

H. Porter Abbott
Department of English
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3170
231-386-5391, 805-893-8711, cell: 231-432-0071, fax: 805-893-4622
pabbott@english.ucsb.edu

Education

PhD 1968	University of Toronto
MA 1964	University of Toronto
BA 1962	Reed College

Professional Employment

2005-Present	Professor Emeritus of English, UCSB
1982-2005	Professor of English, UCSB
1989	Lecturer, Yeats International Summer School
1973-82	Associate Professor of English, UCSB
1966-73	Assistant Professor of English, UCSB

Selected University Service

2000-01	Acting Director, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center
1992-93	Acting Dean, Humanities & Fine Arts, UCSB
1983-87 & 90	Chair, Department of English, UCSB
1988-90	Vice-Chair, Academic Senate, UCSB Division
1988-90	Executive Committee, College of Letters & Science
1985-86	Chair, Statewide University English Council
1985-86	Chair, Letters & Science Humanities Chairs

Books

The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative, Second Edition (Cambridge University Press, 2008) [revised and expanded]
Serbian language edition (Sluzbeni Glasnik, 2009)
Korean edition in preparation (Moonji, 2010)

The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative (Cambridge University Press, 2002)
Republication by the University of Peking Press (2007)

On the Origin of Fictions: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, special double issue of *SubStance* 94/95 (March 2001) [Editor]

- Beckett Writing Beckett: The Author in the Autograph* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996)
- Diary Fiction: Writing as Action* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984).
- The Fiction of Samuel Beckett: Form and Effect* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1973).
- Selections translated & reprinted in H. Englehardt & D. Mettler, hrsg. *Materialien zu Samuel Becketts Romanen* (Suhrkamp, 1976) and in M. Lichtwitz, hrsg. *Materialien zu Samuel Becketts "Der Verwaiser"* (Suhrkamp, 1980).

Articles & chapters published & in press

- “Law, Agency, and Unnarratable Action,” *Michigan State University Law Review* (forthcoming 2010)
- “Conversion in an Age of Darwinian Gradualism,” *Storyworlds* 2 (forthcoming 2010).
- “Narrative,” *Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Novel* (Oxford: Blackwell, forthcoming 2010)
- “Garden Paths and Ineffable effects: Abandoning representation in Literature and Film” in Frederick Aldama & Patrick Colm Hogan, eds., *Toward a Theory of Narrative Acts* (Austin: University of Texas Press, forthcoming 2010)
- “The Legacy of Samuel Beckett: an Anatomy” in S. E. Gontarski, ed., *A Companion to Samuel Beckett* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2009), pp. 73-83.
- “Narrativity,” in Peter Hühn, John Pier, Wolf Schmid, & Jörg Schönert, eds., *Handbook of Narratology* (Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2009). Subsequently available on line as *Living Handbook of Narratology* (University of Hamburg Press), pp. 309-328.
- “Immersion in the Cognitive Sublime: The Textual Experience of the Extratextual Unknown in García Márquez and Beckett,” *Narrative* 17:2 (spring 2009): 131-142.
- “Unreadable Minds and the Captive Reader,” *Style* 42:4 (winter 2008): 448-467.
- “Narrative and Emergent Behavior,” *Poetics Today* 29:2 (summer 2008): 227-244.
- “I Am Not a Philosopher,” in Linda Ben-Zvi & Angela Moorgani, eds., *Samuel Beckett at 100: Revolving It All* (Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 81-92.
- “Story, Plot, and Narration,” in David Herman, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Narrative* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007), pp. 39-51.
- “Nie Jestem Filozofem,” Polish translation by Tomek Wisniewski, of “I Am Not a Philosopher” *Topos* 6 (December 2006), pp. 55-63.

