

CURRICULUM VITAE

VICTOR LI
Associate Professor
Department of English and Centre for Comparative Literature
University of Toronto
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Degrees:

Ph.D. University of Cambridge (Trinity College)
M.A. University of British Columbia
B.A. (Hons) University of British Columbia

RESEARCH:

Publications:

Book:

The Neo-Primitivist Turn: Critical Reflections on Alterity, Culture and Modernity. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006. [Reviews in *Criticism* 49:4 (2007); *Modern Language Review* 103:1 (2008); *ARIEL* 37:4 (2006); *Postcolonial Text* 3:3 (2007); *Politics and Culture* 2 (2008); *University of Toronto Quarterly* 78:1 (Letters in Canada issue, 2009).]

Edited Book:

Border Lines: Contemporary Poems in English. Toronto: Copp Clark, 1995. Co-edited with J. A. Wainwright, George Elliot Clarke et al.

Edited Special Issue of Journal:

“To Make a Difference: A Memorial Tribute to Chelva Kanaganayakam.” Co-edited with Prasad Bidaye. University of Toronto Quarterly 84.4 (2015). 191 pages.

Chapters in Books:

- “‘Haunted by the Aboriginal’: Theory and its Other.” In Anthropology and Alterity: Responding to the Other. Ed. Bernhard Leistle. New York: Routledge (forthcoming).
- “Primitivism and Postcolonial Literature.” In The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature. Vol. 2. Ed. Ato Quayson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. Pp. 982-1005.
- “Marshall Sahlins.” In The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Literary and Cultural Theory, Vol. 3. Ed. M. Keith Booker. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- “Globalization’s Robinsonade: *Cast Away* and Neo-liberal Subject Formation.” In Rerouting the Postcolonial. Eds. Janet Wilson, Cristina Sandru and Sarah Lawson Welsh. London: Routledge, 2010. Pp. 60-71.
- “Toward Articulation: Postcolonial Theory and Demotic Resistance.” In Linked Histories: Postcolonial Studies in a Globalized World. Eds. Pamela McCallum and Wendy Faith. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2005. Pp. 209-230.
- “The Premodern Condition: Neo-primitivism in Baudrillard and Lyotard.” In After Poststructuralism: Writing the Intellectual History of Theory. Eds. Tilottama Rajan and Michael J. O’Driscoll. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002. Pp. 88-109.
- “An Ethics of the Name: Rethinking ‘Globalization.’” In Between Ethics and Aesthetics: Crossing the Boundaries. Eds. Dorota Glowacka and Stephen Boos. Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, 2002. Pp. 195-218.
- “Habermas and the Ethnocentric Discourse of Modernity.” In Constructive Criticism: The Human Sciences in the Age of Theory. Eds. Martin Kreiswirth and Tom Carmichael. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995. Pp. 44-58.
- “The Distinction of Literary Theory.” In Theory Between the Disciplines: Authority/Vision/Politics. Eds. Martin Kreiswirth and Mark Cheetham. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1990. Pp. 61-76.
- “‘The poetry does not matter’: Four Quartets and the Rhetoric of Humility.” In T. S. Eliot Annual 1. Ed. S. Bagchee. London: Macmillan, 1990. Pp. 63-86.
- “Narcissism and the limits of the lyric self.” In Tropic Crucible: Self and Theory in Language and Literature. Eds. Colin Nicholson and Ranjit Chatterjee. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1984. Pp. 3-23.

Articles in Refereed Journals:

“Giorgio Agamben, J. G. Farrell’s *The Singapore Grip*, and the Colonial *Dispositif*.” Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry (forthcoming).

“The Untimely in Globalization’s Time.” Globalizations 13.3 (2016) 256-269 (special issue on “Time and Globalization”).

“Toward an Inoperative Civilization.” ARIEL 45.3 (July 2014): 3-31.

“Necroidealism, or the Subaltern’s Sacrificial Death.” Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies 11.3 (2009): 275-292.

