FRANCES FERGUSON

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Degrees Held: B.A., Wellesley College, 1969 (Durant Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa)

M. Phil., Yale University, 1971

Ph.D., Yale University, 1973

Positions Held:

Assistant Professor of English, Johns Hopkins University, 1973-1977

Associate Professor of English, University of California-Berkeley, 1977-1985

Professor of English, University of California-Berkeley, 1985-1988

Professor of English and the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University, 1988-2004

Mary Elizabeth Garrett Professor in Arts and Sciences and Professor of English

and the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University, 2001-2004, 2005-2012

George M. Pullman Professor in English and the College, University of Chicago,

2004-2005

Anne L. and Lawrence B. Buttenwieser Professor in English and the College,

University of Chicago, 2012-2019

Mabel Greene Myers Professor in English and the College, 2020

Mabel Greene Myers Distinguished Service Professor in English and the College,

July 2020-present

Visiting and Short-term Appointments:

Visiting Professor of English, Rutgers University, Fall 1981

Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, “The

Aesthetics and Politics of the Sublime,” University of California-Berkeley,

1984

Co-director, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, “Art and

the Emergence of Aesthetics,” Johns Hopkins University, 1990

Visiting Professor, Department of English, Princeton University, Fall 1991

Seminar Director, President’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar, Johns Hopkins

University, 1995

Seminar Director, “The Theory of Formalism,” School of Criticism and Theory,

Dartmouth College, Summer 1996

Short-term seminar, Duke University, February-March 1999

Director, National Humanities Center Summer Institute in Literary Studies,

Summer 2004

Old Dominion Fellow of the Humanities Council and English Department,

Princeton University, Spring 2008

Member, Board of Trustees, National Humanities Center, 2004-2015

Trustee Emerita, National Humanities Center, 2015-present

Bain-Swiggett Visiting Professor, Princeton University, Fall, 2017-18

Visiting Fellow, King’s College, University of Cambridge, Easter Term 2019

Associate, Department of Comparative Thought and Literature, Johns Hopkins University, 2019-2021

Editorial Boards:

Advisory Editor, Nineteenth-Century Contexts, 1978-2002

Associate Editor, Genre, 1978-1992

Member, Founding Editorial Board, Representations, 1978-1988

Member, Editorial Board, ELH, 1988-present

Member, Editorial Board, Modern Language Notes, 1988-present

Member, Editorial Board, Critical Inquiry, 2002-2013

Member, Editorial Board, New Books Online 19, 2008-present

Senior Editor, ELH, 2006-2012

Advisory Editor, ELH, 2012-2020

Member, Editorial Board, SEL, 2013-present

Co-editor, Critical Inquiry, 2013-2020

Co-editor, Modern Philology, Summer 2016-2018

Co-editor-in-chief, Critical Inquiry, 2020-present

Publications

Books:

Wordsworth: Language as Counter-spirit. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977.

Solitude and the Sublime: Romanticism and the Aesthetics of Individuation. New York and London:

Routledge, 1992.

Pornography, The Theory: What Utilitarianism Did To Action. Chicago: University of Chicago Press,

2004.

Volumes edited:

Misogyny, Misandry, and Misanthropy. Special issue of Representations 20, Fall

----. Reprinted with an introduction by R. Howard Bloch and Frances Ferguson.

(Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989).

The Enlightenment Wordsworth: Essays in Honor of Geoffrey Hartman. Co-edited with Helen R. Elam.

(Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005).

Jane Austen, Emma, ed. with an afterword by Frances Ferguson. A Longman Cultural Edition. New York:

Pearson Education, 2006.

Articles:

"The Lucy Poems: Wordsworth's Quest for a Poetic Object." ELH, Vol. 40 (Winter 1973), 532-548.

"Appointments with Time: Robert Lowell's Poetry through the Notebooks" in American Poetry since

1960: Some Critical Perspectives, edited by Robert B. Shaw (Cheshire: Carcanet Press,1973), pp. 15-27.

"Randall Jarrell and the Flotations of Voice." The Georgia Review, Vol. 28 (Fall 1974), 423-452.

---. Reprinted in Critical Essays on Randall Jarrell, edited by Suzanne Ferguson (Boston: G.K. Hall

and Company, 1983), pp. 163-175.

"Reading Heidegger: Paul de Man and Jacques Derrida. boundary 2, Vol. 4 (Winter 1976),593-610.

