

CHRISTOPHER GROBE

*Assistant Professor of English
Amherst College*

EDUCATION

Yale University, PhD in English Literature, 2011.

Yale University, MA, MPhil in English Literature, 2008.

Yale University, BA in English & Theater Studies, 2005.
Magna cum laude, with distinction in each major

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of English, Amherst College
July 2011 - present

Instructor, Yale University, English Department
2009-2010 (Teaching Fellow, 2008-2009)

CURRENT BOOK PROJECTS

Performing Confession: From Robert Lowell to Reality TV (forthcoming, NYU Press)

India & After: the lost monologue of Spalding Gray (editorial project in progress)

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED
ESSAYS & CHAPTERS “Advertisements for Themselves: Confessional Poetry and the Arts of Publicity,”
American Literature in Transition, 1950-1960, ed. Steven Belletto & Daniel Grausam
(forthcoming, Cambridge University Press)

“On Book: The Performance of Reading” (forthcoming, *NLH*)

“From the Podium to the Second Row: The Vanishing Feel of an Anne Sexton Reading” (essay) & “The Anne Sexton ‘Reading Poems’” (edited collection of fan poetry) in *The Business of Words: Reassessing Anne Sexton*, ed. Amanda Golden (forthcoming, University of Florida Press)

“Why It’s ‘Easier to Act with a Telephone than a Man,’” *Theatre Survey* 57.2 (May 2016): 175-199.

“Every Nerve Keyed Up: ‘Telegraph Plays’ and Networked Performance, 1850-1900,” *Theater* 46.2 (June 2016): 7-33.

“The Breath of the Poem: Confessional Print/Performance circa 1959,” *PMLA* 127.2 (March 2012): 215-30.

“Love and Loneliness: Secular Morality in the Plays of Conor McPherson”
Excerpted in *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama* (2008).
Orig. in *The Princeton University Library Chronicle*, October 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

- INVITED ESSAYS & REVIEWS Review of *Bodies on the Line: Performance and the Sixties Poetry Reading* (forthcoming, *New England Quarterly*)
- Review of *American Poetry in Performance*. *Modern Drama* 55.4 (January 2013).
- “Refined Mechanicals, or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Share the Stage” (review essay), *Theater* 42.2 (June 2012): 139-46.
- “Canonical Improvisations: The Case of *Them*” (short-form essay), *Theater* 41.2 (2011): 5-7.
- “Twice Real: Marina Abramovic and the Performance Archive” (review essay), *Theater* 41.1 (2011): 104-13.
- POPULAR PRESS “The Case of the Missing Detective: William Gillette’s Sherlock Holmes Rediscovered and Restored,” essay for *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 4 Jan. 2016. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/the-case-of-the-missing-detective-william-gillettes-sherlock-holmes-rediscovered-and-restored>
- “Hollywood Calling: Luise Rainer, Sally Hawkins, and the First Law of Telephone Scenes,” essay for *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 14 Jan. 2015. <http://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/hollywood-calling-luise-rainer-sally-hawkins-first-law-telephone-scenes>
- “Lending an Ear,” review essay for *Public Books*, 1 May 2014. <http://www.publicbooks.org/artmedia/lending-an-ear>
- “Memoir 2.0; or, Confession Gone *Wild*,” review essay for *Public Books*, 18 March 2013. <http://www.publicbooks.org/fiction/memoir-20-or-confession-gone-wild>
- The New Haven Independent* (head theater critic, 2007-2008)
- The Village Voice* (contributing theater critic, 2008-2010)

INVITED TALKS

- AMHERST/
FIVE COLLEGE “On Book: The Performance of Reading,” University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *Rhythm & Intonation on the Page* (Symposium for the Study of Teaching & Writing), July 2014.
- “Self-Consciousness Raising,” Amherst College, December 2012.
- ELSEWHERE “Of TV Actors and Technodollies,” symposium on “Acting as Technology,” Department of Theatre & Dance, SUNY-Buffalo, October 2015.
- “Why It’s ‘Easier to Act with a Telephone than a Man,’” Institute for Performance Studies at Yale (IPSY), Yale University, October 2015.
- “Performance and Media,” Rutgers University, *Performance And...* (symposium), October 2015.
- “On Book,” Modernism Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, February 2015.
- “Why It’s ‘Easier to Act with a Telephone than a Man,’” American Literature Colloquium, English Department, Harvard University, October 2015.
- “The Art of the Breakthrough: Poetry, Comedy, Confession,” *Post45* (conference), Stanford University, November 2012.

INVITED TALKS

"The Scandal of the Poet's Speaking Body," Theory & Media Studies Colloquium, Yale University, March 2009.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Realist Actor Is Transmedial," working session on "Theater and Transmedia," American Society for Theater Research, Minneapolis, MN, November 2016.

"Playing with TechnoDollies in *Orphan Black*, or, The TV Actress and Other Technologies," seminar on *Orphan Black*, American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, March 2016.

"Being Onstage, 'Subconsciously': The Telephone and Realist Acting," panel on "Media and the Unconscious," Modern Language Association, Austin, TX, January 2016.

"*India & After*: How to Publish an Improvisation," roundtable on "Spalding Gray's Posthumous Publics," Modern Language Association, Austin, TX, January 2016.

"Forms of Feminist Talk: Performance Art and CR," seminar on "Forms of Talk," American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, WA, April 2015.

"Irony-Machines and Telephone Scenes," working session "Technology Performs," American Society for Theater Research, Baltimore, MD, November 2014.