“A Necessary Vigilance: A Response to Torgovnick and Kuper.” Criticism 49:4 (2007; published in 2008): 557-563. Special issue: “After the Cultural Turn.” (Non-refereed review forum on my book, The Neo-primitivist Turn: Critical Reflections on Alterity, Culture, and Modernity, with reviews by Marianna Torgovnick and Adam Kuper together with my response to their reviews).

“Elliptical Interruptions: Or, Why Derrida Prefers *Mondialisation* to Globalization.” CR: The New Centennial Review 7:2 (2007): 141-154. Special issue: “Remainders: Of Jacques Derrida.”

“Violence and Irony in Habermas’s *Verständigung* Thesis.” Phrasis: Studies in Language and Literature 47:1 (2006; published in 2007): 89-106. Special issue: “Literature and the Metonymics of Law.”

“Rationality and Loss: Habermas and the Recovery of the Premodern Other.” Parallax 36/11:3 (2005): 72-86.

“Edward Said’s Untidiness.” Postcolonial Text 1:1 (2004) <http://www.pkp.ubc.ca/pocol>

“Marshall Sahlins and the Apotheosis of Culture.” CR: The New Centennial Review 1:3 (2001): 201-287. (The same issue contains Gananath Obeyesekere, “Response to Victor Li,” 289-298).

“What’s in a name? Questioning Globalization.” Cultural Critique 45 (2000): 1-39.

“T.S. Eliot and the Language of Hysteria.” The Dalhousie Review 77:3 (1997; published 1999): 323-334.

“Theory Is, Theory Ain’t: Resisting Theory.” The Dalhousie Review 74:2 (1994; published 1995): 152-157.

“Towards Articulation: Postcolonial Theory and Demotic Resistance.” Special Issue on Postcolonialism and its Discontents. ARIEL 26:1 (1995): 167-189.

- "Selling Modernism: Resisting Commodification, Commodifying Resistance." English Studies in Canada 19:1 (1993): 35-44.
- "Policing the City: Modernism, Autonomy and Authority." Criticism 34:2 (1992): 261-279.
- "The Rhetoric of Presence: Reading Pound's Cantos I to III." English Studies in Canada 14:3 (1988): 296-309.
- "Philology and Power: Ezra Pound and the Regulation of Language." boundary 2 15:1/2 (1986/87): 187-210.
- "And still she cried': Vivienne Eliot's Pseudonymous Prose Contributions to The Criterion." Prose Studies 10:1 (1987): 72-84.
- "The Vanity of Length: The long poem as problem in Pound's Cantos and Williams' Paterson." Genre 19:1 (1986): 3-20.
- "Theory and Therapy: The Case of T. S. Eliot." Criticism 25:4 (1983): 347-58.

Non-Referred Publications:

Editor's Introduction to Edward Said Commemorative Section in University of Toronto Quarterly 83.1 (2014): 1-2. Also edited commemorative essays solicited from Professors Ella Shohat, Gauri Viswanathan, and Linda Hutcheon.

(With Prasad Bidaye) "Introduction" to "To Make a Difference: A Memorial Tribute to Chelva Kanaganayakam." University of Toronto Quarterly 84.4 (2015): 1-12.

Review Articles:

- "Naming the System: Fredric Jameson's Postmodernism." ARIEL 22:4 (1991): 131-141.
Review of Fredric Jameson's Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism.
- "Reverence or Resistance? Reading Larkin's Poetry." The Dalhousie Review 67: 2/3 (1987): 355-364. Review of Terry Whalen's Philip Larkin and English Poetry.

Reviews:

- Review of Don DeLillo, Underworld. In The Dalhousie Review 76:3 (1996): 445-49.
- Review of Wendy Stallard Flory, The American Ezra Pound. In The Dalhousie Review 69:1 (1990): 145-147.

Review of E. Ann Kaplan, ed., Postmodernism and its Discontents: Theories, Practices. In ARIEL 20:4 (1989), 187-189.

Invited Lectures:

“The Untimely in Globalization’s Time.” Invited Lecture. Division of English, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. April 7, 2014.

