
CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

◆ PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT ◆

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE is pleased to announce the recipient of the seventh annual **L. S. Dembo Prize** for the best article published in the journal during the preceding volume year:

Josh Schneiderman, "The New York School, the Mainstream, and the Avant-Garde"

The **L. S. Dembo Prize** honors **Lawrence (Larry) Dembo (1929–2002)**, longtime editor of *Contemporary Literature* and visionary scholar and teacher. Guiding this journal for twenty-four years, Dembo established it as one of the crucial voices in the field—a collective voice marked by philosophical and critical rigor, an openness to the new, and rich, problemingly phrased questions. Many of the now-leading scholars in the field were nurtured under his guidance. The author of five books and the editor of six, Dembo enacted in his critical practice exactly what he called for in this journal—writing international in scope, alert to the past, unintimidated by difficulty, unconstrained by party or poetic affiliation, and linguistically responsive. Two early books—*Hart Crane's Sanskrit Charge: A Study of "The Bridge"* (1960) and *The Confucian Odes of Ezra Pound* (1963)—established the range and rigor of his way of looking at poems. His most important book, *Conceptions of Reality in Modern American Poetry* (1966), with its focus on an "objectivist logic" of language and perception in Ezra Pound and Wallace Stevens, among others, anticipates much now being written about writers in the generations after the moderns. Building on that work, Dembo's dense, challenging interviews with the objectivists George Oppen, Louis Zukofsky, Carl Rakosi, and Charles Reznikoff, published in this journal in 1969, are his most often cited critical contribution. Here, as with so many of the areas he touched, Dembo left behind "what still is / The look of things"—his way of looking now part of the world of words itself.

CONTRIBUTORS

DAVID BABCOCK, assistant professor of English at James Madison University, is the co-editor with Peter Leman of *Law and Literature from the Global South*, a special issue of *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*. He has published articles on professional subjectivity and embodiment in the work of J. M. Coetzee and Michael Ondaatje and is writing a book on the aesthetics of profession in global Anglophone literature.

BRIAN GLAVEY is associate professor of English at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of *The Wallflower Avant-Garde: Modernism, Sexuality, and Queer Ekphrasis* (Oxford, 2016) and has published articles on Modernism, queer theory, and contemporary poetry and poetics. He is currently writing a book titled "The Poetics of Oversharing."

FINOLA ANNE PRENDERGAST is a doctoral candidate in the department of English at the University of Notre Dame. She received a graduate student fellowship from the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study (NDIAS) and is writing a dissertation titled "Science Fiction and Moral Discourse in Contemporary U.S. Literature."

NICOLE RIZZUTO, associate professor of English at Georgetown University, is the author of *Insurgent Testimonies: Witnessing Colonial Trauma in Modern and Anglophone Literature* (Fordham, 2016). She has published articles on modernism, postcolonial literature, trauma, and witnessing. She is currently writing a book titled "Arrested Forms: Stasis and Movement in Literary and Visual Modernities."

DAVID J. VÁZQUEZ, associate professor of English at the University of Oregon, is the author of *Triangulations: Narrative Strategies for Navigating Latino Identity* (Minnesota, 2011) and co-editor with Sarah D. Wald, Priscilla Ybarra, and Sarah Jacquette Ray of *Latinx Literary Environmentalisms: Justice, Place, and the Decolonial* (forthcoming from Temple). He has published articles on Jesus Colón, Julia Alvarez, and Latinx studies and ecocriticism. He is writing a book titled "Latinx Literature and the Cross-Currents of U.S. Environmentalism."

ANNA VEPRINSKA holds a PhD in English from York University, Canada, and an MA in English from the University of Oxford. She wrote her doctoral dissertation on empathetic dissonance in poetry after the Holocaust, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and Hurricane Katrina. She has published a book of poems titled *Sew with Butterflies* and an article on Anna Akhmatova and translation. She is a recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council doctoral award and the A. C. Silber Award for Holocaust and East European Studies.

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John Jay College of Criminal Justice,
City University of New York

A trailblazing modernist, Gertrude Stein studied psychology at Radcliffe with William James and went on to train as a medical doctor before coming out as a lesbian and moving to Paris, where she collected contemporary art and wrote poetry, novels, and libretti. Known as a writer's writer, she has influenced every generation of American writers since her death in 1946 and remains avant-garde.

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Contemporary Literature publishes scholarly essays on contemporary writing in English, interviews with established and emerging authors, and reviews of recent critical books in the field. The journal welcomes articles on multiple genres, including poetry, the novel, drama, creative nonfiction, new media and digital literature, and graphic narrative. *Contemporary Literature* published the first articles on Thomas Pynchon and Susan Howe and the first interviews with Margaret Drabble and Don DeLillo; and also helped to introduce Kazuo Ishiguro, Eavan Boland, and J.M. Coetzee to American readers. As a forum for discussing issues animating the range of contemporary literary studies, *Contemporary Literature* features the full diversity of critical practices. The editors seek articles that frame their analysis of texts within larger literary historical, theoretical or cultural debates.

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ISSN: 0010-7484
e-ISSN: 1548-9949
Published four times per year

SUMMER 2017 • VOLUME 58 • NUMBER 2

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◆ COMING IN ◆

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◆ VOL. 58, NO. 4, WINTER 2017 ◆

"An interview with Viet Thanh Nguyen," conducted by
Michael LeMahieu and Angela Naimou

"A Leap Out of Our Biology: History, Tautology, and Biomatter
in Don DeLillo's Later Fiction," by Peter Boxall

"Addressing 'Alien Worlds': Publics and Persons in the Writing
of Jack Spicer," by Scott Challenor

"Emotional Storm: Weathering Toxic Feeling in Edward
St. Aubyn's Patrick Melrose Novels," by John Owen Havard

"The Conglomerate Era: Publishing, Authorship, and Literary
Form, 1965–2007," by Dan N. Sinykin

Reviews by Madhumita Lahiri and Gayle Rogers