

# STEPHEN JOSEPH ROSS, PhD

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## EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Concordia University, July 2017 – present

Assistant Professor (LTA), Concordia University, Aug 2016 – July 2017

Teaching Fellow in American Literature, University of Warwick, Sept 2013 – Sept 2015

## EDUCATION

D.Phil. English, University of Oxford, 2013

M.St. English, University of Oxford, 2009

B.A. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007 (summa cum laude)

Comparative Literature, Università di Bologna, BCSP exchange program, spring 2006

## BOOKS

### *Invisible Terrain: John Ashbery and the Aesthetics of Nature*

A monograph that reads John Ashbery's poetry as a case study in the dramatic transformations of the concept of nature in modern and contemporary transatlantic (American, British, French) art and literature. Published by Oxford University Press in 2017.

Website: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/invisible-terrain-9780198798385?cc=au&lang=en>

### *Global Modernists on Modernism: A Sourcebook*

A 190,000-word anthology co-edited with Dr. Alys Moody (Macquarie University) collecting and translating key statements about modernism by global modernists across the arts. Under contract with Bloomsbury Press for 2018 publication.

## PUBLICATIONS

"Nature Is Bad Art: Bad Transnationalism from Earthrise to Deepwater Horizon": in *Navigating the Transnational in Modern American Literature and Culture*, Tara Stubbs (University of Oxford) and Doug Haynes (University of Sussex), eds. (Routledge, 2017)

"Edward Lear and the New York School Macabre," in *Edward Lear and The Play of Poetry*, Matthew Bevis (University of Oxford) and James Williams (University of York), eds. (Oxford University Press, September 2016)

"Frank O'Hara: Life and Works," in *American Writers Supplement Volume XXIII*, ed. Jay Parini (Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2013), 207-22.

"Auden's Modern Pastoral," *The English Review*, vol. 24, no. 2 (November 2013), 25-27.

"The Influence of Eliot, Hölderlin, and Wordsworth on Ashbery's Riverine Poetics," *Comparative American Studies* 9, No. 2 (June 2011): 174-88

"Through fogged and fumbling shallows: Charles Bernstein's *All the Whiskey in Heaven*," *The*

*Wolf* 24 (spring 2011): 82-93

“‘Mad-eyed from stating the obvious’: The cold-war symmetries of Robert Lowell and Richard Wilbur,” *US Studies Online* 17 (autumn 2010)

### **Selected Book Reviews**

“Question Answers Question: On Ariel Resnikoff’s *Between Shades*,” Jerome Rothenberg’s “Poems and Poetics” *Jacket2* blog, January 17, 2016, <http://poemsandpoetics.blogspot.com/2016/01/stephen-ross-question-answers-question.html>

“Oli Hazzard’s *Beyonsense*: Review of *Within Habit*,” *Boston Review* blog, July 30, 2014, <http://bostonreview.net/blog/stephen-ross-oli-hazzard-within-habit>

“C.K. Williams’s *Writers Writing Dying and In Time*,” *Times Literary Supplement* 5748 (31 May 2013): 21

“Robert Duncan: The Ambassador from Venus: A Biography,” *Times Literary Supplement* 5710 (7 Sept 2012): 5

“Gertrude Stein’s *Stanzas in Meditation* and Juliana Spahr’s *Well Then There Now*,” *PN Review* 207, 39:1 (Sept-Oct 2012): 52-53

“John Ashbery’s *Illuminations* and Mark Ford’s *New Impressions of Africa*,” *Brick* 89 (summer 2012): 138-40

“A Return to Formalism: *The Oxford Handbook of Modern and Contemporary American Poetry*,” *Oxonian Review* 18, No. 5 (12 Mar 2012)

“Charles Bernstein’s *Attack of the Difficult Poems*,” *Times Literary Supplement* 5683 (2 Mar 2012): 24

“How to live? What to do? Peter Gizzi’s *Threshold Songs*,” *PN Review* 204, 38:4 (Mar-Apr 2012): 71-72

“Jeeves in Kenya: Mark Ford’s *Six Children and Mr. and Mrs. Stevens*,” *Times Literary Supplement* 5659 (16 Sept 2011): 25

“Timothy Donnelly’s *The Cloud Corporation*,” *Rain Taxi* 16 (summer 2011, online edition)

“Webcam the world: Heather McHugh’s *Upgraded to Serious*,” *Jacket* 40 (2010)

“John Glenday’s *Grain*,” *Tower Poetry* (Nov 2009)

“Shining agates of negation: *Letters of Samuel Beckett, 1929-1940*,” *Oxonian Review* 8, No. 7 (Mar 2009)

### **FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & AWARDS**

2016 Visiting Research Fellow, Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, Concordia University, June-August (declined)

2015- Associate Research Fellow, University of Warwick, Oct - present

2013-14 Rothermere American Institute Associate Visiting Research Fellowship

2012 Rothermere American Institute Dissertation Completion Studentship (£4000)

2009-13 Clarendon Fund Scholarship (full doctoral funding and stipend)

