECTOR CENTER FOR CULTURAL STUDIES (CCS), BERN**  
**MEMBER OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA**

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 CH-3000 Bern 12  
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**FACULTY** *Philosophisch-historische Fakultät*  
**PAGE** *[www.claviez.de](http://www.claviez.de)*

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**EDUCATION:** Habilitation, John F. Kennedy-Institute, Free University Berlin (2004)  
 Ph.D., John F. Kennedy-Institute, Free University Berlin (1996)  
 M.A., University of Constance (1990)

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Fulbright-Scholarship (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1985-86)  
 German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship (University of Padua, 1987-88)  
 German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship (University of California, Irvine, 1994)  
 Scholarship of the German Research Foundation (Post-Graduate College, JFK-Institute Berlin, 1997-98)  
 Research Grant, German Research Foundation (Humboldt-University Berlin, 2003-2005)  
 Fellowship at the Salzburg-Seminar, Session "Contemporary American Literature: Aesthetic Continuities and Multicultural Diversities" (Salzburg Seminar, April, 2003).

**POSITIONS:** Professor for Literary Theory, University of Berne, since 2009.  
 Professor for American Studies, University of Stavanger, 2006-2009.  
 Visiting Chair, Dept. of American Literature, University of Bielefeld, 2006.  
 Researcher, Humboldt-University Berlin, 2003-2005.  
 Temp. Associate Professor, John F. Kennedy-Institute, Free University Berlin, 1996-2003.

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### PUBLICATIONS:

#### MONOGRAPHS/EDITORIALS (see also <http://www.claviez.de>)

Co-author, with Dietmar Wetzell. *Zur Aktualität von Jacques Rancière*. Darmstadt: VS Verlag, 2016.

Editor, *The Common Growl*. New York: Fordham UP, 2016.

Editor, *The Conditions of Hospitality: Ethics, Politics and Aesthetics on the Threshold of the Possible*. New York: Fordham UP, 2013.

(A)**E(S)TH(ET)ICS**: *Moral Imagination from Uncle Tom's Cabin to House Made of Dawn*. Heidelberg: Winter, 2008.

Co-editor, with Ulla Haselstein and Sieglinde Lemke, *Aesthetic Transgressions: Modernity, Liberalism, and the Function of Literature*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2006.

Co-editor, with Maria Moss, *Neo-Realism: Between Innovation and Continuation*, *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 49:1 (2004); special issue. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2004.

Co-editor, with Winfried Fluck, *Theories of American Culture*, REAL-Band No. 19. Tübingen: Narr, 2003.

Co-editor, with Maria Moss, *"Mirror Writing": (Re-)Constructions of Native American Identity*. Glienicke/Cambridge: Galda + Wilch, 2000.

*Grenzfälle: Mythos - Ideologie - American Studies*. Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 1998.

#### Work in Progress:

*The Metonymic Community: Toward a Poetics of Contingency*. Forthcoming.

Co-Editor, with Britta Sweers, Kornelia Imesch-Oechslin, and Martine Hennard-Dutheil: *A Critique of Authenticity*. Forthcoming.