---. Reprinted in Martin Heidegger and the Question of Literature: Toward a Postmodern Literary

Hermeneutics, edited by William V. Spanos (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979), pp.

253-270.

"Coleridge and the Deluded Reader: `The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.'" The Georgia Review, Vol.

31 (Fall 1977), 617-35.

---. Reprinted in Modern Critical Views: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, edited by Harold Bloom (New

Haven: Chelsea House, 1988).

---. Reprinted in Post-structuralist Readings of English Poetry, edited by Richard Machine and Christopher

Norris (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988).

---. Reprinted in The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, ed. Paul H. Fry. Case Studies in Contemporary

Criticism (New York: Bedford/St Martin’s Press, 1999).

---. Reprinted in Coleridge’s Poetry and Prose, ed. Nicholas Halmi, Paul Magnuson, and Raimonda

Modiano, Norton Critical Edition (New York: W.W. Norton, 2002),pp 696-709.

"Coleridge on Language and Delusion." Genre, Vol.2 (Summer 1978), 191-207.

"The Sublime of Edmund Burke, or The Bathos of Experience." Glyph 8 (1981), 62-78.

"Legislating Sublimity: Burke and Kant" in Studies in Eighteenth-Century British Art and Aesthetics,

edited by Ralph Cohen (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), pp.128-147.

"Shelley's `Mont Blanc': What the Mountain Said" in Romanticism and Language, edited by Arden Reed

(Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984), pp.202-214.

---. Reprinted in La via al sublime: sei saggi americani, edited by M. Brown, V. Fortunati, G. Franci

(Firenze: Alinea, 1987).

---. Reprinted in Kroeber and Ruoff, eds., Redirections: Criticism of English Romantic Poetry in the Late

Twentieth Century (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1993), pp. 335-344.

---. Reprinted in Michael O'Neill, ed. Shelley (London and New York: Longman, 1993), pp.43-55.

---. Reprinted in Coleridge, Keats and Shelley, ed. Peter J. Kitson (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1996),

172-185.

"Reading Morals: Locke and Rousseau on Education and Inequality." Representations 6 (Spring 1984),

66-84.

"The Nuclear Sublime." Diacritics, Vol. 14, No. 2 (Summer 1984), 4-10.

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English Institute, edited by Elaine Scarry (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), pp. 106-124.

"Rape and the Rise of the Novel," Representations 20 (Fall 1987), 88-112.

"Historicism, Deconstruction, and Wordsworth," Diacritics (Winter 1987), 32-43.

---. Reprinted in Helikon, Institute for Literary Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

"Wollstonecraft Our Contemporary" in Gender and Theory, edited by Linda Kauffman (Oxford and New

York: Basil Blackwell, 1989), pp.51-62.

"On the Numbers of Romanticisms," ELH 58 (1991), 471-498.

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"Sade and the Pornographic Legacy," Representations 36 (Fall 1991), 1-21.

"In Search of the Natural Sublime: The Face on the Forest Floor," Colloquium Helveticum 15 (Berne:

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"The Sublime," in Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics, third edition, ed. Alex Preminger and

T.V.F. Brogan (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993), pp.1231-1233.

"Sade's Justine,or The Law of the Road, in Aesthetics and Ideology, ed. George Levine (New Brunswick:

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"Pornography: The Theory," Critical Inquiry,Vol. 21 (Spring 1995), 670-695.

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Helen Regueiro Elam and Frances Ferguson (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), pp. 71-93.

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2006), pp. 293-314.

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Gill (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 90-107.

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ed. Peter de Bolla, Nigel Leask, and David Simpson (London: Palgrave, 2004), pp.223-240.

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Culture, 1780-1840, ed. James Chandler and Kevin Gilmartin (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), pp. 132-148.

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“Ralph Rader on the Literary History of the Novel,” Narrative, 18:1 (January 2010), 459-471.

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“When the Sublime and Education Met,” Romantic Circles (refereed online journal), September 2010.

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Daniel Stout (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014), pp. 261-79.

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Archives, ed. Tim Dean, Steven Ruszczycky, and David Squires (Durham: Duke University Press), 44-60.

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3 (Summer 2014), 717-768.

“Fredric Jameson on the Unnamed and Naming in Fictions” Victorian Studies 57, 1 (Autumn 2014),

97-104.

