# THOMAS S. DAVIS

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**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor, The Ohio State University, Department of English, 2014-present

Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University, Department of English, 2008- 2014

Pre-Doctoral Fellow, The University of Victoria, Department of English, 2006-2007

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D University of Notre Dame**

Department of English, 2008

Major Fields: 20th Century British and Irish Literature, Philosophy & Literature

Dissertation: "Distressed Histories: Late Modernism and Everyday Life 1930- 1945" (Advisors: Maud Ellmann and Kevin Hart)

**M.A. Boston College**

Department of English, 2001

Major Fields: 20th Century Literature, Postcolonial Literature

**B.A. University of South Carolina**

Department of English, 1998

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book:** *The Extinct Scene: Late Modernism and Everyday Life.* New York: Columbia University Press, “Modernist Latitudes” series (2016).

Shortlisted for the Modernist Studies Association Book Prize, 2017

Reviewed: *Choice* (A.J. Barlow)*, Modernism/Modernity* (Allan Hepburn)*, Review 31* (Guy Stevenson)*, Times Literary Supplement* (David James), and *MLQ* (Matthew Eatough)

**Edited Cluster:** Co-editor, with Nathan K. Hensley, *Modernism/Modernity* Print + Platform. “Global Scale and Critical Form,” special cluster (forthcoming 2017).

**Peer Reviewed Publications:**

“Anthropocene Insecurities: Extraction, Aesthetics, and the Bakken Oilfields.” *English*

*Language Notes* 54:2 (Fall/Winter 2016, published Summer 2017): 41-48.

"*Horizon, Encounter,* and Midcentury Geopolitics." *Literature in Transition 1940-1960*, ed. Gill Plain (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2018).

"“The Highways of Empire”: Geopolitics, Modernism, and Committed Reading." *The Contemporaneity of Modernism,* eds. Michael D'Arcy and Mathias Nilges (New York: Routledge, 2016).

“The Historical Novel at History’s End: Virginia Woolf’s *The Years*.” *Twentieth-Century Literature* 60.1 (Spring 2014): 1-27.

“Elizabeth Bowen’s War Gothic.” Special Issue on Elizabeth Bowen

*Textual Practice* 27.1 (February 2013): 29-47.

“Late Modernism: British Literature at Midcentury.” *Literature Compass* 9:4 (April 2012): 326- 337.

“Neutral War: *L’instant de ma mort*.” *Clandestine Encounters: Philosophy and Literature in the Narratives of Maurice Blanchot*, ed. Kevin Hart (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press,2010).

“'What True Project Has Been Lost?': Modern Art and Henri Lefebvre’s Critique of Everyday Life.” *Modernism and Theory:* *A Critical Debate*, ed. Stephen Ross (New York: Routledge, 2008).

**Co-authored works:**

"Grounding the Anthropocene: Sites, Subjects, and Struggles in the Bakken Oil Fields."  *Antipode Foundation.*http://antipodefoundation.org/2015/11/03/grounding-the-anthropocene/

**Encyclopedia and Short Entries:**

For *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism:* The British Documentary Film Movement, *Contemporary Poetry and Prose*, Robert Flaherty, Humphrey Jennings, Stuart Legg, Charles Madge, Paul Rotha, Samuel Selvon, Harry Watt, and Basil Wright.

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

**Books:**

*The Cultural Lives of Climate Change*

*Fossils of Tomorrow: The Literature and Culture of the Great Acceleration*

**Essays:**

"Documentary Realism and the Bakken." *Geoaesthetics of the Play: The Bakken Oil Boom and Its Cultures*, eds. Bruce Braun, Mathew Coleman, Mary Thomas, and Kathryn Yusoff. (University of Minnesota Press, in progress, 2018).

"Fossils of Tomorrow: Len Lye, J.G. Ballard, and Planetary Futures.” *Modern Fiction Studies* (2018)

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Humanities and Arts Discovery Theme Pilot Project Grant for “Environmental Humanities.” PI, 2016.

Humanities Institute Working Group “Cultures of the Anthropocene.” Co-coordinator, 2016.

Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Ohio State University, 2016.

The Ohio State University Arts and Humanities Larger Grant for "Grounding the Anthropocene: A Geontology of the Global Midwest." Co-PI, 2015.

Global Midwest Seed Grant, Humanities Institute, The Ohio State University, 2014.

Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, Mershon Center for International Security Studies,

The Ohio State University, 2011.

Research and Creative Activity Grant, The Ohio State University, Co-PI, 2011.

Dissertation Fellowship, The University of Notre Dame 2007-2008.

Kaneb Center Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, the University of Notre Dame, 2006-2007.

Nanovic Institute for European Studies Travel Grant, the University of Notre Dame,

2006.

Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Fellowship, the University of Notre

Dame, 2002.

W.B. Yeats Society International Summer School Fellowship, Sligo, Ireland, 1997.

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

Ronald and Deborah Ratner Distinguished Teaching Award, College of Arts and Sciences, The Ohio State University, 2016.

