

## JESSICA PRESSMAN

American Council of Learned Societies, Fellow  
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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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#### **American Council of Learned Societies Fellow**

Collaborative Research Fellow, 2012-2013

#### **University of California, San Diego**

Visiting Scholar, Literature Department, July 2011-present  
Lecturer, Sixth College, Winter 2013

#### **Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut**

Assistant Professor, English Department, July 2008- 2012

#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

Lecturer, English Department, 2007-2008

#### **Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island**

Visiting Lecturer, Modern Culture and Media Department, Spring 2007

### EDUCATION

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#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

Ph.D. in English, June 2007

#### **Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts**

B.A. English and American Literature, Women's Studies, May 1997  
*Summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Highest Departmental Honors

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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- Digital Literature
- Media Theory and Media History
- The History of the Book
- Experimental Narrative
- 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American Literature
- Modernism

**AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

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- American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)** 2012-2013  
 Recipient of Collaborative Research Fellowship, for “Transmedial Collaboration: Literary criticism as Digital Humanities Scholarship” with Mark C. Marino and Jeremy Douglass
- Morse Fellowship, Yale University** 2011-2012  
 Yearlong research-leave to complete research on second book project
- Sarai Ribicoff Teaching Excellence Award, Yale College** 2010  
 Awarded to a member of the Yale College faculty in the humanities “whose instruction and character reflect the qualities of independence, innovation, and originality.”
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences Visiting Scholars Postdoctoral Fellowship**  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts (Declined) 2007-2008
- Distinguished Dissertation Award, UCLA Graduate Division’s Humanities** 2007  
 Chancellor’s Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division 2006-2007  
 UC Humanities Research Institute Summer Scholarship 2006  
 Beverly Berg Dissertation Fellowship 2004-2005  
 Departmental Nominee for UCLA Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award 2004  
 Outstanding Teaching Award 2004-2005

**RESEARCH**

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**BOOKS (in progress and in production)**

*Digital Modernism: Making it New in New Media* (forthcoming from Oxford University Press, Modernist Literature and Culture series, 2013). Charts a genealogy between contemporary digital literature and literary modernism that renovates literary history and the traditional critical practice of close reading.

*Bookishness: 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Literature and the Literary in the Digital Age* examines how twenty-first-century literature, print and digital, and literary culture more broadly responds to the threat of an increasingly paperless and multimodal society.

*Transversal Reading, a Case Study of William Poundstone’s “Project for the Tachistoscope: [Bottomless Pit].”* Co-written with Mark C. Marino and Jeremy Douglass (under contract with University of Iowa Press, Contemporary North American Poetry Series). The book presents a case study of collaborative interpretation for digital poetics and digital humanities scholarship by weaving together three different methodological approaches—close reading onscreen aesthetics, critical code studies, and data visualizations—into a close reading of a single born-digital literary work.

**EDITED COLLECTIONS**

*Comparative Textual Media: Transforming the Humanities in the Postprint Era* with N. Katherine Hayles (Forthcoming from University of Minnesota Press, Electronic Mediations Series, 2013). Collects essays by a wide variety of scholars who analyze text across diverse media formats and historical periods to argue that literary criticism should reconsider how the study of text is a study of media.

*Digital Humanities Quarterly: Special Issue, "The Literary"* with Lisa Swanstrom (forthcoming, 2013). What is the relationship between literary study and the digital humanities, and what should it be? This issue collects essays consider the study of literature and the category of the literary to be an essential part of the digital humanities.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS**

"Machine Poetry and Reading Machines: William Poundstone's Electronic Literature and Bob Brown's Readies." *American Literary History*, 23. 4 (Winter 2011).

"The Aesthetic of Bookishness in 21st-Century Literature: Steven Hall's *The Raw Shark Texts*." *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, 48.4 (Fall 2009).

"Charting the Shifting Seas of Electronic Literature's Past and Present" and Microfolio editor for tenth anniversary issue of *Drunken Boat* (July 2009). Online at <http://www.drunkenboat.com>.

"The Strategy of Digital Modernism: Young-hae Chang Heavy Industries's *Dakota*." *Modern Fiction Studies* 54.2 (Summer 2008).

