

Elizabeth Deeds Ermarth

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Professor Elizabeth Ermarth was educated at Carleton College (B.A.), University of California at Berkeley (MA) and University of Chicago (PhD). She has taught at colleges and universities on both sides of the Atlantic (Northwestern, Reed, University of Maryland, Cambridge, Edinburgh), has lectured widely in the US and Europe, and has held several distinguished appointments: Presidential Research Professor, University of Maryland in Baltimore; Saintsbury Professor, University of Edinburgh (UK); Schulze Visiting Professor, University of Northern Colorado; Cox Family Visiting Scholar, University of Colorado at Boulder.

Her scholarship and teaching has been cross-disciplinary and focused on three linked topics: the invention of history and its peculiar definition of time; the role of art in social renewal; and the cultural history and current condition of Eurocentric democracy. She has led special seminars and published four books and many essays on these and related topics.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

The English Novel in History, 1840-1895 (1997) London: Routledge. [Series title] General editor, Gillian Beer (Cambridge). Third in a series of six-volumes.

Sequel to History: Postmodernism and the Crisis of Representational Time (1992) Princeton: Princeton University Press.

George Eliot (1998 rev. ed; 1993; 1985) London and New York: MacMillan. CD Rom, 1996.

Realism and Consensus: Time, Space and Narrative (1998 2nd ed., Edinburgh University Press; 1st ed. Princeton 1983; repr. 1984; paperback 1986).

ARTICLES:

"Ethics and Method" (2004) History and Theory 43:4 (December), 61-83. Special Issue on History and Ethics.

"Agency in the Discursive Condition," (2001) History and Theory 40:4 (December), 34-58.

"Beyond History" (2001) Rethinking History 5:2 (July/August) 195-216. Historical thinking: its cultural history, powers and limitations.

"Beyond the Subject: Individuality in the Discursive Condition" (2000) New Literary History, 31: 3 (Summer), pp. 405-419.

"What Counts as Feminist Theory?" (2000) Feminist Theory 1:1 (April), pp. 113-118.

"Finger Exercises: Parody as Practice for Postmodernity" (1999) European Journal for English Studies (EJES), Ansgar Nunning, ed. Special issue on "Parody" 1999. Reprint in G.R.A.A.T. (Tours/Paris) No. 21 (1999), pp. 177-89. Compares sequence in a film by Jon Jost and a novel by Vladimir Nabokov.

"A Brief History of History," (1998) Anglistentag, 1997, Trier: WVT (Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier). Eds. Raimund Borgmeier, Herbert Grabes, Andreas H. Jucker, pp. 327-36. The cultural conditions in which historical thinking became possible.

"Time and Neutrality: Media of Modernity in a Postmodern World" (1998) Cultural Values Vol. 1, nos. 2-3,

Special Issue on "Time and Value" (June, 1998), 355-67. In book form as Time and Value (1998) Oxford: Blackwell, 355-367. On the emergence of neutral or historical time in post-medieval value systems and on the contemporary challenges to those systems.

"History Speaking," (1998) History and Theory, (February) review essay of Robert Newman (ed.) Century's End, Narrative Means (Stanford Univ. Press, 1996).

"Ph(r)ase Time: Chaos Theory and Postmodern Reports on Knowledge," (1995) Time and Society 4, 1 (February, 1995), pp. 91-110.

"Conspicuous Construction, or, Kristeva, Nabokov, and the Anti-realist Critique," (1988) Novel (Winter-Spring), 330-339. Repr in Why The Novel Matters: A Postmodern Perplex (1990) Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp.348-58.

"George Eliot's Conception of Sympathy," (1985) Nineteenth-Century Fiction, Vol. 40, no. 1 (June), 23-42. Reprinted in Ermarth, George Eliot (1985) Macmillan, 1985, pp.90-107.

"Realism, Perspective, and the Novel," (1981) Critical Inquiry, Vol. 7, no. 3 (Spring), pp. 499-520.

"Method and Moral in George Eliot's Narrative," (1975) Victorian Newsletter no. 47 (Spring), 4-8.

"Incarnations: George Eliot's Conception of `Undeviating Law,'" (1974) Nineteenth-Century Fiction, Vol. 29, no. 3 (December), pp. 273-86. Reprinted in Stuart Hutchinson (ed.) George Eliot: Critical Assessments, Vol 4: Twentieth Century Perspectives from 1970 (1996) East Sussex: Helm, and New York: Routledge.

"Maggie Tulliver's Long Suicide" (1974) Studies in English Literature, Vol. 14, no. 4 (Fall), pp. 587-601.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS:

"Negotiating *Middlemarch*," (2005 in press) in a collection on the novel for Oxford University Press, editor, Karen Chase, University of Virginia.