Paul W. Brown Award for Undergraduate Teaching, The Ohio State University, 2014.

English Undergraduate Organization (EUGO) Professor of the Year Award, The Ohio

State University, 2012.

Kaneb Center Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award, the University of Notre Dame, 2006.

**INVITED TALKS AND COLLOQUIA**

"Fossils of Tomorrow." 20/21 Colloquium, Lecture. Columbia University. March 2017.

"Geoaesthetics and Energy." Featured Speaker, "Ohio Energy, Ecology, Culture: A Humanities Roundtable." Ohio University. September 2016.

"Documentary and Everyday Life." Featured speaker to joint session of classes from Ball State University and the University of Notre Dame. The University of Notre Dame. March, 2016.

"The Last Great Place for Opportunity": Extraction, Aesthetics, and the Anthropocene."

Lecture, University of Notre Dame. March 2016.

"Petro-Aesthetics: Art, Literature, and Film in the Age of Oil." Public Lecture for "Parent and Family Weekend." The Ohio State University. October 2015.

"Highways of Empire: Documentary, Late Modernism, and Geopolitical Form." Project Narrative, The Ohio State University. September 2015.

Invited Participant for Antipode Foundation Workshop, "Grounding the Anthropocene: A Geontology of Williston,"Williston, North Dakota. June 2015.

"Transitional Models." Invited roundtable presentation. The Modernist Studies Association*,* Pittsburgh, PA, November, 16. 2014.

"Late Modernism as Geopolitical Description." Invited panelist. Global Modernisms Symposium. Ithaca, NY, April 2014.

“Weirdness, Occultism, and Conspiracy.” Invited participant for seminar organized by Stephen Ross (University of Victoria). The Modernist Studies Association, Buffalo, NY, October 2011.

**CONFERENCES**

"Fossils of Tomorrow." Panel. The Modernist Studies Association, Pasadena CA. November 2016.

“Migration as Siege: Vernacular Fiction and Citizenship.” Literature and Culture Since 1900*.*

Louisville, KY. February 2014.

“Late Modernism’s Vernacular Fictions.” Panel. The Modernist Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV, October 2012.

“The Fate of the Liberal Avant-Garde: Late Modernism and Documentary.” Literature and

Culture Since 1900*.* Louisville, KY. 2012

“Late Modernism’s Living Dead.” Panel. The Modernist Studies Association, Buffalo, NY.

October 2011.

“Lost Novel, Lost Republic: Christopher Isherwood’s *Goodbye to Berlin*.” The Modernist Studies Association, Victoria, BC. November, 2010.

“’We know this is only something happening again’: Elizabeth Bowen’s War-Gothic.” The Modernist Studies Association, Montréal, QC. November, 2009.

“At Risk?: Race, Neoliberalism, Critique.” Comparative Racializations Roundtable. The Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. April, 2009.

“Necessary Murders and Just Wars: Orwell, Spain, and War Allegory.” The Modernist Studies Association, Nashville, TN. November, 2008.

“Mass-Observation: The Last Snapshot of the British Intelligentsia.” The Ohio State University, January 2008.

“The Necessary Murder: Late Modernism’s Just War.” The University of Victoria, March, 2007.

“Mass-Observation and Everyday Life in the War Metropolis.” The Modernist Studies Association, Tulsa, OK, October 2006.

"Forecasts of War: Mass-Observation and the Politics of Everyday Life.” Twentieth Century Literature Conference. Louisville, KY, February 2006.

“Mass-Observation and the Politics of Everyday Life.” Seminar: “Anthropological Modernisms.” The Modernist Studies Association. Chicago, IL, November 2005.

“Knowing How to Hide Behind Nothing At All: Junk, Modernism, and the Counterforce of Art.” Seminar: “Junk and Modernism.” The Modernist Studies Association, Vancouver, B.C., October 2004.

**CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL EVENTS ORGANIZED**

Co-organizer, The Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Columbus, OH, 2018.

Co-organizer of Environmental Humanities events 2016-2017: *Anthropocene: The Movie*. Public screening and Q & A with director, Stephen Bradshaw, November 2016; Allen MacDuffie lecture and workshop, December 2016; Jasom W. Moore workshop, January 2017; “The Problem of the Human” workshop, co-sponsored with Human Rights in Transit and Humane Tech, February 2017; Bruce Braun lecture and workshop, February 2017; Jerry Zee lecture, March 2017; Imre Szeman lecture and workshop, April 2017; Jennifer Gabrys lecture and workshop, April 2017.

Organizer, “20th/21st Century Area Lecture and Workshop” with Peter Kalliney (University of Kentucky). Lecture, “African Literary Institutions and Cold War Diplomacy.” Graduate Student Workshop, “CLR James: Anticolonial Theorist, Marxist Intellectual, or Cold War Conscript?.” The Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. September 2015.

Seminar Leader and Co-Organizer, "Global Scale and Critical Form." Modernist Studies Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, 2014.

Organizer, "'Useless as Evidence': Photography and Asymmetrical War, 1857, 2014." Lecture by Nathan K. Hensley, Columbus, OH. November 5, 2014.