“Allegories of Globalization, or Making the World Disappear.” Invited Lecture. Writing and Society Research Centre, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, University of Western Sydney, Australia. March 28, 2014.

“Frames of Globalization, or Making the World Disappear.” Graduate English Association Research Roundtable, Department of English, University of Toronto. November 8, 2013.

“Haunted by the Aboriginal: Theory and its Other.” Invited lecture. International Conference/Workshop on “Anthropology and Otherness,” Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University. November 3, 2013.

Invited respondent to Professor Rita Felski’s pre-circulated paper, “An Inspector Calls.” Law and Humanities Workshop, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. March 14, 2013.

“Framing the World: Globalization as Representation.” Invited Lecture. Institute of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China. June 7, 2012.

“Making the World Disappear: Globalization as Allegory.” Plenary Lecture. CACLALS Conference, Congress 2011. Fredericton, University of New Brunswick, May 30, 2011.

“Globalization Without the World: The Allegorical Imperative.” 2011 Distinguished Visiting Speaker Series. Institute of Globalization and the Human Condition, McMaster University, March 9, 2011.

“Toward an Inoperative Civilization: Agamben, Gadamer, Nancy.” Keynote Speaker, Humanities Research Institute Spring Symposium, Brock University, April 15, 2010.

“Civilization: State of Exception or Dialogical Opening?” Speaker Series, Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of Western Ontario, March 19, 2010.

Invited discussant at the “Religion in the Public Sphere” Workshop. Department and Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, April 3, 2009.

“Primitivism and Postcolonial Literature.” Invited lecture. Contemporary Studies Programme, University of King’s College, Halifax, N.S., March 26, 2009.

“Habermas and Neo-primitivism.” Invited seminar presentation. Department of Philosophy, University of Helsinki, Finland, February 12, 2009.

Invited discussant for a panel on “Primitivism and its Discontents.” Modernist Studies Association 10th Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, November 16, 2008.

“Modernity as White Mythology: Habermas’s Theory of Social Evolution.” Invited plenary lecture at a conference on “Time, History, and Anti-Colonial Critique,” Annual Graduate Conference, Department of English, University of Western Ontario, April 25, 2008.

Invited panelist on “Aesthetics and Politics.” Reelpolitik Film Festival, Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, February 9, 2008.

Invited respondent to keynote lecture by Fredric Jameson on “The Future of Culture, the Future of Utopia.” Inaugural symposium on “The Humanities After Utopia,” Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, December 5, 2007.

“Interdisciplinary Research on Globalization and Autonomy: Challenges and Opportunities.” Invited discussant. MCRI Globalization and Autonomy Project/ Congress 2006, York University. May 30, 2006

“Colonialism and Postcolonialism.” Invited lecture. Foundation Year Programme, University of King’s College. March 26, 2004.

“Habermas’s Subterranean Homesick Blues.” Invited lecture. Contemporary Studies Lecture Series, University of King’s College. February 10, 2003.

“Representations of the City in Modern Literature and Urban Theory.” Invited lecture. Master of Architecture Programme, Faculty of Architecture, Dalhousie University. November 4, 2002.

“The Premodern Condition: Neo-primitivism in Baudrillard and Lyotard.” Invited lecture. Department of Humanities, India Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India. August 10, 2000.

“Edward Said: Between System and Untidiness.” Invited lecture. Division of English Language and Literature, National Institute of Education, Singapore. July 24, 2000.

“Issues of racism and multiculturalism.” Invited lecture. Foundation Year Programme,

University of King's College. April 6, 2000.

"Disorienting Orientalism: From System to Untidiness." Invited lecture. Workshop on "Orientalism Revisited." Aarhus University, Denmark. March 31, 2000.

"The Apotheosis of Culture." Invited lecture. English Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. March 28, 2000.

"The Apotheosis of Culture: Or, How Professor Sahlins Thinks, About Natives For Example." Keynote address. Literatures of the Americas Conference, Department of English, Michigan State University. February 26, 2000.