- “Cognitive Literary Studies: the ‘Second Generation’,” *Poetics Today* 27 (2006): 711-722.
- “Samuel Beckett’s *Murphy*,” in David Bradshaw and Kevin Dettmar, eds., *A Companion to Modernist Literature and Culture* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), 306-313.
- “The Future of All Narrative Futures,” in James Phelan and Peter Rabinowitz, eds. *Blackwell Companion to Narrative Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005), 529-541. Translation into Chinese, University of Peking Press, 2008
- “Closure,” “Diary,” “Narration” in David Herman et al, eds. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory* (London: Routledge, 2005), 65-66, 106, 339-344
- “Narrative” [“Egregious Omissions: Samuel Beckett and the Theory and Practice of Narrative Gaps”], in Lois Oppenheim, ed. *The Palgrave Guide to Beckett Studies* (London & New York: Macmillan/St. Martins, 2004), pp. 7-29
- “Unnarratable Knowledge: the Difficulty of Understanding Evolution by Natural Selection,” in David Herman, ed., *Narrative Theory and the Cognitive Sciences* (Stanford: CSLI Publications, 2003), pp. 143-162
- “Scientists, Humanists, and the Cultural Surplus,” *SubStance* 94/95 (March 2001): 203-219.
- “Introduction,” *On the Origin of Fictions: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, special issue of *SubStance* 94/95 (March 2001): 3-5.
- “Beckett’s Lost Worlds: The Artful Exhaustion of a 19th-Century Genre,” *Journal of Beckett Studies* 11:1 (spring 2001): 1-14.
- “What Do We Mean When We Say ‘Narrative Literature’? Looking for Answers across Disciplinary Borders,” *Style* 34:2 (summer 2000): 260-273.
- “The Evolutionary Origins of the Storied Mind: Modeling the Prehistory of Narrative Consciousness and its Discontents,” *Narrative* 8:3 (October 2000): 247-256.
- “Beckett’s Lawlessness: Evolutionary Psychology and Genre,” *Samuel Beckett Aujour’hui/Today* 8 (1999):131-142.
- “Samuel Beckett and the Arts of Time: Painting, Narrative, Music,” in Lois Oppenheim, ed. *Samuel Beckett and the Arts* (New York: Garland, 1998), pp. 7-24.
- “In Search of Sam,” Review Essay of S. J. Gontarski, ed., *Samuel Beckett: the Complete Short Prose, 1929-1989*; Anthony Cronin, *Samuel Beckett: The Last Modernist*; Lois Gordon, *The World of Samuel Beckett*; Mel Gussow, *Conversations with and About Beckett*; Charles Juliet, *Conversations with Samuel Beckett and Bram van Velde*; James Knowlson, *Damned to Fame: The Life of Samuel Beckett* in *The Southern Review* 33:3 (summer 1997), 536-546.

- “Extratextual Intelligence,” *New Literary History* 28:4 (autumn 1997): 811-820.
- “Old Virginia and the Night Writer: The Origins of Woolf's Narrative Meander” in S. Bunkers & C. Huff, eds. *Inscribing the Daily: Critical Essays on Women's Diaries* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1996), 236-251.
- “Consorting with Spirits: the Arcane Craft of Beckett's Later Drama” in Enoch Brater, ed., *The Theatrical Gamut: Essays in Honor of Ruby Cohn* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1995), 91-106.
- “Character and Modernism: Reading Woolf Writing Woolf,” *New Literary History* 24:2 (spring 1993): 393-405.
- “Beginning Again: The Post-Narrative Art of *Texts for Nothing* and *How It Is*” in J. Pilling, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Beckett* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), 106-123.
- “Reading as Theatre: Understanding Defamiliarization in Beckett's Art,” *Modern Drama* 34:1 (March 1992): 1-22.
Reprinted in Innes, Christopher & Frederick J. Marker, eds. *Modernism in European Drama: Ibsen, Strindberg, Pirandello, Beckett*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998).
- “Writing and Conversion: Conrad's Modernist Autography,” *Yale Journal of Criticism* 5:3 (1992): 135-163.
- “The Perils of Autobiography,” *Sacred Heart University Review* 11 (fall 1990/spring 1991): 17-36.
- “Late Modernism: Samuel Beckett and the Art of the Oeuvre” in E. Brater & R. Cohn, eds., *Around the Absurd: Essays on Modern and Postmodern Drama* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1990), 73-96.
- “Tyranny and Theatricality: the Example of Samuel Beckett,” *Theatre Journal* 40 (March 1988): 77-87.
- “Autobiography, Autography, Fiction: Toward a Taxonomy of Literary Categories,” *New Literary History* 19 (spring 1988): 597-615.
- “On the Prospects for Life after 'Tenure,’” *ADE Bulletin* no. 20 (fall 1988): 72-74.
- “Beckett and Autobiography” in Alan Friedman *et al*, eds., *Beckett Translating/ Translating Beckett* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1987), 120-127.
- “Narratricide: Samuel Beckett as Autographer,” *Romance Studies* 11 (winter 1987): 35-46.
- “The Harpooned Notebook: *Malone Dies* and the Conventions of Intercalated Narrative,” in Morris Beja, S. E. Gontarski and Pierre Astier, eds. *Samuel*