Co-organizer, *Queer Practices, Places, and Lives II* Columbus, OH. May 17-18, 2014.

Organizer, “The State of Postcolonial Studies.” Aesthetics and Politics Reading Group discussion with Pranav Jani. The Ohio State University. January 2013.

Organizer, *Marx Reloaded*. Public screening at the Ohio State University. March 23, 2012.

Organizer, “Modernism, Everyday Life, and Politics.” Panel, *The Space Between Conference*, Providence, RI, June 2012.

Co-organizer, *Queer Practices, Places, and Lives: A Symposium in Honor of Samuel Steward*. Columbus, OH. May 18-19, 2012.

Organizer, “New Directions in 20th and 21st Century Studies: A Roundtable.” The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. October 2011.

Organizer, “Everyday Modernism.” Panel, Modernist Studies Association Conference, Victoria British Columbia, November 2010.

Co-organizer, “Publication for Graduate Students.” Roundtable, The Ohio State University, May 2010.

Organizer, “Empire’s Late Style.” Panel, Modernist Studies Association Conference, Montréal Québec, November 2009.

Organizer, “20th/21st Century Area Lecture and Workshop” with Professor Paul K. Saint-Amour (UPenn). Lecture, “Total War, Modernism, and Encyclopedic Form.” Graduate Student Workshop, “Fabulously Textual: Reading the Nuclear Condition.” The Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. April, 2009.

Co-organizer, “Beyond Cosmopolitanism: *Realpolitik* and Late Modernist Internationalism.” Panel, Modernist Studies Association, Nashville Tennessee, November, 2008.

Co-organizer, “Land, Sea, War.” Seminar, Modernist Studies Association, Nashville Tennessee, November, 2008.

Co-organizer, “Modernism’s Suspended Cities: Emergency, Occupation, War Zone.” Panel Modernist Studies Association Conference, Long Beach California, November, 2007.

Co-organizer, “Locations of Late Modernism.” Seminar, Modernist Studies Association Conference, Long Beach California, November 2007.

Co-organizer, “Everyday Empires: State, Security, Form.” Panel, Modernist Studies Association Conference, Tulsa Oklahoma, October 2006.

Co-organizer, *Forms of Empire*. Conference, The University of Notre Dame, May 2005.

**TEACHING**

*Teaching interests include modern and contemporary British, Irish, and Anglophone literatures, environmental and energy humanities; literary and critical theory; human rights and literature; Marxist aesthetics; aesthetic theory*

**The Ohio State University, 2008-**

Undergraduate:

Human Rights and Environmental Justice

Culture and Climate Change

Petro-Aesthetics

British Literature 1800 to the Present

Thinking Theoretically

Special Topics in Popular Culture: Insurgent Youth: Punk, Riot Grrrl, and Black Metal

Critical Writing

Twentieth Century British Fiction

Twentieth Century American Fiction

Contemporary Literature: The Neoliberal Novel

Contemporary Literature: Fiction in an Age of Global Violence

Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group

The Modernist War Zone

Late Modernism

Graduate:

Introduction to the Advanced Study of Literature 1900-1945

Special Topics in Critical Theory: Walter Benjamin

Special Topics in Critical Theory: Everyday Life, Aesthetics, and Modernity

Seminar in 20th Century British and/or American Literature: Transnational Modernism

Seminar in 20th Century British and/or American Literature: Aesthetics and the Anthropocene

**The Newberry Library, Chicago IL, Summer 2008**

The Modernist War Zone, Summer Seminar

**The University of Victoria, 2007**

Late Modernism: Art, Total War, and Everyday Life

### The University of Notre Dame, 2004-2006

Philosophy and Literature Seminar: Art, Violence, and Late Modernism: Samuel Beckett and Willem De Kooning

Modernism and Everyday Life

First Year Composition: Globalization, Culture, Media

**Boston College, 2000-2001**

First Year Writing Seminar

**DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

Communications and Outreach (2017 to present)

Executive Committee, Associate Professor Representative (2017 to present)

Vice Coordinator of Associated Faculty (2017)

Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2015)

Advisory Committee for Rare Books & Manuscripts (2014 to present)

Coordinator of Critical Theory Teaching Area (2014 to present)

Lecture & Events Committee (2013-2014)

Executive Committee, Assistant Professor Representative (2012-2013)

Undergraduate Studies Committee (2008-2010)

**REFEREE FOR MANUSCRIPTS & GRANTS**

Referee for article manuscripts for *PMLA, Modernism/Modernity, Literature Compass, Studies in the Novel, College Literature,* and *Contemporary Literature*; of encyclopedia entries for *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*; of grants and fellowships for SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada); of edited collections and manuscripts for McGill University Press, Bloomsbury Academic, and The Ohio State University Press.

**EDITORIAL**

Co-editor, *Literature Compass,* 20th and 21st Century Area, 2012-2015.

Member of editorial board, *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, 2011-2015.

**AFFILIATIONS:**

Modernist Studies Association (MSA), Modern Language Association (MLA), Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE),