

Curriculum Vitae

Stephen Tapscott

Department: Literature Faculty
December, 2020
M.I.T., Cambridge, MA

Date of Birth: November 5, 1948
Citizenship: USA

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Cornell University, 1975
Major Subjects: 20th Century Literatures; Creative Writing (Poetry)
Minor Subject: American Literature

M.A. Cornell University, 1973
Major Subject: English and American Literature

A.B. University of Notre Dame, 1970, *summa cum laude*

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION: Poetics and Politics in the Modernist Epic

EMPLOYMENT

Professor, Literature Faculty, Department of Humanities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1988-present.

Distinguished Chair, American Studies/Fulbright, University of Lodz, Poland, 1999-2000.

Visiting Professor, Western Civilization Program, OxBridge Academic Programs/
Corpus Christi College, Oxford, England, 1995.

Balliol College, Oxford, Visiting/Exchange Professor, 1994, 2009.

Visiting Associate/Professor, Knight Writing Program [with graduate-student tutorials from the English Department, MFA program, Africana-Studies Program],
Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., Summer Sessions, 1982-93, 1995-2009.

Professor, Summer Programs, Telluride Association, Ithaca, NY, 1994.

Associate Professor, Literature Faculty, Department of Humanities, Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, 1979-88. [tenure, 1983]

Assistant Professor, Literature Faculty, Department of Humanities, Massachusetts
Institute Technology, 1977-79.

Visiting Faculty Member, MFA Program, Goddard College, Plainfield Vermont, 1977-79.

Lecturer/Levehulme Fellow, University of Kent, Canterbury, England, 1976-77.

Assistant Professor (split appointment), Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, 1974-76.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Poems

From the Book of Changes, Carcenet Press, 1998.

--reprint, New York: Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2002.

Another Body, Cleveland: Cleveland State University Press, 1990.

Penobscot [chapbook], Pym-Randall Press, 1983.

Mesopotamia, Wesleyan University Press, 1976.

--*Mesopotamia*, translation into German, [Vienna: Librarie der Bibliothek,
1994.]

--*Mesopotamia*, translation into German [Vienna: Librarie der Bibliothek,
1994], student/university reader's edition, with scholarly apparatus]
1995.

--*Mesopotamia* [Polish translation], Katowice: Slask, 1995.

Anthology

Twentieth Century Latin American Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology. [Edited, with
critical apparatus, introductions, and some translations of my own.] Austin: University of
Texas Press, 1997.

Translations

Zaertlichkeit/Tenderness: The Love Poems of Georg Trakl, edited and translated by ST,
Provinz, Vienna, 2014.

Georg Trakl: Poems, edited and translated by ST, Oberlin: Field, 2011.

Prose and Prose Poems by Gabriela Mistral, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003.

"Letter" [prose-poem] reprinted in *Love Letters: An Anthology of Desire*, New York: Norton, 1997.

The Articulated Leaf: Selected Poems of Max Kratochwill, Vienna/Graz: Bibliothek de Provinz, 1996.

100 Love Sonnets [Cien sonetos de amor], by Pablo Neruda, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1986; fourth edition in print.

--sonnets I, XVII, LXXXV, XXI, XVI reprinted in *The Norton Book of Love Poetry*, ed. Diane Ackerman, New York: Norton, 1997.

--individual poems from this book used by various composers for song-cycle settings; a full bibliography is available on request

--selections reprinted in *Pablo Neruda: 10 Poems about Love, From the Film 'Il Postino'/'The Postman'* [with CD], New York: Miramax, 1996.

--CD of the same title, poems read by Sting and Julia Roberts, Miramax, 1997.

Criticism

American Beauty: William Carlos Williams and the Modernist Whitman. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984.

ARTICLES AND REVIEW-ESSAYS

"Jane Cooper's First Book(s)," *A Radiance of Attention*, ed. Celia Bland. Graywolf, Spring, 2019.

"Certain. Dark. Things." Catalogue for "Sarah Dineen, Paintings after Neruda," 2018.

"Three Poems by Paul Celan," *Into English*, ed. Martha Collins and Kevin Prufer, Graywolf, Minneapolis, 2017.

"Rosebud, *Citizen Kane*, Detective Stories, and the Open Secret," *Detective Fiction*, ed. Dana Percec. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars, 2017.

"Grief and Compensation: Sophie Cabot Black," *Jacket 2*, Winter, 2016.

"Picturing Alice Liddell," *Children and Literature*, ed. Dana Chetrescu, Cambridge Scholars Press, Cambridge, 2015.

"Day Unto Day," *Pleiades*, Winter, 2015.