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Press, 2015), pp. 232-240.

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of Intellectual Influence,” Philological Quarterly 93:2 (Spring 2014), 176-178.

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Feminist Cultural Studies,28.1 (May 2017), 37-63.

“Introduction: Thinking about the Chicago School of Criticism,” Modern Philology 115:4 (2018), 425-431.

“Chicago Style: How to Read a Poem,” Modern Philology 115:4 (2018), 474-480.

“Not Kant, but Bentham: On Taste,” Critical Inquiry 45 (Spring 2019), 577-600.

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“Conversation in Lyrical Ballads,” Cambridge Companion to Lyrical Ballads, ed. Sally Bushell

(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020). 87-104.

“Theories of Education,” Mary Wollstonecraft in Context, ed. Nancy E.

Johnson and Paul Keen (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), 246-254.

“Hazlitt’s People,” Keats-Shelley Journal (Spring 2020), 175-181.

“Not Kant, but Bentham: On Taste,” Bentham and the Arts, ed. Anthony Julius, Malcolm Quinn, and Philip Schofield (London: University College London Press, 2020).

Literary Journalism:

"The Unfamiliarity of Familiar Letters" in The State of the Language, edited by Leonard Michaels and

Christopher Ricks (Berkeley:University of California Press, 1980), pp. 78-88.

"On Soap Operas." The Threepenny Review, Vol. l, no. 2 (Summer 1980), 22-23.

"Interpreting the Self through Letters." Centrum, Vol. 1, no. 2 (Fall 1981), 107-112.

Review Essays:

W.J.B. Owen and Jane Worthington Smyser, The Prose Works of William Wordsworth." MLN, Vol. 89,

no. 6 (December 1974), 1057-1068.

"Recent Studies in the Nineteenth Century." Studies in English Literature: 1500-1900, Vol.22, no.4

(Autumn 1982), 707-747.

"Recent Studies in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century." Studies in English Literature 54 (Summer

2014), 717-768.

Reviews:

"Stanley Cavell, The World Viewed: Reflections on the Ontology of Film." College English, Vol. 34 (May

1973), 1145-1148.

"Fredric Jameson, The Prison-House of Language: A Critical Account of Structuralism and Russian

Formalism." Partisan Review, Vol. 41, no. 2 (1974), 310-314.

"Frank McConnell, The Confessional Imagination: A Reading of Wordsworth's Prelude." Studies in

Romanticism, Vol. 15 (Winter 1976), 147-150.

Review of books on structuralism by Scholes, Culler, and Mehlman, Partisan Review, Vol. 44, no. 3

(1977), 475-480.

"Thomas Weiskel, The Romantic Sublime." The Wordsworth Circle, Vol. 8, no. 3 (Summer 1977),

237- 242.

"Stuart A. Ende, Keats and the Sublime; and Helen Regueiro, The Limits of Imagination: Wordsworth,

Yeats, and Stevens." The Georgia Review, Vol. 31 (Summer 1977), 511-516.

"Michael G. Cooke, The Romantic Will." MLN, Vol. 92, no. 5 (December 1977), 1118-1121.

"Charles Sherry, Wordsworth's Poetry of the Imagination." The Wordsworth Circle, Vol. 12, no. 3

(Summer 1981), 149-151.

"Mark Philip, "Godwin's Political Justice.” Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vol, 22, No.3 (Winter 1989-90),

234-237.

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1995), 314-315.

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Revolution and Paul Mattick, Jr., ed., Eighteenth- Century Aesthetics and the Reconstruction of

Art Criticism.Vol. 37, No. 1 (Winter 1995), 157-163.

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“Nancy Yousef, Isolated Cases: The Anxiety of Autonomy in Enlightenment Philosophy and Romantic

Literature.” European Romantic Review Vol. 19, No. 5 (December 2008), 507-510.

“Susan Staves, A Literary History of Women’s Writing in Britain, 1660-1789.” Modern Philology Vol.

107, No. 2 (November 2009).

“Philip Schofield, Utility and Democracy: The Political Thought of Jeremy Bentham and Kathleen Blake,

The Pleasures of Benthamism: Victorian Literature, Utility, Political Economy.” Victorian Studies

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“James Turner, Philology: The Forgotten Origins of the Modern Humanities.” Philological Quarterly,

94.4 (2015), 423-427.