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### ESSAYS

- "Introduction." In Claviez, Thomas (ed.) *The Common Growl*. Fordham UP, 2016. 1-14.
- A Metonymic Community? Toward a Poetics of Contingency. In Claviez, Thomas (ed.) *The Common Growl*. Fordham UP, 2016. 39-56.
- "Krise, Kritik, Kontingenz: Prolegomena zu einer neuen Poetik der Gemeinschaft." Friedrich, Janette; Thomä, Dieter; Festl, Michael; Grosser, Florian; Hügli, Anton (Hgg.) *Über Krise und Kritik – Crise et critique. Studia philosophica. Jahrbuch der Schweizerischen Philosophischen Gesellschaft*. Vol. 74, 2015. 107-120.
- "Presentation of Terence Cave," in Cave, Terence (Hg.) *Far Other Worlds, and Other Seas*. The Annual Balzan Lecture: Vol. 6, 2015. 15-21. Florenz: Leo. S. Olschki
- "Traces of a Metonymic Society in American Literary History," in Fluck et al (eds.), *American Studies Today*. Heidelberg: Winter, 2014. 299-322.
- "Reply to Petar Ramadanovic," in *PMLA* 129.1 (2014). 126-27.
- "Done and Over With, Finally? Otherness, Metonymy and the Ethics of Comparison," in *PMLA* 128.3 (2013). 608-14.
- "Transcending Transcendence, or: Transcend<sup>d</sup>ifferances: Limping Toward a Radical Concept of Hospitality," in Thomas Claviez (ed), *The Conditions of Hospitality: Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics on the Threshold of the Possible*. New York: Fordham UP, 2013. 24-41.
- "Rancière, Schiller, and 'Free Play': Politicizing the Game," in *Colloquium Helveticum* 43 (2012). 147-59.
- "Time, Alterity, Hybridity, and 'Exemplary Universality': Some Remarks on Alessandro Ferrara's Concept of 'Reflective Authenticity,'" in Julia Straub (ed.), *Paradoxes of Authenticity: Studies on a Critical Concept*. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, 2012. 77-92.
- "Jamming What Exactly? Some Notes on the 'Anthropological Machine' and Ethics in Derrida, Agamben, Calarco, and Latour," in Timo Müller (ed.), *Literature, Ecology, Ethics: Recent Trends in European Ecocriticism*. Heidelberg: Winter, 2012. 69-80.
- "Giorgio Agamben," in M. Betzler et al. (Hgg.), *Kröner Lexicon Ästhetik und Kunstphilosophie*. Stuttgart: Kröner, 2012. 16-23.
- "Die Rückkehr des Mythos - das Ende der Aufklärung?" in Dietmar Wetzler (Hrsg.), *Perspektiven der Aufklärung*. München: Narr, 2012. 43-56.

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- "Modernist Short Stories between the Regional and the Universal: William Faulkner's 'Dry September' and Eudora Welty's 'Petrified Man.'" A. Nünning/M. Basseler (eds.), *A History of the American Short Story*. Trier: WVT, 2011. 219-38.
- "Discipline and (Non-)Conformity: European American Studies as Non-American Studies," in *The Future of American Studies – Shifting Gears*. (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2010).
- "Vom (White) American Adam zur (Black) American Eve: Identitäten und Utopien in Toni Morrisons *Paradise*." Claudia Benthien/Manuela Gerlof (Hrsg.), *Paradies. Topographien der Sehnsucht*. Köln/Wien: Böhlau, 2010. 135-154.
- "Democracy: À Dieu, à venir, or au revoir?" *Annals of Scholarship* 19:3 (2010) 107-25. "What is a European? Letters from a European Americanist." Theo D'haen/Iannis Goerlandt (eds.), *Literature for Europe?* Amsterdam, Rodopi, 2009. 79-100.
- "The Southern Demiurge at Work: Modernism, Literary Theory, and William Faulkner's 'Dry September.'" *Journal of Modern Literature* 32:4 (2009) 22-33.
- "Pragmatic Transcendence: 'Power and Weakness' and the Solar System According to Robert Kagan." *PhiN (Philologie im Netz)* 47 (2009) 85-97. <http://web.fu-berlin.de/phin/phin47/p47t8.htm>
- "Declin(at)ing the Sublime: Stephen Crane's 'The Open Boat.'" *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 53:2 (2008) 137-51.
- "Between Aesthetics and (Ethno-)Politics, Europe, America, and Beyond: Cosmopolitanism from Henry James to Toni Morrison." W. Fluck/S. Brandt (eds.), *Transnational American Studies*, REAL Vol. 23 (Tuebingen: Narr, 2007) 97-112.
- "Blotted Out': Richard Wright's *Native Son* and the Limits of Narrative Ethics." *Annals of Scholarship* 17:1 (Summer 2007) 31-69.
- "Enigmatic Circles: Approaching the Ethics of Myth Through N. Scott Momaday." *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 51:4 (2006) 523-38.
- "Rainbows, Fogs, and Other Smokescreens: *Billy Budd* and the Question of Ethics." *Arizona Quarterly* 62:4 (2006) 31-46.
- "The Problem of the Other: Environmental Ethics and Western Moral Philosophy." S. Mayer/C. Gersdorf (eds.), *Nature in Literary and Cultural Studies* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2006) 435-454.
- "Muted Fanfares: The Topos of the Common Man in the Works of Walt Whitman, William Carlos Williams and James Agee." T. Claviez/U. Haselstein/S. Lemke (eds.), *Aesthetic Transgressions: Modernity, Liberalism, and the Function of Literature* (Heidelberg: Winter, 2006) 289-313.