"Earl Warren, Performance Theorist: Autobiography after *Miranda*," panel on "The Pain and Pleasure of Autobiographical Expression," American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014.

"Centering the Margins: The Poetry Performances of Anne Sexton and Her Fans," seminar on "Performances on the Periphery," American Comparative Literature Association, New York University, April 2014.

"Every Nerve Keyed Up: 'Telegraph Plays' and the Networked Theater of the 19th Century," working session on "Theater in the Global Nineteenth Century," American Society for Theater Research, Dallas, TX, November 2013.

"A Stage History of Consciousness," Panel on "Playing with Ideas," Association for Theater in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, August 2013.

"Introduction: Intimate Mediations," seminar on "Intimate Mediations," American Comparative Literature Association, U. Toronto, April 2013.

"Breakthrough: Poetry, Comedy, Confession," *Poetry/Performance* symposium, Amherst College, November 2012.

"Poetry, Comedy, Confession," panel on "Poetry/Performance," Modernist Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV, October 2012.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Looking at Readings, or, The Stage Presence of Paper,” seminar on “Reading Aloud,” Modernist Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV, October 2012.

“On Book: Scriptive Texts in Performance,” panel on “Inscription and Performance,” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA, January 2012.

Roundtable, “Voice in Theory / Voice in Practice,” Association for Theater in Higher Education, Chicago, IL, August 2011.

“Hacking the Dictionary: The Media of Autobiography in Spalding Gray’s *India & After*,” panel on “Lexicography Literature,” Modern Language Association, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011.

“The Multimedia Performance of Confessional Poetry,” panel on “Naked Print, or How to Read a Print-Performance and Why,” Association for Theater in Higher Education, Los Angeles, CA, August 2010.

“Print-Public/Performance-Public: Spalding Gray’s *Interviewing the Audience*, on Tour,” panel on “Private Stories for Public Performance,” Performance Studies International, Toronto, ON, June 2010.

“From ‘Autoperformance’ to *YouTube*: Theorizing the Confessional Performance,” Panel on “Biographical Spectacle,” Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, February 2009.

COURSES DEVELOPED

AMHERST English 115, “Novels, Plays, Poems” (Fall 2011, Fall 2013)

English 231, “Reading Small Drama” (Spring 2012, Spring 2014)

English 232, “Reading Drama” (Fall 2012)

English 329, “The Poetics of Performance” (Fall 2011, Fall 2012)

English 338, “Shakespeare” (Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015)

English 435, “The Play of Ideas” (Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2016)

First-Year Seminar 121, “The World, Performed” (Fall 2015)

Mellon Research Colloquium 245, “Archival Research in Drama: The Samuel French Collection” (Spring 2016)

Mellon Research Colloquium 339, “American Performance Culture circa 1900” (Spring 2013)

YALE English 114, “Spill Your Guts: Confession, Coercion, and the Individual in American Law & Culture” (writing-intensive seminar)

English 388 / Theater Studies 290, “The Poetics of Performance” (co-taught with Joseph Roach)

THESES ADVISED

2012-2013 Sarah Daly, “Two Inches of Ivory: The Narrowness of Jane Austen” (*cum laudè*)

THESES ADVISED

- 2013-2014 Elizabeth Alexander, *My Weak Frame* (digital essay on trauma, performance, and the posthuman; *summa cum laude*)
Danica Richards, *Interference* (creative writing thesis, drama; *cum laude*)
- 2016-2017 Sophie Murguia (thought experiments in fiction and philosophy)
Kendall Simms (personification of books)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- COMMITTEES* Member, Sexual Respect Task Force, Amherst College, 2015-present.
Member, Advisory Board, Amherst College Center for Humanistic Inquiry, 2014-present.
Member, Amherst College Alpha Delta Phi Committee, 2013-2014.
Member, Amherst College Committee on Health and Safety, 2012-2014.
- LEADERSHIP* Director, Five College Faculty Seminar on Performance Studies (aka 5Perform), 2013-2014.
Director, Mellon-Funded Five College Student-Faculty Research Seminar, *Poetry/Performance*, June-July 2012.
- GRANTS* with Mike Kelly, Director of Archives and Special Collections: Council on Library and Information Resources, Hidden Collections Grant (\$144,300) (two-year project to catalogue and preserve Amherst College's Samuel French Theater Archives)
- EVENTS* Organizer, lectures and events on theater history, in association with Mellon Research Colloquium 339. Sharon Marcus (January 2013), Marc Robinson (February 2013), Derek Miller (February 2013), Charlotte Canning (April 2013).
Organizer, *Poetry/Performance*, conference with keynotes by visiting scholars, two performances by visiting artists, and talks by Five College and other regional faculty, November 2012.
Organizer, *This Verse Business*, performance in honor of the 50th anniversary of Robert Frost's death and of Amherst College's Frost Library, November 2012.
Organizer, classroom visits (in English and Theater) and performance of Gertrude Stein's *Plays* by David Greenspan (April 2012).

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Research Grant, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA, Spring 2014.
(for work with the Eleanor Antin Collection)
- Research Fellowship, Harry Ransom Center, U. Texas-Austin, Summer 2013.
(for work with the Anne Sexton and Spalding Gray Collections)
- Departmental Prize for Best Dissertation, English Department, Yale University, 2012.
- Whiting Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities, 2010-2011.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Whitney Humanities Center Fellowship, Yale University, 2010-2011.

Veech Prize in Literary Criticism, 1st Place, Yale English Department, 2008.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association

American Society for Theater Research

American Comparative Literature Association

American Studies Association

Association for Theater in Higher Education