

Paul D. Miers

Professor Emeritus, Department of English
Towson University, Towson, MD 21252
pauldmiers@gmail.com

Literary theory, kinship, multimodal semiotics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence

EDUCATION

- PhD in English – 1974; University of Missouri-Columbia
Dissertation: “Keats’s Myth of Consciousness: A Phenomenology of Mind and Nature”
- BA and MA in English – 1969, 1970; Texas Christian University
Thesis: “Poetic Tradition and Artistic Creation in Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*”

POST-DOCTORAL STUDY

- ACLS Fellowship, Humanities Center and Medical School, Johns Hopkins University, 1980-81
- School of Criticism and Theory, University of California at Irvine, summer 1976

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Assistant / Associate Professor (1989 –2022), English Department, Towson University
- Director, Information Technology Enterprise Group (1996-1997), College of Graduate and Extended Education, Towson University
- Visiting Assistant Professor (1986-1988), Division of Arts and Letters, St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Assistant Professor (1976-1983), Department of English, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Lecturer and Instructor (1970-1975), Department of English, University of Missouri-Columbia

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Editor-in-Chief (1986), *MLA International Bibliography*, Modern Language Association
- Development Editor (1984-1986), Peterson’s Guides

PUBLICATIONS

“Typological variation of kinship terminologies is a function of strict ranking of constraints on nested binary classification trees,” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (2010), 33: 395-397

Review of Phillip Barrish, *American Literary Realism, Critical Theory, and Intellectual Prestige, 1880-1895*

“Language and the Structure of Desire,” *MLN* Dec (1999).

"Descartes and the Algebra of Soul," *MLN* Dec (1995).

"Cognitive Theory and the Status of Literature," paper for MLA special session, December 1993. To appear as "Giving Up the Word: Neural Networks and the Disclosure of Literature" in *Textuality and Subjectivity: Disclosure of Discourse*, ed. Eitel Timm. Vancouver: Camden House, 1994.

"The Beginning of the End of the Hegemony of the Symbol," *Stanford Humanities Review* Spring, Supplement (1994).

Review of Anthony J. Cascardi, *The Subject of Modernity*, *MLN* Dec. (1993).

"Connectionism and its Consequences," *Postmodern Culture* Sept.(1993).

"The Other Side of Representation: Critical Theory and the New Cognitivism." *MLN* Dec.(1992).

Review of Henry Sussman's *Afterimages of Modernism*. *MLN* Dec. (1990).

Review of Paisely Livingston's *Literary Knowledge: Humanistic Inquiry and the Philosophy of Science*. *MLN* Dec. (1988).

Review of Cynthia Chase's *Decomposing Figures*. *MLN* Dec. (1986).

Editor, *Graduate Education Directory*. Princeton: Peterson's Guides. 1986.

"A Cognitive Program for Semiotic Functions." *MLN* Dec. (1982).

"The Black Maria Rides Again: Being a Reflection on the Present State of American Film with Special Respect to Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*." *MLN* Dec. (1980).

Review of Douglas Hofstadter's *Gödel, Escher, Bach*. *MLN* Dec. (1979).

"Fourfold Vortex Formulations of Derridean Cryptograms." *MLN* Dec. (1977).

"Language, Literature and the Limits of Theory." *Bulletin of the Midwest Modern Language Association* Spring (1977).

Review of Murray Krieger's *Theory of Criticism*. *MLN*, Dec. (1976).

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for English Theory Group: "Phonology, *Differance*, and the Semiotic Hypothesis," September, 2014.

"Changing Life Histories: Minority Achievement and the New Evolutionary Synthesis," Defining Dimensions of Diversity: Towson University 10th Annual Multicultural Conference. March 17, 2004.

"Kinscape and the Indo-European Diaspora," *Ecospaces: The Society for Philosophy and Geography's*

Sixth Annual International Conference, Towson University, May 2004.

"The Grammar of Human Kinship," Sabbatical Lecture, Towson Univ. May 14, 2002

"Finding the Critical Path: Neural Nets, Complex Systems, and Strategic Vision" Celebrating Towson II, Scholarship of Application, Discovery, Integration and Teaching. March 10, 1999.

"Building an ALN at a Metropolitan University" Third International Conference on Asynchronous Learning Networks, New York University, October 1997

Session Leader, "The Hypertext Revolution: Promise and Reality," Modern Language Association: Washington, DC, Dec. 1996. Session paper: "Text, Hypertext, and Neural Nets: What Figure Does the Psyche Make?"

"What's In Store for the Web?," Maryland Technology College, Dec. 1996

Session Leader, "Epistemic Reconfigurations: New Paradigms for Postmodern Culture," Modern Language Association: Chicago, Dec., 1995.

"The Enlightenment and the Invention of Cognition," paper presented at the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, Oct. 6, 1995.

"Virtual Illusions and the Neural Matrix: Reconfiguring the 'Text' of Consciousness," The International Association for Philosophy and Literature, Villanova Univ., May 11, 1995.

Session Leader, "Cognitive Connections: Theories of Representation and Cultural Criticism," Modern Language Association Convention: San Diego, 1994

"Linking Up Through Hyperspace: The Electronic Hybridization of the Periodical," College English Association Program, Modern Language Association Convention: San Diego, 1994.

"Dressed to Kill: The Dionysian Seduction of Apollo," The Nietzsche Event: Towson State Univ, Nov., 1994.

"The Invisible Hand of the Net: Learning to Do Business Online," Association for Business Communication, Regional Conference: Baltimore, April, 1994.

"Transforming Our Faculties: The Electronic Revolution and the New University," Faculty Lecture Series, Towson State Univ., Feb., 1994.