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- "Cosmopolitanism and its Discontents: The Politics of Sherman Alexie's *Reservation Blues* and Leslie Marmon Silko's *Almanac of the Dead*." Klára Kolinska/Brigitte Georgi-Findlay (eds.), *Contemporary Aboriginal Literature in North America*, Litteraria Pragensia 30, Vol. 15 (2005) 17-27.
- "Introduction: Neorealism and How to 'Make It New.'" T. Claviez/M. Moss (eds.), *Neorealism: Between Innovation and Continuation*, Amerikastudien-Themenband (Heidelberg: Winter, 2004) 5-18.
- "'Second Nature's Nation' and Environmental Ethics: A Reply to Leo Marx and Lawrence Buell." Hans Bak/Walter Hoelbling (eds.), *Nature's Nation Reconsidered. American Concepts of Nature from Wonder to Ecological Crisis*. (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2003) 51-59.
- "Afterword: American Studies – The State of Affairs and the Affairs of the State." T. Claviez/W. Fluck (eds.), *Theories of American Culture*, REAL Vol. 19 (Tübingen: Narr, 2003) 325-341.
- "Whose 'American' Century – Whose 'American' Studies, or: What Indeed *Is* in a Name?" B. Georgi-Findlay/H.U. Mohr (eds.), *Millennial Perspectives* (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2003) 249-261.
- "Narrating Environmental Ethics: N. Scott Momaday and Walter Benjamin." T. Claviez/M. Moss (eds.): *"Mirror Writing": (Re-)Constructions of Native American Identity*, (Glienicke/Cambridge: Galda + Wilch Verlag, 2000) 171-193.
- "Ambrose Bierce" und "Bret Harte." B. Engler/K. Müller (Hrsg.), *Metzler Lexikon amerikanischer Autoren* (Stuttgart: Metzler, 2000) 70-72, 306-307.
- "Pragmatism, Critical Theory, and the Search for Ecological Genealogies in American Culture." W. Fluck (ed.), *Pragmatism and Literary Studies* REAL Vol. 15 (Tübingen: Narr, 1999) 343- 380.
- "Dimensioning Society: Ideology, Rhetoric and Criticism in the Work of Sacvan Bercovitch." W. Fluck (ed.), *The Historical and Political Turn in Literary Studies* REAL Vol. 11 (Tübingen: Narr 1995) 173-205.
- "Ideology and Rhetoric: The Function of Mythopoiesis in Frederick Jackson Turner's Frontier Thesis." *Amerikastudien* 39 (1994) 563-577.

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### **CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/PROGRAMS**

Organizer of the Distinguished Lecture Series, Center for Cultural Studies, 2010-2015.

Organizer of the Workshop "For the Health of the Body Politic: Hybridity from Fanon to Bhabha." EAAS Conference, Izmir, June 2012.

Co-Organizer, with ICORN, of the conference "The Conditions of Hospitality," Stavanger, 8-10. September 2008.