- 2010-11 Meyerstein Travel Grant (£800, awarded twice)
- 2010-12 St. John's College Travel Grant (£500, awarded twice)
- 2009-12 St. John's Academic Grant (£400/, awarded four times)
- 2007 Whitfield Prize, best undergraduate honors thesis in English at UNC Chapel Hill (selected from a pool of 25)
- 2007 Kimball King English Honors Thesis Award, given to the top three theses in English at the UNC Chapel Hill (selected from a pool of 25)
- 2007 Sarah Steele Danhoff Undergraduate Research Fund travel grant (\$350)
- 2006 Kimball King Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award travel grant (\$300)

### **Translations and Interviews**

A Critical Edition of Mikhl Likht's *Processions* (with Ariel Resnikoff, University of Pennsylvania)

- "Procession: I," *Eleven Eleven: Journal of Literature and Art* 16 (winter 2014), <http://elevenelevenjournal.com/issue-16/mikhl-licht/>
- "Procession: II," *Poems and Poetics* weblog curated by Jerome Rothenberg (February 2014), <http://jacket2.org/commentary/mikhl-likht-processions-ii-translation-yiddish-ariel-resnikoff-stephen-ross>
- "Procession V," *Poems and Poetics* weblog curated by Jerome Rothenberg (October 4, 2014), <http://poemsandpoetics.blogspot.com/2015/10/mikhl-likht-processions-v.html>

Interview with Charles Bernstein, *The Wolf* 28, July 2013

English translation of Omar Berrada's essay, "L'existence est une lettre," in *Poems for the Millennium, Volume Four: The University of California Book of North African Literature*, Pierre Joris and Habib Tengour, eds. (Berkeley: UC Press, 2012), 739-44

Extended interviews with Christian Bök, Ron Silliman, and Joshua Corey in *Wave Composition* 1, 2, and 5 (2011-13)

English translations of two sonnets from Pierre de Ronsard's *Second Livre des Sonnets pour Hélène*, in *Critical Companion to William Butler Yeats: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work*, ed. David Ross (New York: Facts on File, 2009)

### **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

#### **Conferences and Panels Organized**

- 2015 Co-convener, "Global Modernists on Modernism" seminar (12 participants), MSA 17, Boston, 19-22 Nov
- 2015 Presider & participant, "To Avoid Some Great Sadness: New York School Elegy," MLA annual convention, Vancouver, 8 Jan
- 2013 Presider, "Modernism and the Senses," MLA annual conference, Boston, 3-6 Jan
- 2010 Organizer, British Association for American Studies (BAAS) annual postgraduate conference, "American Geographies," Rothermere American Institute, 40 speakers and 80 attendees, 13 Nov

## Papers

- 2016 “No Way Where We Were Was There: Modernist Impersonality and Black Diaspora Poetics,” Historical Modernisms, Institute for English Studies, London, 12-13 Dec
- 2016 “Translating Yiddish Modernist Poetry,” Poetics: (The Next) 25 Years Conference, Buffalo, NY, 9-10 April
- 2015 “Elegiac Objects of the New American Poetry,” MLA annual convention, Vancouver, 8 Jan
- 2014 “Mikhl Likht’s ‘Incomprehensible’ Yiddish Modernist Poetics,” “Modernism Now!: The British Association for Modernist Studies International Conference 2014,” Institute of English Studies, Senate House, London, 26 June
- 2014 “Nature Is Bad Art”: Translocal Pathos in Prynne and Lerner,” “Cultures of Uneven and Combined Development Conference,” University of Warwick, 13 June
- 2013 “A completely new set of objects: New York Poetry and the Speculative Turn,” “Object: The English Graduate Conference,” University of Oxford, 31 May
- 2012 “‘A fine and touching moment’: Early Ashbery, Metaphysical Surrealism, and the Criticism,” Material Meanings: Third Bi-annual conference of the European Network for Avant-Garde and Modernism Studies (EAM), University of Kent, 7-9 Sept
- 2012 “Sourcing John Ashbery’s ‘Clepsydra,’” Contemporary Poetry and Source Conference, Plymouth University, 18-20 May
- 2011 “American Hybrid and the legacy of *The New American Poetry*,” *The New American Poetry* 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, University of Warwick, 23 Oct
- 2011 “John Ashbery’s dense, transparent medium,” MSA 13, Seminar 14: “Transparent Spaces of Modernity,” Buffalo, 6-9 Oct
- 2010 “Some Versions of Avant-Pastoral: Lisa Robertson’s *XEclogue* and *The Weather*,” RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, Royal Geographical Society, London, 1-3 Sept
- 2010 “Reflections on Hölderlin’s and Eliot’s influence on John Ashbery,” The Idea of Influence Conference, University of Oxford, 31 Mar
- 2010 “‘The delta of living into everything’: The river topos in John Ashbery’s work,” John Ashbery in Paris International Conference, University of Paris – Diderot 7, 11-13 Mar
- 2009 “‘Mad-eyed from stating the obvious’: The cold-war symmetries of Robert Lowell and Richard Wilbur,” New Clear Forms: American Poetry and Cold War Culture, University of Glasgow, 11-12 Sept
- 2007 “Jeffers’s Hawk Tower as an analogue to Yeats’s Thoor Ballylee,” 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Robinson Jeffers Association Conference, Honolulu, 16-18 Feb

## CAMPUS SEMINARS & INVITED TALKS

- 2017 *PoemTalk* episode on Anne Tardos’s *Uxudo*, hosted by Professor Al Filreis, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania (airfare and \$200 honorarium), 22 Feb

- 2015 “A *Gilgul* of Tones: Yiddish Modernism, Mina Loy, and *Others*,” Transatlantic Literature in Context seminar series, University of Oxford, 12 Feb
- 2012 “Pastoral Capitalism and Contemporary American Poetry,” *American Pastorals: In Retreat from Public Monsters*, Rothermere American Institute, 22 Oct
- 2012 “Experimental American Poetry at the New Millennium,” St. John’s College “Lecture Supper,” 19 Feb
- 2011 “The Avant-Pastoral,” American Literature Graduate Seminar, 8 June
- 2010 “‘I am a transparent diagram’: John Ashbery’s neutral landscapes,” American Literature Research Seminar, University of Oxford, 3 Mar and the Twentieth-Century Research-in-Progress Seminar, 13 Oct
- 2010 “‘Nimble center, circumference elastic’: Ronald Johnson’s creative appropriations,” Mis/Appropriation: The 2010 Oxford English Postgraduate Conference, Oxford, 4 June
- 2009 “‘The delta of living into everything’: The river topos in John Ashbery’s poetry,” Twentieth-Century Research-in-Progress Seminar, 25 Nov

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Concordia University (undergraduate)**

- 2016-17 ENGL 340 – Modernism (Fall/Winter 2016-17)  
 ENGL 246 – Science Fiction (Fall 2016)  
 ENGL 262 – British Literature, 1660-1900 (Fall 2016)  
 ENGL 394 – Contemporary Critical Theory (Winter 2017)  
 ENGL 345 – Modern Drama (Winter 2017)

### **2014-15 University of Warwick (undergraduate and graduate seminars)**

- EN 986 – Topics in American Poetry (MA seminar)  
 EN 304 – Twentieth-Century US Literature  
 EN 123 – Modern World Literature

- 2013-14 EN 248 – Modern and Contemporary American Poetry  
 EN 304 – Twentieth-Century US Literature

### **2010-13 University of Oxford Final Honors School (final year theses)**

- “Emily Dickinson and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Literature”  
 “William Faulkner and American Modernism”  
 “British Late-Modernist Poetics: Prynne, Crozier, Oliver”  
 “Anglo-Caribbean Diasporic Poetics: Brathwaite and Lamming”  
 “Modernist Ideas of Order: Stevens and Pound”  
 “Object Poetics from H.D. to Zukofsky”

“Philip Roth and Postwar Fiction”

“Responses to *The Waste Land*: Williams and Turner”

“The Literary Game: Nabokov, Johnson, Markson”

### **University of Oxford Visiting Students**

2012 “Literary Theory: Psychoanalysis to Eco-criticism”

2011 “Modern and Contemporary Anglo-Irish Poetry”

### **UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

2017- First-year student faculty advisor, Concordia University

2016-17 Supervisor for four teaching assistants and a research assistant, Concordia University

2014- Peer reviewer for *Textual Practice* and *Glossator: Practice and Theory of the Commentary*

2014-15 Personal tutor for undergraduates, University of Warwick

2013-15 MA thesis advisor, University of Warwick

2013-14 Undergraduate admissions interviewer, University of Warwick

2013 Co-convener, Transatlantic Literature in Context seminar series, University of Oxford, Jan-June

2012-13 Undergraduate mentor, Oriel College, University of Oxford

2012 Undergraduate admissions interviewer, Oriel College, University of Oxford

2010-11 Co-convener, American Literature Graduate Seminar, Rothermere American Institute

### **EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

2016- Editorial board member of *Bloomsbury Studies in Critical Poetics* (General Editor Daniel Katz)

2016- Contributing editor and translator for “Unsilenced” translation series (The Operating System Press – Brooklyn, NY)

2011- Editor and co-founder, *Wave Composition* (wavecomposition.com)

2008- Editor, *The Oxonian Review* (Editor-in-Chief, Jan – Apr 2010; Senior Editor, Dec 2008 – Jan 2010 and Oct 2010 – present; Executive Editor, Apr 2010 – Oct 2010)

2007-08 Editorial Assistant, *Brick: A Literary Journal*

### **LANGUAGES**

Italian; Spanish; French; Yiddish (proficient to near fluent)

Ancient Greek; Biblical Hebrew (reading with dictionary)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Languages Association (MLA); Modernist Studies Association (MSA); American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

## **REFEREES**

Ronald Bush  
Drue Heinz Professor of American Literature,  
Emeritus  
University of Oxford  
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