"The Premodern Condition: Neo-primitivism in Baudrillard and Lyotard." Invited lecture (invited by Professor Rodolphe Gasché). Department of Comparative Literature, State University of New York, Buffalo. Nov. 5, 1998.

"What's in a name? Questioning 'Globalization'." Invited lecture. Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Programme, University of British Columbia. January 7, 1998.

"An Ethics of the Name: Rethinking 'Globalization'." Invited lecture. Lecture series on "Between Ethics and Aesthetics." Institute for Advanced Study, University of King's College. February 20, 1997.

"Reading White Noise in Tinombo, or the project of modernity and its vicissitudes." Invited lecture. Lecture series on Modernity/Postmodernity. Institute for Advanced Study, University of King's College, Halifax. Jan. 28, 1993.

"Walking on the Wild Side: Resisting Commodification, Commodifying Resistance." Invited lecture. Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Nov. 6, 1990.

Conference Papers and Presentations:

"'All peoples are Gypsies and all languages are jargons': Giorgio Agamben, Alice Becker-Ho and the Problem of National Sovereignty." "Mapping Nations, Locating Citizens": An International Conference on Nationalism and Identity. Humber College School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and International Festival of Authors, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, October 30-31 (30 minute paper delivered on Oct. 30).

"From the Floating Signifier to the Remnant: Claude Lévi-Strauss's Role in Giorgio Agamben's Work." "Cosmologies of the Collective" Conference, University of Notre Dame, April 12-14, 2015 (30 minute paper delivered on April 14).

Invited to speak on panel after the showing of Tan Pin Pin's film, To Singapore with Love

(a film banned by the government of Singapore). Asian Institute, University of Toronto, April 2, 2015.

“The Untimely in Globalization’s Time.” Workshop on Time and Globalization, Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition, McMaster University, Sept. 20-21, 2013.

“The Untimely in Globalization’s Time.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference held at the University of Toronto, April 6, 2013.

“Immiscible Times: Globalization and the Untimely in Don DeLillo’s *Cosmopolis*.” Workshop on “Time and Globalization,” Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition, McMaster University, October 19-20, 2012. 8,000 word written paper.

“Diasporas within Diasporas, Identities within Identity.” Asian Diaspora Conference. Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, March 6, 2010.

“Civilization: State of Exception or Horizon of Expectation?” International Conference on Teaching and Learning of World Civilizations. City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. June 21, 2009.

“Primitivism and Postcolonial Literature.” The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature Conference. University of Toronto, September 18, 2008.

“Death and the Subaltern.” 14th Triennial Conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS). University of British Columbia. August 19, 2007.

“Globalization’s Robinsonade: Cast Away and Neo-liberal Subject Formation.” “Rerouting the Postcolonial” Conference. The University of Northampton, U.K. July 4, 2007.

“Why Derrida Prefers *Mondialisation* to Globalization.” “Following Derrida: Legacies” Conference. University of Manitoba. October 4-6, 2006.

“Gayatri Spivak, Friday and the New Immigrant.” ACCUTE Conference/ Congress 2006, York University. May 27-30, 2006.

“Violence and Irony in Habermas’s *Verständigung* Thesis.” Rhetoric, Politics, Ethics Conference. Ghent University, Belgium. April 21-23, 2005.

“Edward Said’s Untidiness.” ACCUTE Conference/Congress 2002 at the University of Toronto. May 28, 2002.