- Beckett: Humanistic Perspectives* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1983), 71-79.
 Reprinted in H. Bloom, ed., *Modern Critical Interpretations: Molloy, Malone Dies, The Unnamable* (New York: Chelsea House, 1988), 123-129.
- “Diary Fiction,” *Orbis Litterarum* 37 (spring 1982): 12-31.
- “Letters to the Self: the Cloistered Writer in Nonretrospective Fiction,” *PMLA* 95 (January 1980): 23-41.
- “Saul Bellow and the ‘Lost Cause’ of Fiction,” *Novel* 13 (spring 1980): 264-283.
 Reprinted in P. C. Kar and D. Radakrishna, eds. *The American Classics Revisited* (Hyderabad: American Studies Research Centre, 1985), 600-621.
 Reprinted in G. Cronin & L. Goldman, eds., *Saul Bellow in the 1980s* (Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1989), 113-136.
- “Organic Form in the Autobiography of a Convert: the Example of Malcolm X,” *CLA Journal* 23 (December 1979): 125-146.
- “A Grammar for Being Elsewhere,” *Journal of Modern Literature* 6 (February 1977): 39-46.
- “A Poetics of Radical Displacement: Samuel Beckett Coming up to Seventy,” *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 17 (spring 1975): 219-238.
- “King Laugh: Beckett's Early Fiction,” in Ruby Cohn, ed., *Samuel Beckett* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1975), 51-62.
- “The Journals of W. N. P. Barbellion,” *Journal of Modern Literature* 3 (February 1973): 45-62.
- “Farewell to Incompetence: Beckett's *How It Is* and *Imagination Dead Imagine*,” *Contemporary Literature* 11 (winter 1970): 36-47.
- “The Importance of Martin Cunningham,” *James Joyce Quarterly* 5 (fall 1967): 47-52.

Reviews

- Emma Kafalenos, *Narrative Causalities* in *Comparative Critical Studies* 5: 2-3 (fall 2008).
- “The Art of Making it New Revisited: Beckett and Cliché,” review of Elisabeth Berry, *Beckett and Authority in Poetics Today* 29:3 (fall 2008): 595-601.
- “Beckett and Aesthetics: Once More with Music,” review of Daniel Albright, *Beckett and Aesthetics* in *Contemporary Literature* 45:4 (2005), 713-722.
- Anthony Uhlmann, *Beckett and Poststructuralism* in *Modern Fiction Studies* (spring 2002).
- Antoni Libera, *Madame* in *The Beckett Circle* 23:2 (spring 2001).
- Paul John Eakin, *Touching the World: Reference in Autobiography* in *Modern Philology* 92:3