Co-organizer, with Ulla Haselstein and Sieglinde Lemke, of the conference "Aesthetic Transgressions: Modernity, Liberalism, and the Function of Literature," JFK-Institute Berlin, 15. – 17. April 2004.

Co-Organizer, with Winfried Fluck, of the conference "Theories of American Culture," JFK-Institute, 9. - 12. Mai 2002.

Co-Chair, with Russell Goodman, of the workshop "Ecology and the American Philosophical Tradition: Is There a Usable Past?" EAAS Conference, Graz, April 2000.

Co-Organizer, with Maria Moss, of the conference "Mirror Writing: (Re-)Constructions of Native American Identity," JFK-Institute Berlin, 27. – 29. Nov. 1999.

Conceptionalization and Teaching of the Module "Environmental Imagination" of the Erasmus/Sokrates-Program (1998/99).

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

German Association of American Studies (DGfA)

European Association of American Studies (EAAS)

German Association of Higher Education (DHV)

Salzburg Seminar American Studies Alumni Association (SSASAA)

European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and the Environment (EASCLE)

Board of Referees, *Atlantis*, Journal of the Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies

External Reviewer for the Czech Science Foundation (GACR)

Member of the German Research Foundation's Network "The Futures of (European) American Studies" 2008-2011.

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### PRESENTATIONS/TALKS

"A Critique of Authenticity and Recognition." Konferenz "Authenticity and Cultural Translation in the Global City and Community." Universität Lausanne, 14 Nov 2015.

"Dramas of Recognition: Philosophy as Literary History." Konferenz "Philosophy and Social Criticism." Prag, 29 May 2015.

"Environmental Ethics, Responsibility, and the Problem of Agency." Kolloquium. Universität Düsseldorf. 6 Nov 2015; Kolloquium Universität Bern, 6 Nov 2015.

"The Metonymic Community: Walt Whitman and Herman Melville." University of South California, Los Angeles, 9 Nov 2014.

"Authenticity, Community, Being-With: Heidegger, Arendt and Levinas." Dartmouth College, 4 Nov 2014; Penn State, 13 Nov 2014.

"Krise, Kontingenz, Kritik: Prolegomena zu einer neuen Poetik der Gemeinschaft." Jahrestagung des Schweizer Philosophenverbands, St. Gallen, 5 June 2014.

"The World Literature Program of the CCS Bern." Institute of World Literature, Hong Kong, 2-5 July 2014.

"Being-With: Authenticity, the 'They' and Community in Heidegger's *Being and Time*. Colloquium "Philosophy and Sociology," Prague, 19 May 2014.

"The Sublime – a Critical Reassessment." Doctoral Workshop, Geneva, 3 April 2014.

"Post-Subjectivity, Contingency, and Community." Conference "Extra-Subjectivity: New Concepts in Post-Identitarian Thought," Bern, 1-2 Dec. 2013.

"The Limits of Recognition." Colloquium "Philosophy and Sociology," Prague, 2-4 May 2013.

"A Reply to Stewart Martin and Steven Shapiro," CUSO-Workshop "New Aesthetic Paradigms," Brienz, Sept. 2012.

"The Limits of Recognition." Workshop "Authenticity Today". University of Berne, Sep. 2012.

"Politicizing the Game: Rancière, Schiller, and 'Free Play,'" Kolloquium "Literatur und Spiel," Bern, June 2012.

"Hybridity Between Contingency and Threat." EAAS Conference, Izmir, 2012.

"Whitman and Melville Reassessed - Prolegomena for a Metonymic Society." Conference American Studies Today. Berlin, Oct. 2011.

"Bartleby's Second Career: Agamben, Deleuze, Zizek." 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the IASA, Rio de Janiro, 25-29 July 2011; "Melville in Rome," Biennial Conference of the Melville Society, 22-26 June, 2011.

