

October 2019

BARBARA HERRNSTEIN SMITH

Braxton Craven Professor Emerita of Comparative Literature and English
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA

Home address: 9 Towhee Drive; Topsham, ME 04086

Degrees

Brandeis University, B.A. *summa cum laude*, 1954

Brandeis U, Ph. D. in English and American Literature, 1963

Academic Positions

1961-73	Bennington College, Languages and Literatures Division, faculty
1973-87	U of Pennsylvania, professor of Communication, English, and Comparative Literature: named University Professor in 1981
1977, summer	UC-Irvine, School of Criticism and Theory, faculty
1985, summer	U of Pennsylvania, NEH Seminar for College Teachers, Director
1987-2011	Duke U, Braxton Craven Professor of Comparative Literature and English
1989, summer	Dartmouth U, School of Criticism and Theory, faculty
1990, fall	U of Toronto: Northrop Frye Chair in Comparative Literature
1998, fall	CCNY, Simon H. Rifkin Center for the Humanities, Faculty Seminar, director
2001, fall	U of Ill-Chicago, Humanities Institute; Faculty Seminar, director
2003- 2011	Brown University, Distinguished Professor of English
2006, fall	Yale University, Dwight M. Terry Lectureship

Major Administrative Offices

1979-85	Center for the Study of Art and Symbolic Behavior, U of Penn, founder and director
1981-84	Graduate Program in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, U of Penn, co-founder and chair
1991-2011	Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Science and Cultural Theory, Duke U, founder and director

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Association for the Advancement of Science
History of Science Society
International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Study of Biology
Modern Language Association of America
Society for Literature, Science and the Arts
Society for Social Studies of Science

Editorial Activities

- 1979-present Editorial Board, *Poetics Today*
 1987-2013 Editorial Board, *South Atlantic Quarterly*
 1996-2013 Co-editor, *Science and Cultural Theory*, book series for Duke U Press
 2014-present Editorial Board, *History of the Human Sciences*

Awards and Honors

- 1968 Christian Gauss Award for *Poetic Closure*
 1968 Explicator Award for *Poetic Closure*
 1970-71 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
 1977 UC-Berkeley, Witter Bynner Lectureship
 1977-78 Guggenheim Fellowship
 1981 Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship
 1985-86 Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences: fellow
 1986-87 Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton: fellow
 1988 Modern Language Association: elected President
 1989 American Association of University Presses: Honorable Mention
 for *Contingencies of Value* as most distinguished book in the
 social sciences
 1990 Conference of Editors of Learned Journals Award for best special issue,
 "The Politics of Liberal Education," *South Atlantic Quarterly*
 1990 Northrop Frye Chair in Literary Theory: U of Toronto
 1992 American Educational Studies Association: Critic's Choice Award for
 The Politics of Liberal Education (Duke UP, 1991)
 1992 National Humanities Center: fellow
 1993 Shelby Cullom Davis Center, Princeton U: fellow
 1995 Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio, Italy: fellow
 1999 American Academy of Arts and Sciences: elected member
 2001 American Association for the Advancement of Science: named Honorary
 Fellow "for distinguished contributions to...a common scientific
 and humanistic understanding of knowledge and its advancement"
 2010 Society for Literature, Science, & the Arts: Lifetime Achievement Award

Symposia and Conferences since 2001

- 2001 U of Dayton, symposium on The Two Cultures Revisited, featured
 speaker;
 Modernist Studies Association, annual meeting, keynote speaker
 2002 International Society for Literature & Science, Aarhus U, Denmark,
 keynote speaker
 Whitney Humanities Center, Yale U, symposium on Man & Beast,
 featured speaker
 2004 Wesleyan U Center for the Humanities, workshop on my work
 Society for Literature & Science, annual meeting, keynote speaker
 Modern Language Association, Presidential Forum on The Future of the
 Humanities, featured speaker
 2005 Colgate U, annual faculty conference, keynote speaker

- 2006 U of Penn, conference on The History of the Human Sciences:
Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives, invited speaker
Modern Language Association, special session on Theory of Mind
Across the Disciplines, invited respondent
- 2007 Duke U, conference on The Collapse of Traditional Knowledge,
co-convener and speaker
- 2008 Duke U, symposium on Vitalism Revisited: History, Philosophy, Biology,
organizer
Duke U, symposium on Your Brain on Art: Probing Neuroaesthetics,
respondent
- 2009 Oxford U, UK, conference on Religious Responses to Darwin, 1859-2009,
speaker
ITU of Copenhagen, Denmark, symposium on Comparative Relativism,
speaker
Duke U, symposium on Darwin Across the Disciplines, featured speaker
- 2010 Duke U, conference on The Uses of Economics—Past and Future,
respondent
National University of Colombia, Bogota, Colombia, keynote speaker,
symposium on Assembling Natures, Cultures, Technologies
- 2011 Duke University, Symposium on Science, Anti-Science and Scientism in
the Humanities (in honor of my retirement), respondent
University of Chicago, Anthropology Department, Workshop on
Knowledge/Value, participant and lecturer
- 2012 Rutgers University, conference on Science and Method
in the Humanities, keynote talk
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, Wickenden Lecture
- 2013 University of British Columbia, Science and Technology Studies,
Stephen Straker Lecture
- 2014 Concordia University, English Department, Lahey Lecture
- 2015 University of Virginia, Symposium on Recomposing the Humanities with
Bruno Latour, speaker; "Anthropotheology: Latour Speaking
Religiously"
- 2016 Duke U, Critical Theory Lecture Series: inaugural lecture: "What Was
'Close Reading'?: A Century of Method of Literary Studies"
- 2017 McGill U, Montreal, Canada, Colloquium on Climate Realism: keynote
talk: "Perplexing Realities: Practicing Relativism in the Anthropocene"

Publications

Books

AUTHORED

- 1968 *Poetic Closure: A Study of How Poems End*. Chicago: University of
Chicago Press. Reissued, 2007.
- 1978 *On the Margins of Discourse: The Relation of Literature to Language*.
Chicago: University Chicago Press.

- 1988 *Contingencies of Value: Alternative Perspectives for Critical Theory*.
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- 1997 *Belief and Resistance: Dynamics of Contemporary Intellectual
Controversy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- 2005/6 *Scandalous Knowledge: Science, Truth and the Human*. Edinburgh
UK: University of Edinburgh Press/ Durham, NC: Duke U
Press.
- 2009/10 *Natural Reflections: Human Cognition at the Nexus of Science and
Religion*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- 2018 *Practicing Relativism in the Anthropocene: Science, Belief, and the
Humanities*. London, UK. Open Humanities Press.

EDITED

- 1964 *Discussions of Shakespeare's Sonnets*; edited. Boston:
D.C. Heath and Company.
- 1969 *Shakespeare's Sonnets*; edited. New York: Avon Books;
New York: NYU Press.
- 1991 *The Politics of Liberal Education*; co-edited,
Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- 1997 *Mathematics, Science, and Postclassical Theory*; co-edited,
Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Articles, Chapters, Reviews and Interviews

- 1966 "Sorrow's Mysteries': Keats's 'Ode on Melancholy'." *Studies in English
Literature, 1500-1900* 6:4, 679-91
- 1969 "The New Imagism," *Midway: A Magazine of Discovery in the Arts &
Sciences* 9:3, 27-44.
- 1974 "Poetic Closure," *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and
Poetics*, ed. Alex Preminger et al (Princeton U Press) 964-65
- 1975 "On the Margins of Discourse." *Critical Inquiry* vol. 1, no. 4, 769-98
- 1977 "Actions, Fictions and the Ethics of Interpretation." *Centrum* vol. 3, no. 2,
117-20, 128-32
- "Surfacing from the Deep," *PTL: A Journal for Descriptive Poetics and
Theory of Literature* vol. 2, no. 2, 151-82.
- 1979 "Fixed Marks and Variable Constancies: A Parable of Literary Value."
Poetics Today vol. 1, nos.1-2, 1-22
- 1980 "Narrative Versions, Narrative Theories." *Critical Inquiry* vol. 6, no. 2,
213-36; *On Narrative*, ed. W.J.T. Mitchell (Chicago: University of
Chicago Press, 1981
- 1983 "Contingencies of Value." *Critical Inquiry* 10:1, 1-35;
- 1984 "Towards the Practice of Theory." *Romanticism and Culture: A Tribute
to Morse Peckham and Bibliography of his works*, ed.
H. W. Matalene (Columbia, SC: Camden House).

- 1986 "Masters and Servants: Theory in the Literary Academy." *Making Sense: The Role of the Reader in Contemporary Fiction*, ed. Gerhard Hoffman (Munich, Germany)
- 1987 "Value Without Truth-Value." *Life After Postmodernism: Essays on Value and Culture*, ed. John Fekete (New York: St. Martin's Press & Montreal: New World Perspectives).
- 1988 "Curing the Humanities, Correcting the Humanists." *MLA Newsletter*, Summer
- "Reply to Lynne V. Cheney." *MLA Newsletter*, Fall.
- 1989 "Limelight: Reflections on a Public Year" (Presidential Address to the MLA), *PMLA* 104:3, 285-93
- 1990 "Cult-Lit: Hirsch, Literacy and the 'National Culture'." *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 89:1, 69-88
- "Value/Evaluation," in *Critical Terms for Literary Study*, ed. F. Lentricchia and T. McLaughlin (U of Chicago Press)
- "Judgment After the Fall." *Cardozo Law Review* 11: 5-6, 1291-1311
- "Endurance, Otherwise: a Response to Martin Mueller." *Salmagundi* Fall 88-89, 455-68.
- 1991 "The Complex Agony of Injustice" *Cardozo Law Review* 13:4, 101-04
- "Belief and Resistance: A Symmetrical Account." *Critical Inquiry* 18:1 125-39
- 1992 "Making (Up) the Truth: Constructivist Contributions." *University of Toronto Quarterly* 61: 4, 422-29
- "Judgment After the Fall," in *Deconstruction and the Possibility of Justice*, ed. D. Cornell et al (Routledge)
- "The Unquiet Judge: Activism Without Objectivism in Law and Politics;" *Annals of Scholarship* 9:1-2, 111-33
- "Unloading the Self-Refutation Charge." *Common Knowledge* 2: 2, 81-95
- 1993 "Poetic Closure," *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (Princeton U Press)
- 1994 "Belief and Resistance: A Symmetrical Account," and "Circling Around, Knocking Over, Playing Out: A Reply to Robert J. Richards," in A. Davidson et al, ed, *Questions of Evidence* (U of Chicago Press).
- 1996 "The Hermeneutic Circle," *PMLA* 111:3, 465-66
- "The Unquiet Judge: Activism Without Objectivism in Law and Politics," *Rethinking Objectivity*, ed. Allen Megill (Duke U Press)
- 1997 Review of Rom Harré and Michael Krausz, *Varieties of Relativism* (Oxford UP, 1996), *Common Knowledge* , 6:2, 104.
- Review of Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *Truth: A History* (Bantam, 1997), *Times Literary Supplement*, Oct. 31, 18.
- 1998 "Evaluation" and "Value," in *The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, ed. Michael Kelly (Oxford U Press).
- "Is it Really a Computer?," review of Steven Pinker, *How the Mind Works* (Norton) *Times Literary Supplement*, Feb. 20, 3-4