"Paul Celan in Translation," *Field*, Winter, 2014.

- "See how they hurry to enter their bodies': Jorie Graham and the Lyric Beyond Modernism," *Festschrift: for Tadeusz Rachwał*, edited by Agnieszka Pantuchowicz, Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2014.
- "What do you see when you turn out the lights?: Contemporary Photography and Digital Noise," *MNArts*, October, 2012.
- "12 Questions and Answers about Tucker Hollingsworth's 'Noise,'" Walker Art Galley, *Walker*, November, 2012."
- "The High Ones Die: Modernist Elegies and John Berryman." *Journey Knowledge: A Festschrift for Aba Parlog*, ed. Lordana Pungu et al., Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars, 2012.
- "My heart was on the devils' side': Richard Wilbur's Translations", *Field* 83, Fall, 2010, 33-40.
- "Love, Art, Politics and Two Tenors", *Opera News*, September, 2010, unp.
- "Modernist Dantes," *Semicerchio*, XXXIX (2009), 8-17.
- "Fidelity: Neruda in Translation," *Opera News*. Winter, 2007 [back insert].
 --reprinted in *Bridges*, winter, 2007.
 --reprinted in *AAIT* [Translator's Association Newsletter], Spring, 2008.
 --reprinted in *Fidelity*, Winter, 2009.
- "La Malinche: Translation, Globalization, and the Lyric Tradition," in *A Festschrift for Prof. Agnieszka Salska*, with Grazyna Zygodlo, Lodz, 2007.
- "Inferno XII: Suicide, Waste, Form," in *Waste*, ed. T. Rachwał, Warsaw: Warsaw Bibliotek, 2007.
- "Space, Visibility, and Desire in 'Brokeback Mountain'," in *'Brokeback Mountain': A Collection of Critical Essays*, ed. Jesse Matz and William Handley [forthcoming].
- "Lowell, Ginsberg, Narcissism, and Grieving," *Beat Meets East*, Univ. of Sichuan, China, 2004.
- "Summer afternoons...': A.R. Ammons," *Epoch*, Summer, 2004.
-] "WCW: Experimentalism" and "Spring and All," *WCW Encyclopedai*, 2003.
- "Bite Me! Cannibalism and The Uses of Translation," *Cannibalism*, London: August 2002.
 --reprinted in *Ergo*, Autumn 2003.
- "The Lives of the Poets" *Agni* 55, Summer 2002, 259-73.

- "Edward II and Homophobic Panic," *A Queer Mixture I*, 2002, 19-27.
- "Bishop's Crusoe's Wordsworth: Allusion as the Trope of Exile," *Culture Agonistes*, ed. Theodora Tsimpouki, Amsterdam: Peter Lang Verlag, 2002.
--reprinted: in *Literary Criticism*, NY, Gale, 2013.
- "American Cookbooks and the Rhetoric of Self Sufficiency," *Food*, Amsterdam: Peter Lang Verlag, 2002.
- "Jorie Graham and the Recovery from Modernism," *Talking Back to the Century*, Americanist Press, Tel Aviv, 2002.
- "Szyborska's Version," with Mariusz Przybytek, *Exile*, Netherlands: Bolton, 2001.
- "Chaplin and the Poets: The Image as Structure and as Argument," *Cinema Journal*, Autumn 2001.
- "Sky, The Sky, Heaven, The Heaven, Heavens!: Reading Szyborska Whole," *American Poetry Review*, Summer 1999.
--reprinted in *Poetry Review 2002*, New York: Gale, 2003.
- "Resacralization and the Eastern European Lyric," with Mariusz Przybytek, *The Place of the Sacred*, Sydney: Australian Universities Press, 1999, 45-59.
- "In Praise of Bad Translations: The Case of Ezra Pound," *British and American Studies III*, 1998.
--This paper was given also as the keynote address at the biannual International British and American Studies conference in Timisoara, Romania, 1997.
- "Thomas Eakins, 'The Swimming Picture,' and the Romantic Circle," *Rethinking the Beach Encounter*, Silesia, 1998.
- "Experimentalism and 'Spring and All'," *W.C. Williams Encyclopedia*, North Carolina: Greenwood Press, 1998 [chapter].
- "Democracy and Partiality: Whitman in 1956," *British and American Studies II*, i, 1997, 47-68.
- Walt Whitman in 1860: Democracy, Deviance, and Gender," *British and American Studies I*, 1997, 117-37.
- "The Crowning Vacancy': Frederick Goddard Tuckerman," in *The Breadloaf Anthology: Poets on Poets*, Middlebury, VT: Breadloaf, 1995.

- "Walt Whitman and the Performative Rhetoric of the Nation," in *Culture and Identity*, ed. Zgigniew Bilias. Manchester: Silesia/Bolton, 1995.
- "Walt Whitman and the Body Politic in 1855," in *Utopia in the Present Tense: Walt Whitman and the Language of the New World*, ed. Marina Gamboni, Rome: Il Camboni, 1994.
- "Carl Phillips' Strength," *New Boston Review*, Spring 1993.
- "Charles Simic and the Uses of Translation," *The Phenomenology of Spirit and Self*, ed. Bruce Weigl, AWP, 1993.
- "Schwartz and the Gracie Allen Aesthetic," *New Boston Review*, Fall 1992.
- "Stephen Dobyns," *New Boston Review*, Spring 1991, 43-47.
- "Mapping Freud's Half-Hidden City," *Georgia Review*, Winter 1989, 68-81.
- "Poetry and Trouble: Seamus Heaney's Purgatorio," *Southwest Review*, Spring 1987, 23-35.
- "Williams, Sappho, and the Woman-as-Other," *William Carlos Williams Newsletter*, Winter 1986, 24-36.
- "Williams at Orono," *William Carlos Williams Newsletter*, Autumn 1984, 45-56.
- "The Poem of Trauma," *American Poetry Review*, Winter 1984.
- "Proust Retrouvé," *Yale Review*, Summer 1982, 612-23.
- "Pandemonium in Xanadu," *Romanticism Then and Now*, Summer 1981, 23-40.
- "Whitman in 'Paterson,'" *American Literature*, May 1981, 291-302.
 --reprinted in *Critical Essays on William Carlos Williams*, ed. Steven Gould Axelrod, New York: G. K. Hall, 1993.
- "Frost's Obviousness," *Georgia Review*, Winter 1979, 95-102.
- "Formalism and the Private Diary: Helena Morley," *Carolina Quarterly*, Winter 1979, 940-57.
- "Two Voices from the Future," *Georgia Review*, Winter 1978, 445-53.
 --one section reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism* as "Hugh MacDiarmid," 19:288-ff.
 --one section reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism* as "Stevie Smith," 25:417-ff.
 --the "Stevie Smith" section reprinted again under the title "Stevie Smith," in

Discovering Authors, New York: Gale, 1998.

"The Epistemology of Gossip: Anthony Powell's 'Dance to the Music of Time,'" *Texas Quarterly*, VVX, 1978, 104-18.

"Leaves of Myself: Whitman's Egypt in 'Song of Myself,'" *American Literature*, 50, 1978, 49-73. [Through *American Literature*, this essay was awarded "Best Essay of the year" by the MLA, 1978.]
--reprinted as "Leaves of Myself: Whitman's Egypt in 'Song of Myself,'" in *On Whitman* (Duke / American Literature, 1989).

"Williams' Paterson: Doctor and Democrat," *Yearbook of English Studies*, 1978, 77-95.

"Williams, Joyce, and the Virtue of 'Abcedmindedness,'" *Arizona Quarterly*, 3, 1977, 348-66.

"An Echo of Horns," *James Joyce Quarterly*, 15, 1977, 88-93.

"The Fool as Tragic Hero: The Plays of Friedrich Duerrenmatt," *Genre*, 8, 1975, 352-366.
--reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism* as "Friederich Duerrenmatt," 11:173-ff.

"The Lillabulero Poets," *Greenfield Review*, II, 1972, 58-64.

TRANSLATIONS

Russian

Three poems by Osip Mandelstam dedicated to Marina Tsvetaeva, *Epoch*, Spring/Summer 1984.
--reprinted in 1984 *Yearbook of American Poetry*.

"History of a Dedication," [an unpublished essay by Marina Tsvetaeva about Osip Mandelstam], *The Georgia Review*, Winter 1983, 855-890.

German

Georg Trakl: Poems, [edited and translated], Oberlin, Ohio: Oberlin College Press, 2011.

Three lyrics by Georg Trakl ["December," "De Profundis," "Evening Song"], *Field*, 2012.

Three persona poems by Georg Trakl ["Elis," "Helian," "Sebastian"], *Translation I:2*, 2007.

"A Meeting with Rilke," a section of Hans Carossa's autobiography *Fuehrung und Geliet*, in *Bluefish*, Spring 1984, 19-48.

Recently 6 of my translations of poems by Georg Trakl were set in a song-sequence by Gregory Mertl, published, performed at Yale and at venues in Italy and Brazil

Spanish

--2012: Selections from Spanish poetry anthology used for BBC radio and TV special on world-arts for the Olympics ancillary programme "This Written World," Summer, 2012.

One Hundred Love Sonnets, [Cien sonetos de amor], by Pablo Neruda; see publications/book. Before publication in book form, separate translations from this sequence appeared in magazines, including *The Atlantic Monthly* (Feb 1986) and *The American Poetry Review* (May-June 1986); recent reprints include *Sonnets*, ed. Phyllis Levin; *The Making of a Sonnet*, eds.. Hirsch and Eavan Boland, and *Love: Poems by Pablo Neruda from the Film 'The Postman,'* [New York: Miramax]. Translations have been set as songs by several composers; a full list is available on request. "Yiskor", [Yiskor] by Gloria Gervitz, in *An Anthology of Contemporary Mexican Women Poets*, ed. Forrest Gander, Lost Roads Press, 1991.

"Three Love Sonnets" [from *Sonetos Osc.*] by Federico Garcia Lorca, *Sixty Six Review*, Spring, 2007.

Polish

"Two Poems by Edward Stachura," translated with Mariusz Przybytek, *Agni*, Summer 2003.

INDIVIDUAL POEMS:

Published in many periodicals since the 1970s. A full bibliography is available on request.

REPRINTS:

I list reprints of criticism under the original headings. Essays of mine have been reprinted and anthologized in various periodicals (e.g., *Choice*, *Journal of General Education*, *Journal of Biblical Archaeology*) and books (*American Poets from A to Z*, *Academy of American Poets*, *Three Rivers Ten Years*, *American Catholic Poets*, *Best American Sestinas*); a full bibliography is available on request.

COURSES TAUGHT

Cornell University (graduate school and summers):

Graduate:

Master-Teacher for Graduate Student Teaching Apprentices
[Knight Writing Center]
Writing About American Literature
American Literature

Undergraduate:

Writing about Film
Practical Prose / Reading and Writing the Essay / Writing Across the Curriculum
Autobiography
Autobiography and Race
The Personal Essay [special sections for minority students]
The Personal Essay / Writing from Experience
Advanced Expository Prose
Creative Writing
Creative Writing; Mixed Forms
Creative Writing (Poetry)
American Writers

Goddard College MFA Program (Warren Wilson):

Writing Workshop
Craft Workshop
Seminar: Rhythmic Structures in American Spoken English
Individual term-long student projects

Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

Samplings: Beyond the Modern [Eastern Europe and Latin America]
Samplings: American Icons [iconicity and cultural identity]
Samplings: Epistemological problems in detective writing
Literary Translation
Theories of Translation
Comedy
The Legacy of England: Irony, Satire, Humor
The Legacy of England: The English Sense of Humor
Detective Fictions
Small Wonders: Children in Literature, Literature in Children
Freshman Seminar: Culture Clash [poems of cultural hybridity]
Introduction to Poetry
Reading Poems
Major Poets: Love Lyrics
Major Poets: Introduction
Major Poets: British

Major Poets: North And South American
Major Poets: Love Lyrics and Elegies
Major Poets: The Pastoral
Gender Studies in Literature
American Literature: Introduction
American Literature: Families and Race
American Literature: 19th and 20th Century Survey
American Literature: Survey [Nationalism and Ethnic Traditions]
American Literature Introduction: American Renaissance
American Fiction
American Voices: American Poetry
New World Literature
Romantic Poetry
Romantic Poetry: Genius and Technophobia
Romantic Poetry: British, American, Continental
Modern Poetry: Texts and Contexts
Modernist Poetry
Modernist Poetry: Chaplin and the Image
Modernist Poetry: Nationalisms
Modernist Poetry: Yeats, Williams, HD
Modernist Poetry: American Poetry
Modernist Poetry and Fiction
Modernist Poetry: The Narrative Impulse
Modernist Poetry: The Nativists [Williams, Hughes, Moore]
Modernist Poetry: Regionalists
Modern Drama
Contemporary Literature
Contemporary Literature: Marx and Freud
Contemporary Literature: Prison Writings
Contemporary Fiction: Survey
Seminar: American Visual and Verbal Arts of the 1930s
Seminar: Literature and Photography
Seminar: American Icons [Verbal and Textual Iconography in 20th Cent. America]
Seminar: Poetry and Witness
Seminar: The Image in America: Poetry and Photography
Seminar: Oscar Wilde and the 1890s
Seminar: Oscar Wilde and Friends
Seminar: Poetry and the Body
Seminar: The Social Vision of Modernism
Seminar: World Poetries [Neruda, Akhmatova, Césaire, Milosz]
Seminar: Poetics and Politics
Seminar: Poetry and the Responsibility of the Intellectual
Seminar: Milosz and Akhmatova
Seminar: Nabokov
Seminar: Faulkner