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"Jamming What Exactly? Ethics and the Anthropological Machine in Agamben, Derrida, and Calarco." Conference Literature, Ecology, Ethics, University of Augsburg, March 2011.

"A Metonymic Society? Toward a New Poetics of Community." Introduction to the Distinguished Lecture Series of the CCS, University of Berne, Sept. 2010

"Die Rückkehr des Mythos – Das Ende der Aufklärung? Überlegungen zu einer metonymischen Gesellschaft." Conference "Das Ende der Aufklärung?" University of Berne, Sept. 2010.

"Toni Morrison's *Paradise*: Toward a Metonymic Society?" SAUTE annual meeting, Neuchâtel, Oct. 2009.

"Addressing the Gap: *French Theory, Aesthetics & Ethics*, and American Academic Politics, Temple University, Philadelphia, Oct. 2008.

"Sentimental Law and Chattle Slavery: A New Look at *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," Soka University, Aliso Viejo, Oct. 2008.

"The Southern Demiurge at Work," Colloquium Soka University, Aliso Viejo, Oct. 2008.

"Democracy: À Venir, À Dieu, or Au Revoir?" International Trans-Coop Conference, Dartmouth College, Hanover (N.H.), August 2007.

"Migration, Cosmopolitanism, and Hospitality: Some Notes Regarding the Ethical and Moral Problems of Otherness," Forum for Migration Studies, University of Stavanger, May 2007.

"The Black Man's Burden: Richard Wright's *Native Son* and Identity Politics," Colloquium "Affirmative Action and Its Cousins," University of Oslo, Nov. 2006.

"American Cosmopolitanism from Henry James to Toni Morrison," Language Forum, University of Stavanger, Oct. 2006

"Discipline and (Non-)Conformity, or: European American Studies as Non-American Studies," Parallel Lecture, EAAS-Conference Nicosia, May 2006.

"How American Is It? – A Response to Don Pease," Colloquium "Trans-Atlantic Networks and the Future of the Field," University of Bergamo, March 2006.

"Truth, Untruth, and Other Negligible Trifles: Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* and its Reception as Postmodern Tableau," Seminar "Europa und Amerika," Deutsche Studienstiftung, Potsdam, Sep. 2004; International Colloquium, JFK-Institute, Berlin, Dec. 2004; Conference "Documentary and Truth," Humboldt University Berlin, Feb. 2005; Annual Conference of the German Association of American Studies, Frankfurt, June 2006.

"Pragmatic Transcendence: Robert Kagan's 'Power and Weakness' and the Rhetoric of Anti-Terrorism," MALS Lecture Series "Ideologies of Terrorism," Dartmouth College, Aug. 2004.

"Emergences and Emergencies: A Reply to Wolfgang Iser and Donald Pease," Conference "Aesthetic Transgressions: Modernity, Liberalism, and the Function of Literature," JFK-Institute, April 2004.

"Between Cosmology and Cosmopolitanism: The Politics of the Contemporary Native American Novel," EAAS-Conference Prague, April 2004.



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"Ecology as Moral Stand(s): Environmental Ethics, Western Moral Philosophy, and the Problem of the Other," Conference "Literature, Culture, Environment: Positioning 'Ecocriticism'", Münster, March 2004.

"Rainbows, Fogs, and Other Smokescreens: *Billy Budd* and the Question of Ethics," W.E.B. Du Bois Lectures, Humboldt-University Berlin, Nov. 2003.

"Deep-Freezing the Other: Ethics and Justice in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," Research Colloquium, JFK-Institute, May 2002.

"Ecology as Moral Stand(s): On the Normative Implications of Literature and Science," 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of the Sciences, Pac. Division, University of California, Irvine, June 2001.

"Whose 'American' Century? Whose 'American' Studies? Or: What Indeed *Is* in a Name?" Annual Conference of the German Association of American Studies, Dresden, June 2000.