- 1999 Review of Brian Cantwell Smith, *On the Origin of Objects* (MIT Press 1996), *Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society*, 89:4, 772-3.
- 2000 "Sewing Up the Mind: The Claims of Evolutionary Psychology," in *Alas, Poor Darwin: Arguments Against Evolutionary Psychology*, ed. Hilary Rose and Steven Rose (Jonathan Cape), 129-143.
- "Netting Truth", *PMLA*, 115: 5, 1089-1095
- 2001 "Comment," in Judith Jarvis Thomson, *Goodness and Advice* (Princeton: Princeton UP), 132-144
- 2002 "Cutting-Edge Equivocation: Conceptual Moves and Rhetorical Strategies in Contemporary Anti-Epistemology," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 101:1, 187-212;
- "Reply to an Analytic Philosopher," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 101:1, 229-242
- 2004 "Animal Relatives, Difficult Relations," *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* (special issue, "Man & Beast," eds., Elizabeth Weed and Ellen Rooney) 15: 1, 1-20
- 2005 "Figuring and Reconfiguring the Humanities and the Sciences," *Profession 2005*, pp. 18-27.
- 2007 "Relativism, Today and Yesterday," *Common Knowledge*; special issue on A 'Dictatorship of Relativism?': The Intellectual Community Responds to Cardinal Ratzinger's Last Homily; 13:2-3, 227-249.
- 2008 "Cognitive Machinery and Explanatory Ambitions." *The Immanent Frame*. Social Science Research Council online forum <http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/immanent_frame/2008/06/16/cognitive-machinery-explanatory-ambitions/>
- "Naturalism, Otherwise," *The Immanent Frame* SSRC online forum <http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/immanent_frame/2008/06/23/naturalism-otherwise/>.
- 2009 Review of Steven Shapin, *The Scientific Life: A Moral History of a Late Modern Vocation* (2008); *London Review of Books* 31:3 (February 12, 2009): 10-12.
- 2010 "Religion, Science, and the Humanities: An Interview with Barbara Herrnstein Smith." *The Immanent Frame* SSRC online forum <<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/06/21/religion-science-and-the-humanities/>>
- "Science and Religion: Lives and Rocks," *NY Times*, invited column <<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/25/science-and-religion-lives-and-rocks/>>
- 2011 "The Chimera of Relativism: A Tragicomedy," *Common Knowledge*, 17:1, 13-26
- "Chinese Comparisons and Questionable Acts: Reply to Comments," *Common Knowledge*, 17:1, 42-47
- "The Entwinement of Religion and Economics: Comments on Bradley Bateman's 'In a Space of Questions'," *History of Political Economy* 43:2, 413-418
- 2012 "Science and Religion, Natural and Unnatural," in *Sacred Science: On*

Science and its Interrelations with Religious Worldviews, eds. S. A. Oyen, T. Lund-Olse, N.S. Vaage, Wageningen Academic Publishers, The Netherlands

- 2013 “Dolls, Demons and DNA,” (rev. of Bruno Latour, *The Cult of the Factish Gods*), *London Review of Books* 34:5 (8 March 2012)^[1]_{SEP}:25-26
- 2013 “On Free-Wheeling Careers: An Interview with Barbara Herrnstein Smith,” *Minnesota Review* 80, 2013 (New Series), pp. 62-79
- 2016 “Scientizing the Humanities: Shifts, Collisions, Negotiations,” *Common Knowledge* 2:3 (2016): 353–372.
- “What Was ‘Close Reading’?: A Century of Method in Literary Studies,” *Minnesota Review* 87 (2016) 57-75.
- “Anthropotheology: Latour Speaking Religiously,” *New Literary History*, 47: 2-3 (2016) 331-351.

Current Research Interests

Epistemology; cognition and cognitive theory; social studies of science; metaphilosophy; the humanities vis-à-vis the sciences; contemporary responses to climate change