"The Trouble With History," (2003) in Historisierte Subjekte—Subjektivierte Historie: Zur Verfügbarkeit und Unverfügbarkeit von Geschichte (Historicized Subjects/ Subjectivized History). Eds S.Deines, S.Jaeger & A. Nünning. Berlin and NY: de Gruyter, 109-125.

"Postmodernism and Postmodern novel," "Time in the Novel and Earlier Narrative," "Realism in Narrative," "Vladimir Nabokov," "English novel, 1840-1880," in Encyclopedia of the Novel. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1999.

"Postmodernism," in the Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (1998) Edward Craig, ed. London: Routledge.

"George Eliot and the World as Language" (1997) in George Eliot and Europe (Warwick Studies in the European Humanities), ed. John Rignall. Aldershot, Hants: Scolar Press, pp. 33-44. Reprinted in The Nineteenth-Century Novel: A Critical Reader (2001) London: Routledge and Open University Press.

"The Crisis of Realism in Postmodern Time" (1993) in Realism and Representation, George Levine, ed. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 214-24.

"On Having a Personal Voice," (1993) in Gayle Greene and Coppelia Kahn, eds. Changing Subjects: The Making of Feminist Criticism. New York: Routledge.

"Feminist Theory as a Practice," (1992) in Elizabeth Meese and Alice Parker, eds. Theorizing Feminist Writing Practices. London: John Benjamins.

"Realism and the English Novel," (1990) Encyclopedia of Literature and Criticism, eds. M. Coyle, P.Garside, M.Kelsall, and J.Peck. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul,, pp. 565-575.

"Contemporary Fiction," (1990) Encyclopedia of Literature and Criticism, eds. Martin Coyle, Peter Garside,

Malcolm Kelsall, and John Peck. (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul), pp. 643-652.

"Teaching *Middlemarch* as Narrative," (1990) in Approaches to Teaching Eliot's *Middlemarch*, ed. Kathleen Blake, Series on Masterworks. New York: MLA, pp. 30-38.

"The Solitude of Women and Social Time," (1989) in Taking our Time: Feminist Perspectives on Temporality, eds. F. Forman with C. Jowton (Oxford and New York: Pergamon Press, Athene Series, 1989) pp.37-46.

"'Th'Observed of All Observers': Shakespeare's Audience and George Eliot's Narrator," (1986) Stratford-upon-Avon Studies volume on Nineteenth Century English Novel, ed. Jeremy Hawthorn. London: Edward Arnold, pp. 127-140.

"Fictional Consensus and Female Casualties," (1982) in Representation and Women English Institute Essays, 1981. eds. Carolyn Heilbrun and Margaret Higonnet. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 1-18.

LECTURES:

"The Trouble With History," International Conference on "Historicised Subjects/ Subjectivised History" Giessen, Germany, November 8, 2002 (plenary lecture read in absentia).

"Real Education and How To Get It," Inaugural lecture as Schulze Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies and American Civilization, University of Northern Colorado, 30 March 2000.

"Discursive Time" 1998-99 Humanities Center Lecture Series "Excursions in Time," University of Maryland, Baltimore, March 31, 1999. Brown University, Comparative Literature Department, March 23, 1999.

"Postmodernity and Democracy: The Problem" Opening Plenary, Saintsbury Conference on "Rewriting Democracy: Postmodern Cultural Politics," Edinburgh University, November, 1998.

"The Future of English Studies in a Devolved Scotland," Scottish Committee of Professors of English sponsored conference, St. Andrews University, 21 March 1998.

"After the Subject," Saintsbury Conference on "Writing Life" University of Edinburgh, Oct 31-Nov. 1, 1997

"Parody as Practice for Postmodernity" (on a Nabokov novel and a film by Jon Jost), Stirling University, Scotland, 4 November 1997; Glasgow University, May 1998.

"A Brief History of History," Anglistentag conference plenary, 29 September-2 October 1997, Giessen University (Germany); University of Sheffield, England, 25 February 1997.

"Time and Neutrality: Media of Modernity in a Postmodern World," plenary lecture, conference on "Time and Value," Institute for Cultural Research, Lancaster University, England, 10-13 April 1997.

"Interdisciplinary Research and The State We're In," Inaugural Lecture, Saintsbury Chair, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 21 November 1996.

"After Ideology," plenary lecture for the Routledge Symposium, Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory, University of Wales, Cardiff, 25 May 1996

"George Eliot and the World as Language," plenary lecture, Conference on George Eliot an Europe, Warwick University, England, July 14-16, 1995.