"Reading the Code Between the Words." *Dichtung-Digital*. Special Issue: "New Perspectives on Digital Literature." Eds. Astrid Ensslin and Alice Bell. No. 37 (2007). Online at <http://www.dichtung-digital.com>

"*House of Leaves*: Reading the Networked Novel." *Studies in American Fiction*. 34.1 (Spring 2006).

"The Very Essence of Poetry: Judd Morrissey and Lori Talley's *My Name is Captain, Captain*." *The Iowa Review Web*. 5.2 (2003). Online at [http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/tirweb/feature/morrissey\\_talley/index.htm](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/tirweb/feature/morrissey_talley/index.htm)

"Flying Blind: An Interview with Judd Morrissey and Lori Talley." *The Iowa Review Web*. 5. 2 (2003). Online at [http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/tirweb/feature/morrissey\\_talley/index.html](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/tirweb/feature/morrissey_talley/index.html)

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

“The Impact of Old Media on New Media.” *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media and Textuality*. Eds. Lori Emerson, Benjamin Robertson, Marie-Laure Ryan. (forthcoming from Johns Hopkins UP, 2013).

“Whither American Fiction?” *Cambridge Companion to American Fiction After 1945*. Ed. John Duvall. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

“Modern Modernisms: Young-hae Chang Heavy Industries and Digital Modernism.” *Pacific Rim Modernisms*. Eds. Steve Yao, Mary Ann Gillies, and Helen Sword (University of Toronto Press, December 2009).

“Don’t Close Your Eyes: The Flash-ing Art of Young-hae Chang Heavy Industries.” General Catalogue Essay, National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens, Greece December 2008-March 2009.

“Navigating Electronic Literature” for online pedagogical companion to N. Katherine Hayles’s *Electronic Literature: New Horizons for the Literary* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2008). Online at <http://newhorizons.eliterature.org/beta47/index.php>

“Nano Narrative: A Parable from Electronic Literature.” *NanoCulture: Implications for the New Technoscience*. Ed. N. Katherine Hayles. Intellect Books, 2004.

**Selected LECTURES, CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS**

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**INVITED LECTURES**

“The Book is Not the Center: *Between Page and Screen*, Augmented Digital Poetics, and New Literacies,” USC, April 1, 2013

The Book is Not the Center: *Between Page and Screen*, Augmented Digital Poetics, and New Literacies,” Iowa Center for the Book, February 22, 2013

“Electronic Literature: Literary Studies in/of the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century,” Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, February 21, 2013

“It’s Alive!” *Tree of Codes’s* *Zombie Aesthetic*,” University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands November 7, 2012

“*Between Page and Screen*, an Augmented-Reality Book, and What it Says about Books in the Digital Age,” Utrecht University, The Netherlands, November 5, 2012

“Bookishness in Contemporary Literature,” Back to the Book Symposium, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, May 28-30, 2012

“Digital Literacy: New Ways of Reading, Writing, and Knowing in the Digital Age,” Pacific Hills High School, West Hollywood, CA, October 26, 2011

“Digital Literature and Digital Modernism: New Literature and Literary Tradition.” Yale Family Weekend Lecture, Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 22, 2010

“Digital Modernism: Making it New in New Media,” HUMlab, Umeå University, Sweden, October 12, 2010

“Bookishness & Digital Literature,” Beinecke Lectures in the History of the Book Series, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 29, 2010

“The Aesthetic of Bookishness in 21st-Century Literature,” Bookishness in the Digital Age Symposium, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, May 15, 2009

“New Literacies,” Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, New York, New York, March 27, 2009

“Designing Digital Assignments,” The Yale Collaborative Learning Center Teaching with Technology, Yale University, March 24, 2009

“Electronic Literature: An Introduction and Invitation,” National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens, Greece, February 26, 2009

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Teaching Digital Poetics &/as Archiving,” Beyond the Text: Literary Archives in the 21st Century, Yale University Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, April 26-27, 2013

“Electronic Literature: A Challenge to and Case Study of Canonicity,” Canonical Forms in Evolution: an inter-disciplinary conference, UCSD, February 12, 2013

“Printed Books, Digital Poetics, and the Aesthetic of Bookishness,” SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing), Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, January 3, 2013

“Electronic Literature & the Book,” Post 45 Conference, Cleveland, OH, April 29-30, 2011

“The Tachistoscope and Digital Literature,” Modern Language Association, Los Angeles, CA, January 7, 2011

“Intersecting Approaches to Electronic Literature: Close-Reading Code, Content, and Cartographies in William Poundstone’s ‘Project for the Tachistoscope: [Bottomless Pit]’” with Mark C. Marino and Jeremy Douglass, Electronic Literature Organization Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI, June 3-6, 2010

Invited Speaker and Moderator: “The State of the Archive: Authors, Scholars, and Curators on Archiving Electronic Literature,” Electronic Literature Organization Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI, June 3-6, 2010

Moderator, “Literary Arts Roundtable,” DAC (Digital Arts and Culture) Conference, UC Irvine, CA, December 14, 2009

“21st-Century Modernism: Digital Stream of Consciousness,” Post45 Conference, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, November 7-9, 2008

Invited Speaker, “Interrupt” Symposium on Electronic Writing, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, October 17-18, 2008

“Mapping out Spaces for E-Lit Criticism,” Electronic Literature Organization Conference, Vancouver, Washington, May 29- June 1, 2008

“Remediating the Modern/Modernist Novel: Judd Morrissey’s Digital Modernist Remix,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 27-30, 2007

“Exploring Electronic Literature,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 27-30, 2007

“Multimedia Modernism” Seminar Leader, Modernist Studies Association, Long Beach, California, November 1-4, 2007

“The Readies and Digital Readings,” Modernist Studies Association, Long Beach, California, November 1-4, 2007

“The Revolution and Evolution of Flash-ing Literature: Bob Brown’s Readies and Young-hae Chang Heavy Industries,” Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts, New York City, November 9-12, 2006

“New Criticism and New Media: Close Reading Digital Literature and Digital Modernism,” Modernist Studies Association, Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 19-22, 2006

## **CONFERENCES, COLLOQUIA, EVENTS ORGANIZED**

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### **Digital Humanities Research Group & Speaker Series, UCSD (2012-2013)**

Organize and facilitate monthly discussions with faculty from UCSD and other campuses on the topic of the “digital humanities.” Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities at UCSD.

### **Yale Media Theory & History Graduate Conference, Yale University (April 22-23, 2011)**

Faculty Organizer

Advised graduate students in organizing the first-ever graduate conference on the topic of media studies at Yale. This event was the culmination of the faculty-based initiative, Yale’s Media Theory & History Initiative, which I ran from 2008-2012.

<http://mediaconference.commons.yale.edu>

**Digital Literary Arts Extravaganza at DAC (Digital Arts and Culture) Conference**

University of California, Irvine, December 14, 2009

Co-organized, with Mark C. Marino, an evening of electronic literature performances during the DAC conference. <http://writerresponsetheory.org/dac09>

**Young-hae Chang Heavy Industries Reading**, Yale University (October 14, 2008)

Arranged for the Seoul-based digital writers to give a “reading” of their electronic literature.

**“HyperText: Explorations in Electronic Literature” Reading Series at Los Angeles**

**Hammer Museum**, Organizer (2003-2004)

Planned and moderated yearlong reading series that introduced electronic literature to a diverse audience. [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu)

**Open Mic/Open Mouse**, University of Southern California (April 25, 2007)

Organized, with Mark C. Marino, an evening of electronic literature readings and performances.

**UC Digital Cultures Project, “Narr@tive: Digital Storytelling” Graduate Conference**

Los Angeles Hammer Museum (April 2004)

Co-organized, with Jeremy Douglass, a two-day conference that attracted students from across the country and included academic panels, presentations, and an evening of new media | electronic literature readings. <http://dc-mrg.english.ucsb.edu/gradconf.html>

**State of the Arts Symposium, Electronic Literature Organization** (April 2002)

Planned and facilitated a two-day, international symposium on electronic literature and digital art which included a poster session and an evening of electronic literature readings. <http://eliterature.org/state>

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**MLA Media and Literature Executive Committee**, President (2012-2013)

Elected to serve on the committee governing the subject of media and literature for the Modern Language Association in 2009 and responsible for its conference panel in 2013.

**Electronic Literature Organization, Board Member** (2012-present), **Treasurer** (2013-)

The ELO is the central organization supporting and connecting the emergent field of born-digital literature. [www.eliterature.org](http://www.eliterature.org)

**Digital Humanities Quarterly Articles Editor** (2010-present)

*DHQ* is an open-access, peer-reviewed, digital journal covering all aspects of digital media in the humanities. <http://digitalhumanities.org/dhq>

**The Modernism Lab**, Member of the Board of Directors (2009- present)

A “virtual space dedicated to collaborative research into the roots of literary modernism” directed by Professor Pericles Lewis (Yale University). <http://modernism.research.yale.edu/>

**Modernist Studies Association**, Interdisciplinary Steering Committee (January 2007-2008)  
Enlisted to broaden the interdisciplinary nature of the organization and its annual conference.

**Digital Arts and Culture (DAC)** Advisory Panel (August-December 2006)  
Reviewed abstracts and vetted papers for annual conference, to be held in Perth 2007

**Electronic Literature Organization (ELO)**, [www.eliterature.org](http://www.eliterature.org)

Associate Director (August 2002- June 2004)

Programs Director (October 2001-July 2002)

- Acted as managing director of the non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and facilitating the creation, publication, and dissemination of electronic literature.
- Directed and maintained operations, finances, communication, and administration.
- Developed, planned, and coordinated community programming, on campus and across the country, including local electronic literature readings.

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS & WORKING GROUPS**

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**Digital Humanities Research Group**, UCSD Humanities Center (2012-2013)

Organize a group of faculty and graduate students that meets monthly to discuss readings and topics in the field of the digital humanities.

**Back to the Book: Analog Literature in the Digital Age** (2011-2016)

Member of team organized by C. A. W. Brillenburg Wurth and funded by NARCIS (National Academic Research and Collaborations Information System) in the Netherlands to pursue research on the book in the digital moment. <http://backbooks.wordpress.com/>

**Yale University Theory & History of Media Initiative**, Steering Group Member and Faculty Organizer (2008-2012)

Organize campus-wide initiative to assess the state of media studies and institute a curricular program at Yale. Facilitate yearlong, cross-campus faculty seminar that gathers faculty to share research and discuss plans for a Media program.

**Yale Media Studies Collective** Faculty Founder and Convener (2008- 2011)

A Yale University Whitney Humanities Center Working Group on media studies for graduate students and faculty.

**Yale University English Department's Theory & Media Studies Colloquium**

Faculty Convener (2009-2011)

The department's newest colloquium serves as the forum for work on the place of textual analysis in the broader context of media in the English Department at Yale.

**Critical Code Studies Working Group** (2010)

A working group comprised of digital media scholars collaborating on creating a forum for resources, discussion, and demonstrations of the interpretation of computer code.

<http://criticalcodestudies.com>



**Digital Fiction International Network** Core Member (2007- 2009)

One of six founding participants named in a grant project funded by the UK-based Leverhulme Trust to establish an international network of scholarly development.

**UC Transliterations Project** Researcher, 2005-2007

One of 14 University of California graduate students researchers in UC Multi-campus Research Group project "Transliterations: Research in the Technological, Social, and Cultural Practices of Online Reading." <http://transliterations.english.ucsb.edu/>

**UC Humanities Research Institute's Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory (SECT), UC Irvine** Participant, Summer 2006

Accepted to participate and received fellowship to attend interdisciplinary seminar on the intersection between the humanities and technology, "TechnoSpheres: Futures of Thinking" organized by Anne Balsamo, Cathy Davidson, and David Theo Goldberg.

**"NANO" Exhibit, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Developer, 2003-2004**

Participated in Literature team for this interdisciplinary project involving literary scholars (led by Katherine Hayles), nanoscientists (led by Jim Gimewski), and artists (led by Victoria Vesna) to produce a yearlong exhibit that introduced nanoscience to the general public through artistic and experiential modules. <http://nano.arts.ucla.edu>

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO****Lecturer in Sixth College's Culture, Art, and Technology Program****The Book in the Digital Age** (Winter 2013)

This large lecture course approaches the topic of the book's obsolescence in the digital age in order to ask what work this rhetoric is doing in contemporary culture and *why* it matters.

**YALE UNIVERSITY (2008-2011)****New Media Theory** (Spring 2011)

This lecture course serves as an introduction to the critical study of digital media and culture. We recognize new media as a topic with a history that deserves to be theorized. Specifically, we approach new media through paradigms provided by literary and cultural criticism.

**Digital Literature, Junior/Senior Seminar** (Fall 2010, Fall 2008)

What happens to literature and its study when text moves from page to screen? This course examines works of digital literature (literature created on the computer to be read on the computer) to understand how this emergent literary form affects the way we read, study, and understand literature.

**Medieval Manuscripts to New Media: Studies in the History of the Book** (Spring 2010) Co-taught with Professor Jessica Brantley

This course examines the history of the book as a reading technology that shapes literary

study. Focusing on issues at the intersection of medieval manuscript culture and contemporary digital culture, we use the idea of the book pre-print and post-print to question the assumptions of print culture, particularly what we mean by “author,” “reading,” and “the book.”

**Readings in American Literature** (Spring 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Spring 2009)

An introduction to major works of the American literary tradition in a variety of poetic and narrative forms and in diverse historical contexts. Includes Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Jean Toomer, Djuna Barnes, Tony Kushner, and Michael Cunningham.

**Writing Seminar: English 114, “New Media”** (Fall 2008)

An introduction to critical analysis and writing that examines how digital technologies serve not only as tools for accessing information but also as tools that shape our interactions with content.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (2007-2008)**

**Technotexts and Technoculture** (Perspectives in the Study of American Culture, 178, Spring 2008) This course examines how new media technologies affect literature and reading practices. The first half of the quarter explores new media technotexts; the second half focuses on contemporary print novels’ response.

**The 21st Century American Novel** (Seminar, 180, Spring 2008)

This upper-division seminar reads novels published since 2000 that experiment with formal techniques to show the influence of new media and which foreground the role of the literary in an increasingly visual culture.

**Remix Culture** (Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literature, 109, Winter 2008)

This course identifies remediation as an aesthetic strategy undertaken by contemporary narrative forms to “refashion” themselves in relation to new media including Geoff Ryman’s *253*, Chris White’s *Memories of my Father Watching TV*, and Paul D. Miller’s “Rebirth of a Nation.”

**BROWN UNIVERSITY, Modern Culture and Media Department (2007)**

**Media Archaeology: Information, Discourse, Networks** (150.09, Spring 2007)

This course examines the historical emergence of “media” and “media studies” as a methodology of cultural discourse through the theoretical concepts of “information,” “discourse” and “networks.” Key issues: What are media and new media? What is the difference between information and knowledge? Readings from Friedrich Kittler, N. Katherine Hayles, Jacques Derrida, Lev Manovich.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (2003-2006)**

**War, Literature, and its Representation** (Intro to Critical Reading and Writing, 4W, Spring 2006) A focus on representations of war across historical periods and generic

forms—from Tennyson’s “Ulysses” and Robert Lowell’s “For the Union Dead” to Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* and Cynthia Ozick’s *The Shawl*-- served as the basis for analyzing formal strategies of representing the personal and political effects of war.

**Literature and Technology** (Intro to Critical Reading and Writing, Majors, 4W, Fall 2005)  
A thematic focus on technologies-- from the telegraph to television, subway trains to the Internet— framed engagement with a variety of literary genres and lessons in critical writing. Texts include Henry James’s *In the Cage*, John Dos Passos’s *Manhattan Transfer*, Don DeLillo’s *White Noise*, and Anna Deveare Smith’s *Twilight: Los Angeles*.

**Materiality Matters** (Intro to Critical Reading and Writing, Majors, 4W, Fall 2003)  
This course prompted students to look beyond literature’s content to its formal structures and visual devices. Readings included George Herbert’s calligrammes to Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*, *Tender Buttons* to “Howl,” Emily Dickinson to e.e. cummings.

**Literary Equations** (Introduction to Critical Reading and Writing, English 4W, Summer 2003) This course, comprised primarily of science majors, explored the intersection of literature and science in works that engage the topic thematically and stylistically, such as Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia*, Don DeLillo’s *The Body Artist*, and Wallace Stevens “Thirteen Ways of Looking at A Blackbird.”

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Electronic Literature Organization  
Modern Language Association  
Modernist Studies Association  
SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing)  
SLSA (Society for Literature, Science, and Art)

## **REFERECES (available upon request)**

Professor N. Katherine Hayles (Duke University)  
Professor Alan Liu (UCSB)  
Professor Wai Chee Dimock (Yale University)  
Associate Professor Jessica Brantley (Yale University)  
Professor Mark McGurl (Stanford University)  
Professor Michael North (UCLA)  
Professor John MacKay (Yale University)  
Professor Liz Losh (UCSD)  
Professor Stefan Tanaka (UCSD)  
Professor Rita Raley (UCSB)