Seminar: Whitman
Seminar: The First Person [Voice in Contemporary Poetry]
Seminar: American Literature of Place
Seminar on Contemporary Poets: Lowell and Bishop
Seminar on Contemporary Poets: Confessional Poetry
Seminar on Contemporary Poets: Women Poets
Seminar on Poetry: The Poetics of Witness
Seminar on Contemporary Poets: After the Moderns
Seminar on Contemporary Poets: Survey, with guest readers
Seminar on Contemporary Poets: American Poets and Their International Counterparts
Seminar: Poetry: Formalism, Free Verse, L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E
Seminar: Ulysses
Seminar: Moderns: William Carlos Williams
Seminar: Joyce and the Moderns
Seminar: Linguistics and Poetry
Seminar: Avant-garde Conservatism
Seminar: Re-membering Frankenstein
Seminar: Technologies of Vision
Seminar: The Image
Seminar: Poems / Books and Persons [book-length texts, modes of literary production, and concepts of autonomy]
Independent Research Period: Film and Literature ["Books and Movies" series]
Independent Research Period: Translating Poetry (Neruda)
Independent Research Period: The Politics of Dr. Seuss [lecture series / lecturer and coordinator]
Freshman Seminar: Poems and Life Situations
Freshman Seminar: "Culture Shock," [Literary Representations of Cross-Cultural Tensions]
Freshman Seminar: Ten Books about Home and Identity

Fulbright/ University of Lodz [Winter, 2000]

PhD Seminar: The Aesthetics of Voice in American Poetry
MA seminar: Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes
Sophomore Survey: The Image in Modernism and Postmodernism
Intermediate Lecture Series: American Literature

OxBridge Program / Corpus Christi College:

Seminar: Teaching Issues, The Western Humanistic Tradition

Poetry Center, 92nd Street Y:

Joyce and the Moderns

Earlham College:

Humanities I and II:

Topics: The Journey Motif in Literature

Great Books Seminar

The European Experience in American Literature

Ethical Problems in the Media
Creative Writing: Introduction
Creative Writing: Seminar
Modern Literature
Modern Drama
History of Drama: Survey
Eighteenth Century British Literature

HONORS AND AWARDS

Designation/referee Italian national/academic VQR exercise (Valutazione Della Qualita' Della Ricerca), 2013.
MacVicar Fellowship, MIT, awarded 2008.
Witter-Bynner Fellowship, Santa Fe Art Institute, 2008-9.
Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies, Poland, 2000.
Visiting Exchange Professor, Balliol College, Oxford, 1994.
Massachusetts Arts Council, Year-long grant for poetry, 1990-91.
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, fellowship, 1984, 1992, 1993, 2008, 2012, 2014.
with co-translator Mariusz Przybytek: 1997.
Cleveland State University Poetry Prize, 1988.
Visiting Artist, Karolyi Institute, Venice, France, 1987, 1988, 1989.
National Endowment for the Humanities, Year-long Fellowship for
Literary Criticism/Fellowship for College Teachers, 1986.
Residency/Fellow, MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, N.H., 1986.
Visiting Fellow, Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan, Ireland, 1985.
Rockefeller Foundation Scholar-in-Residence, Poetry Center / 92nd St. YMHA, N.Y., 1985.
Artists' Foundation, Project Completion Grant in Poetry, 1984-85.
Associated Writing Programs Award in Poetry, 1983.
Project Membership, Ossabaw Foundation, Savannah, GA, 1982.
Fellowship in Poetry, Breadloaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury, Vermont, Summer, 1980.
Award for Best Essay of 1978, given by American Literature magazine / Modern Language
Association - December 1978.
National Endowment for the Arts, Year-long Poetry Fellowship, 1977.
Leverhulme Overseas Visiting Fellowship, University of Kent at Canterbury, Kent, England,
1976-77.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Committee for Irish Studies
Modern Language Association
P.E.N.
Poets and Writers, Inc.

Rights Watch / Poets

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

I have served as reader for many university presses (paid consultancy); as external reader for university/tenure cases; as external reader of manuscripts for the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, The Bunting Institute, the Karolyi Institute, the Fine Arts Work Center, the Cummington Colony, *PMLA*, and others. In 2006 I edited a special contemporary-American issue of *British and American Literature*.

Like most other poets and academics, I have given readings at various universities, colleges, institutions, theaters, clubs, and so on. A full bibliography is available on request.