- (February 1995), 407-411.
- James Phelan, *Reading People, Reading Plots: Character, Progression, and the Interpretation of Narrative* and James Phelan, ed., *Reading Narrative: Form, Ethics, Ideology in Modern Language Review* 87:1 (January 1992), 161-164.
- David Novarr, *The Lines of Life: Theories of Biography, 1880-1970* in *Modern Language Review* 84:3 (July 1989), 696-698.
- Philip Dodd, ed., *Modern Selves: Essays on Modern British and American Autobiography* in *Yearbook of English Studies* (January 1989), 353-355.
- Michael McKeon, *The Origins of the English Novel, 1600-1740* in *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 88 (January 1988), 99-102.
- Linda H. Peterson, *Victorian Autobiography: The Tradition of Self-Interpretation* in *Poetics Today* 8:3-4 (1987), 720-722.
- Susanna Egan, *Patterns of Experience in Autobiography* in *Modern Language Review* 81 (1986), 421-423.
- Sidney Homan, *Beckett's Theaters: Interpretations for Performance* in *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 85 (1986), 598-599.
- Paul Jay, *Being in the Text: Self-Representation from Wordsworth to Roland Barthes* in *Poetics Today* 7 (1986), 569-571.
- J. M. Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K* in *Helix* no. 21-22 (spring 1985), 128-131.
- Ross Chambers, *Story and Situation: Narrative Seduction and the Power of Fiction* in *Poetics Today* 6 (1985), 542-544.
- Frederick Busi, *The Transformations of Godot* in *Journal of Beckett Studies* 7 (spring 1982), 144-147.
- Gérard Durozoi, *Beckett: présence littéraire* in *Modern Language Journal* 57 (September-October 1973), 281.
- Melvin J. Friedman, ed., *Samuel Beckett Now* in *Modern Language Journal* 55 (October 1971)

Other work

- The Samuel Beckett Endpage*, a multiple resource website (includes the Samuel Beckett Society homepage) at <http://beckett.english.ucsb.edu> (1996-2005)
- “Hugh Kenner: A Personal Remembrance,” *The Beckett Circle* 27:1 (spring, 2004), 4-5.
- “Preserving Open Space: the Special Challenge of the Foothills,” *Publication of the Pacific Coast Geographer's Association*, Fall, pp. 42-47.
- Cold Certitudes and Changes beyond Measure* [poems] (Florence: Robert Barth, 1988).

Beckett this Evening [dramatic anthology] (Premiere: Vanderbilt University, February 1985).

Other poems, short fiction and translations published in *Mirrors: Recent Canadian Verse* (Gage), *Ondas*, *Yanp*, *Writers' Forum*, *The Compass*, *Spectrum* and *PN Review*.

Presentations

Papers, invited lectures, plenary addresses, and keynote addresses given at the British Council, Bologna; the Centro de Ricerca Sull' Utopie, Rimini; Carleton University, Ottawa; Dartmouth College; L'école Normale Superieure, Fontenay-St Cloud; Florida State University; the Graduate Center of the City University of New York; Humboldt University, Berlin; Michigan State University (3); Northwestern University; Ohio State University (4); Purdue University; Sacred Heart University, Bridgeport, CT; Trinity College Dublin; L'université de Tours; University of Birmingham, UK; the University of Bologna; the University of California, Berkeley (3); the University of California, Santa Barbara (6); the University of California, Santa Cruz; the University of California, Davis (2); the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand; the University of Iowa; the University of Kent, Canterbury, England; the University of Louisville; the University of Michigan; the University of Southern California; the University of Southern Maine; the University of Stirling, Scotland; the University of Tel Aviv; the University of Texas, Austin (2); the University of Utah; the University of Vermont; the University of Western Sydney, Australia; the University of Wisconsin; University of York, England; Upper Canada College, Toronto; Washington College, Chestertown, MD; the Yeats International Summer School, Sligo, Ireland; York University, Toronto; and periodically at non-academic venues elsewhere for annual meetings of the Modern Language Association; the International Federation for Theatre Research; the Society for Literature, Science & the Arts; The International Society for the Study of Narrative (formerly the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature); the Western Humanities Alliance; and the Modernist Studies Association.