

Dr. Barry Laga

Professor of English

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Education

1997 Ph. D., English, Purdue University, Indiana.

Dissertation: "Posthistory: Negating and Negotiating Representations of History."

Director: Dr. Patrick O'Donnell.

1990 M.A., English, Brigham Young University, Utah.

Thesis: "Subverting the Victorian World of Fairy: A Sociohistorical Critique of George MacDonald's Fairy Tales." Director: Dr. Steven Walker.

1988 B.A., English/English Ed. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

NCATE (Secondary Education Accreditation) for English and French

Fields of Specialization and Interest

- American Literature: Origins to Present
- Ethnic American Literature
- Literary and Cultural Theory
- Modern and Contemporary American Fiction
- Postmodern Literature and Culture
- Film History and Theory
- Native American Literature
- Composition

Academic Appointments

2011-present: Department Head: Literature, Languages, & Mass Communications

Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO

2007-2011: Professor of English

Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO

2002-2007: Associate Professor of English

Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO

2002: Fulbright Scholar

Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen and Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium

1997-2002 Assistant Professor of English

Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO

1991-1997: Graduate Instructor

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

1990-1991: Instructor

Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT

Courses Taught

- Senior Seminar: Difficult Texts
- Senior Seminar: American Immigration Narratives
- Ethnic Experiences in US Literature
- Twentieth-Century American Literature
- American Literature: Origins to Late 19th Century
- American Literature: Late 19th Century to Present
- Postmodern Culture
- Major Authors: William Faulkner
- Introduction to Literary Theory
- History of Literary Theory and Criticism
- Fairy Tales, Ideology, and the Political Unconscious
- Introduction to Fiction
- Deconstructing Disney
- Introduction to Literature
- Sports and Literature
- Introduction to Film Studies
- Cinema and the Arts
- Breakthrough Cinema
- Literary Language and Everyday Life
- Adolescent Literature
- Politics of Fairy Tales
- Advanced Professional Writing
- Advanced Expository Writing
- Honors Writing
- Introductory Writing I & II
- Online Composition
- Basic Writing

Refereed Publications

“In Lieu of History: Mormon Monuments and the Shaping of History.”

Dialogue 43.4 (2010): 131-153.

“Making the Absent Visible: The Real, Ideal, and the Abstract in Religious Art.”

Dialogue 40.2 (2007): 47-77.

“Cultivating Identities: Reflections on Mormon Root Metaphors.”

Sunstone. March/2004. 32-39.

“Maus, Holocaust, and History: Redrawing the Frame.”

Arizona Quarterly 57.1 (2001): 61-90.

“Decapitated Spectators: Posthistory, *Barton Fink*, and Cinematic Pleasure.”

Postmodernism in the Cinema. Ed. Cristina Degli-Esposti. Providence: Berghahan Books. 1998. 181-201.

“A Postmodern Quest for More Discourse: Gerald Vizenor’s *Heirs of Columbus*.”

American Indian Quarterly 18. 1 (Winter 1994): 71-86.

**Un-refereed
Publications**

Review of *The Jewish Graphic Novel*.

Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies. 29.2 (2011): 169-71.

Review of *Comics as Philosophy*.

MELUS 32.3 (2007): 308-309.

“Weaving a Novel Nation: Metaphors of Belonging.”

Fulbright at Fifty. Ed. Rudiger Kunow. University of Potsdam. 2002.

Review of Kimberly M. Blaeser’s *Gerald Vizenor: Writing in the Oral Tradition*.

Mid-America Folklore. 25.1 (1997): 40-41.

Review of Gerald Vizenor’s *Manifest Manners*.

American Indian Quarterly 20.1 (Winter 1996): 119-121.

Review of Gerald Vizenor’s *Shadow Distance*.

American Indian Quarterly 20.1 (Winter 1996): 121-123.

**Publications in
Circulation**

“Layers of Possibilities in Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Tree of Codes*.”

Submitted for publication

Conference Presentations

"Monuments and Museums: Representing the Holocaust in Berlin."

Rocky Mountain European Scholars Consortium. University of Utah, October, 2012
(Forthcoming)

"Defying the Digital: Making Sense of Jonathan Safran Foer's *Tree of Codes*."

Conference on Adaptation and Transformation. University of Western Georgia.
2011.

"Circumscribing Meaning: Mediating Religious Experience."

Sunstone Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah. 2011

"The New Cosmopolitanism."