“A Robinsonade for Our Time: Cast Away and the Subject of Globalization.” The

- “Globalities Conference” sponsored by the Comparative Literature Program at Michigan State University. October 18-20, 2001.
- “The Premodern Condition: Postmodern Intellectuals and Primitive Others.” The Republic of Letters Conference, English Faculty, University of Oxford. September 23, 2000.
- “How Professor Sahlins Thinks, About Natives For Example.” English Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University. March 10, 2000.
- “What it is to see.” Panel discussion. President’s Symposium on “Image and Imaging.” Dalhousie University. February 21, 2000.
- “Portraying People: Issues of cultural representation and personal identity.” Panel discussion. Dalhousie Art Gallery. October 31, 1999.
- “The Premodern Condition: Neo-primitivism in Baudrillard and Lyotard.” International Conference on “The Histories of Theory.” Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism. University of Western Ontario. April 17, 1998.
- “Some Problems in Postcolonial Theory.” Seminar paper in the Dept. of French, Dalhousie University. November 26, 1996.
- “Revaluating Canonicity, Resisting Theory.” School of Arts Lecture, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Oct. 12, 1995.
- “Eroding Insularity: The Instability of Identity in David Dabydeen’s Disappearance.” Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Aug. 14-18, 1995.
- “Towards Articulation: Postcolonial Theory and Demotic Resistance.” Conference on “Moving Words, Moving Worlds: Commonwealth and Post-colonial Literatures.” School of English, University of Leeds, U.K. Sept. 1-3, 1994.
- “Postcolonial Criticism in an Age of Globalization.” Regional Workshop on “Poststructuralism/ Postmodernity and International Studies,” Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University, March 11-12, 1994.
- “Is there a Maori word for Postcolonialism?” Dalhousie English Department Colloquium, Jan. 21, 1994.
- “Theory Is, Theory Ain’t: Resisting Theory.” Atlantic University Teachers of English Conference. Acadia University. Oct. 22-23, 1993.
- “Beyond Vigilance: Postcolonial Theory and the Demotic.” The Edmonton Conference: Post-Colonialism-Audiences and Constituencies. University of Alberta. Oct. 1-3,

1993.

"The Ethnocentric Discourse of Modernity." Conference on the Human Sciences in the Age of Theory. Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of Western Ontario. April 1-3, 1993.

"Delivering the Curriculum." ACCUTE/CACE panel. University of Prince Edward Island, May 23-27, 1992.

"Selling Modernism." Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English Conference. University of Prince Edward Island, May 23-27, 1992.

Paper delivered at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences symposium entitled "Should the Canon be Fired?" Dalhousie University, Oct. 10, 1991.

"T.S. Eliot and the Language of Hysteria." Association of Canadian University Teachers of English Conference. Queen's University, May 26-29, 1991.

"Modernism and the Policing of the City." Canadian Association for American Studies Conference. Concordia University, Nov. 1-3, 1990.

"Promoting the Modern: Ezra Pound, Harriet Monroe and the publication of 'Prufrock'." Association of Canadian University Teachers of English Conference. Laval University, May 27-30, 1989.

Respondent to Eloise K. Hay's paper on the epiphanic vision in Eliot's poetry. Conference on "T. S. Eliot as poet, literary critic and theorist in a deconstructed world." University of Toronto's Semiotic Circle and the Centre for American Studies, University of Western Ontario, Sept. 26-29, 1988.

"The Distinction of Literary Theory." Inaugural conference of the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism. University of Western Ontario. April 7-10, 1988.

"'Ainsi tout leur a craqué dans la main': Scepticism and the Renewal of Meaning in The Waste Land." Dalhousie English Dept. Colloquium, Jan. 16, 1987.

"Ezra Pound's Critical Philology: The Discourse of Power." Atlantic University Teachers of English Conference. Université St Anne. Oct. 24-26, 1986.

"On mysterious teapots, incomprehensible aunts and undecipherable umbrellas: or, who needs interpretation anyway?" (A paper on the problems of interpretation using selections from Witold Gombrowicz's Cosmos, Dickens' Little Dorrit and Derrida's Spurs). Department of English Language and Literature Colloquium, National University of Singapore, 1983.

"Theory and Therapy: The Case of T. S. Eliot," Department of English Language and Literature Colloquium, National University of Singapore, 1982.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Editorial Responsibility:

Editor, The University of Toronto Quarterly 2007-2016

Member of the International Advisory Board of the following journals:

CR: The New Centennial Review 2001-

Journal of Postcolonial Writing (formerly World Literature Written in English) 1995-

Asiatic: IIUM Journal of English Language and Literature (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
2010-