"Reconceiving the Sequence in Victorian Narrative," Victorian Research Group Conference, Cambridge University, 1993, University of Toronto, Canada, April 1994, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, February, 1995

"Feminist Theory and the Crisis of Representation," Cambridge University, England, 26 May, 1993
 Marie-Curie Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland, 19 May 1993
 University of Gothenburg, Sweden, 14 April 1993
 University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 12 March 1993

"Realism and Anti-Realism: Some Implications of Postmodern Reports on Knowledge,"
 University of Warwick, England, 17 March 1993
 University of Leiden, The Netherlands, 11 March 1993
 University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 10 March 1993

"Ph(r)ase Time: Chaos Theory and Postmodern Reports on Knowledge,"
 University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 4 Nov 1994
 Cambridge University, England, 28 April 1993
 Center for Critical and Cultural Theory, Univ. of Wales, College of Cardiff, 8 March 1993

"Figure Meets History in Victorian Narrative,"
 Victorian Studies Center, Keele University, England, 25 January 1993
 Cambridge University, England, 4 May 1993

"The Crisis of Realism in Postmodern Time," Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, Rutgers University, USA Conference on Realism and Representation, November 1989.

"Rationalizing Consciousness: Nineteenth-Century Narrative Realism," Brandeis, March 1989.

"Postmodern Narrative: Time After Time?" Smith College, USA, March 1988.

"Conspicuous Construction," Brown University, USA, April 1987.

"The Problem of Caring for the Patient," Lecture on Ethics and Medicine, University of Maryland Medical School, Baltimore, September 1986.

"Narrative Theory and the Well-Mannered Object," Princeton University, USA, November 1983.

"Feminist Literary Criticism," Conference, English Departments of Sweden, Sanga Saby, May 1982.

"Representation and Women: Consensus," The English Institute, Cambridge MA., September 1981.

SPECIAL SEMINARS:

Member, first of three annual Fernand Braudel seminars on challenges to prevailing modes of knowledge, Immanuel Wallerstein and Richard Lee directors: "Determinism," Stanford University, November 2004.

Director, NEH Faculty Seminar, Humanism and Postmodernism, State University of New York (Potsdam) June 6-10, 1994:

1. "Humanism and Time: A Brief History of History"
2. "Historical Thinking and Liberal Society"
3. "History in Crisis"
4. "Sequels to History: Time as Rhythm"
5. "Humanism and Postmodernism"

Eighteenth-century Novel, Gothenburg University, Sweden, April 1993, and University of Stockholm, Sweden, May, 1982

Postmodern Europe and the United States: Culture in Crisis: six of the 24 lectures in a 2-week team-taught program for senior executives, Dartmouth Institute, Dartmouth College, N. H. July 1991 and July 1992:

1. "The Culture of Representation"
 2. "Newtonian Time and its Political Aspect"
 3. "Surrealism and the Crisis of Historical Thinking"
 4. "The Postmodern Turn"
 5. "Postmodernism and Poststructuralism"
 6. "Postmodernism and Value"
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SELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

University of Edinburgh (UK)

Director, Postgraduate School, Faculty of Arts (1995-98)

Chair, Saintsbury Conference (1997-99)

Founding Director, MSc Degree in "Writing and Cultural Politics" (1995-98)

Chair, Postgraduate Committee (English Department) 1995-98

Conference Director and Organizer:

1. Postmodern Politics, Edinburgh University, March 6-7, 1998. International and interdisciplinary conference on political implications of postmodernism. Participants from politics, literature, philosophy, and social theory departments in Europe, the UK, the UK. Keynote speaker, Slavoj Zizek.

2. Rewriting Democracy: Postmodern Cultural Politics, Fourth Saintsbury Conference, Edinburgh University, November 6-8, 1998. International and interdisciplinary conference on the implications for democratic societies of the postmodern critique. Keynote speakers, Edward Said (on the Middle East); Neil MacCormick, MEP (on Scotland), and Chantal Mouffe (on Europe).

University of Maryland, Baltimore

Chair, Departmental Committee for Graduate Programs 1993-1994

University Faculty Review Committee, 1993-94

President's Commission on the Status of Women 1987-91

Chair, Sub-Committee on Hiring and Retention, 1990-91

Sub-Committee on Sexual Harassment Policy, 1988-90

Provost's Committee on Salary Equity 1987-90

University Initiative on Arts and Humanities Programs

Statewide Steering Committee 1985-86

Chair, Campus Task Force, 1985-87

Founding Director, Humanities Center, University of Maryland Baltimore 1985-87

Convener and Moderator, Inaugural Session Nov. 1985

Chair, Committee for Graduate Program Development, 1985-87

Interdisciplinary PhD in Science and Literature, 1985

Co-Chair, Humanities Forum, 1982-85

Vice Chancellor's Committee on Core Curriculum 1983-84