"(A)*E(S)TH(ET)ICS*: Contemporary Theoretical Approaches to Moral Imagination," Research Colloquium JFK-Institute Berlin, May 2000.

"Narrating Environmental Ethics: N. Scott Momaday and Walter Benjamin," Annual Conference of the German Association of American Studies, Cologne, May 1999; Lecture Circle, JFK-Institute, Jan. 2000.

"The Economy of Ethics and the Ethics of Economy: Emmanuel Levinas and Paul Ricoeur," Conference "Addressing Levinas," Emory University, Atlanta, Oct. 1999.

"'Blotted Out': Richard Wright's *Native Son* and the Limits of Narrative Ethics," America-Institute Munich, June 1999.

"Writing What Comes Naturally: Leo Marx and the Search for Ecological Genealogies in American Culture," Annual Conference of the German Association of American Studies, Freiburg, May 1997.

"The Myth of Violence in American Culture: Roots and Philosophical Positions," Lecture Series, JFK-Institute, Berlin, Nov. 1995.

"Dimensioning Society': Sacvan Bercovitch, Herbert Marcuse, and the New Historicism," Conference "The Historical and Political Turn in Literary Studies," Berlin, Nov. 1994.

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### ACQUISITION OF EXTERNAL FUNDING

Sinergia-Project "Theories and Practices of Authenticity in Global Cultural Production," in cooperation with the University of Lausanne.

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| 1 January 2014-31 Dec 2016. Volume:                                     | CHF 1.000.000 |
| Conference "The Conditions of Hospitality," Stavanger, ICORN, Sep. 2008 | € 50.000.-    |
| Research Project "Cosmopolitanism," John F. Kennedy-Institute, DFG 2007 | € 120.000.-   |
| Research Project Position, Humboldt-University, DFG, 2004-2006          | € 150.000.-   |
| Conference "Aesthetic Transgressions," JFK, DFG, 2004                   | € 25.000.-    |
| Conference "Theories of American Studies," JFK, DFG, 2002               | € 18.500.-    |

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## LECTURES AND SEMINARS TAUGHT

### Lectures

- American Dreams, American Nightmares (JFK-Institute, Berlin)
- Introduction to American Cultural and Literary History (JFK-Institute, Berlin)
- American Literary History (University of Bielefeld)
- The American Century (University of Stavanger)
- American Genesis (University of Stavanger)
- After the Linguistic Turn: 20<sup>th</sup> century Literary Theory (University of Berne)
- Cosmopolitanism and World Literature (University of Berne)

### Seminars B.A. Level

- Introduction to Textual Analysis and the Interpretation of Literary Texts
- Sociology of Literature and Marxist Cultural Theory
- The "Frontier Myth" in American Culture and Literature
- American Modernism 1915-1935
- Introduction to Poststructuralism
- American Dreams, American Nightmares
- Images and Self-Images of Native Americans
- The American Renaissance: Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, Hawthorne
- Cosmopolitanism and the Postcolonial Other
- Introduction to Cultural Analysis
- The Environmental Imagination
- Frontiers Old and New
- From Transcendentalism to Pragmatism
- Between Slavery and Cosmopolitanism: Cultural Negations of African-American Identity
- American Culture of the 20s and 30s
- The American Sublime
- Contemporary Native American Novel
- Key Concepts of American Culture
- The American Short Story, 1850-1990.

### Seminars M.A. Level

- Contemporary Cultural Theory
- American Transcendentalism and Pragmatism
- American Studies in the 20th Century: From the Myth & Symbol School to New Historicism
- Postmodernity as a Cultural Model
- Moral Imagination from Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to Auster's *The New York Trilogy*
- "Twelve Angry Men": Justice and Trials in American Culture
- Cosmopolitanism in American Literature
- Hyphenated America: Frontiers, Borderlands, Contact Zones.
- The Environmental Imagination: Theory and Literary Practice
- The Short Story in American Literary History