U of West Virginia Philology Colloquium, Morgantown, WV, Oct 1-2. 2010

"Out of Context: Rewriting Religious Narratives."

Sunstone Conference, SLC, August 5-7. 2010

"Universals and Particulars in Charles Johnson's *Middle Passage*."

Cultural Studies Association, Kansas City, April 2009.

"Mormon Monuments."

Sunstone Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah. August 2009.

"Are We There Yet? Nomads, Wanderers, and Post-foundationalism."

College English Association, St. Louis, 2008.

"Boring (Through) Students"

Sunstone Conference, Salt Lake City, 2009.

"Memory, Memorials, and Monuments"

Southwest Texas Conference on Pop Culture and American Culture, Albuquerque, NM. February 2007.

"Countering Memory: Peter Eisenman's Berlin Holocaust Memorial."

Rocky Mountain European Scholars Consortium. BYU, October, 2006

"Crossing the Creative/Critical Divide."

Aims Community College Conference on Communications, April, 2006.

"Frontier Transgression: The New Nomads and the American Cowboy."

International American Studies Association. Ottawa, Canada. August 2005.

"Tame Transgression."

MELUS. Chicago, Illinois. April 2005.

“Invention and Heuristics in Critical Theory Courses.”

College Composition and Communications. San Antonio. March 2004.

“Romanticizing Nowhere: The New Nomads and the Quest for Transcendence.”

Arts and Humanities Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii. January 2004.

“Weaving a Novel Nation”: America as Transnational Community.”

International American Studies Association. University of Leiden. Leiden, Netherlands. May 2003.

“Reviving the Progymnasmata.”

Conference on Best Practices. Colorado Conference on College English. University of Colorado, Greeley. Greeley, Colorado. April, 2003.

“Trans-National Metaphors.”

Transnational Cultures: Globalization and the United States at the Turn of the Century. University of Potsdam, Germany. June 7, 2002.

“Teaching ‘The Yellow Wall-Paper.’”

Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg. Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, April 16, 2002, and Royal Library. Brussels, Belgium. April 17, 2002.

“Decoding Disney’s The Jungle Book.”

Conference on American Institutions. Higher Institute for Translation & Interpretation, Antwerp, Belgium. April 23, 2002.

“Decoding Disney’s The Jungle Book.”

Conference on American Studies. Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium. January 29, 2002.

“The Line Between Disdain and Exploration: Building a Community of Experimental Writers.”

Conference on College Composition and Communication. Denver, Colorado. March 15, 2001.

“Blurring Boundaries: Mystory and Academic Discourse.”

University of Iowa Conference on Craft, Critique, and Culture: Writing in the Academy. Iowa City, Iowa. September 2000.

“Redeeming the Dead: Memory and the Holocaust.”

University of Wyoming Conference on Autobiography and Biography. Laramie, Wyoming. June, 1998.

“Gerald Vizenor and His Appropriation of the Western Outlaw.”

West Virginia University Conference on Literature and Film. “Twentieth-Century Retrospective: Critical Theory Examines a Hundred Years of Literature and Film.” West Virginia University, October, 1997.

“How Do We Bring About the Past? Reconceptualizing History in Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale.”

West Virginia University Conference on History. “The Uses of History in Fiction and Film.” West Virginia University, October, 1996.

“Decapitated Spectators: Posthistory, Barton Fink, and Cinematic Pleasure.”

Indiana Teachers of English Conference. “Theory in the Classroom.” Andersen University, Andersen, IN, October, 1995.

“Playing Cat and Maus with History: Art Spiegelman’s Reconceptualization of the Holocaust.”

20th Century Literature Conference. Panel on “Holocaust Drama and Biography.” University of Louisville, February, 1995.

“Is It Real or Reel? Barton Fink and the War on Totality.”

Kent State University Cinema Conference. “The Cinema and the Postmodern.” Kent State University, October, 1994.

“Is Postmodernism Canary Yellow? The Simpsons’s Animated Critique of American Culture,”

Emory University/Institute of Liberal Arts National Graduate Student Conference on Cultural Studies. “Bodies of Theories: Reading and Writing the Desiring Machine.” Emory University, February, 1993.

Awards

Fulbright Scholar: University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

September 1 - August 1, 2013-14

Mesa State College Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching, Scholarship, and Service.

Mesa State College, May 2003.

Fulbright Scholar: Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium.

January 1- June 30, 2002.