

February 19, 2024

## JUDITH YAROSS LEE

### CURRICULUM VITAE

Judith Yaross Lee, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Communication Studies at Ohio University in Athens, OH, is an interdisciplinary Americanist who studies popular rhetorics at the intersection of media, social, political, and intellectual history. Educated at Oberlin College (A.B.) and the University of Chicago (A.M., Ph.D.), she arrived at Ohio University in 1990 after teaching at LaGuardia Community College of the City University of New York, Helsinki University (Finland), Long Island University (Brooklyn, NY), and the Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago). Her work reflects a transnational view of American culture as a site of ideological contention born of contrast with other places, especially Europe; she draws on archival and other historical records to build contexts for formal, genetic, and rhetorical criticism. Since 1986 her research program has produced 5 well-regarded university press books, an award-winning encyclopedia of American regional culture, 5 special issues of scholarly journals, 60+ peer-reviewed articles in notable journals and edited volumes, and, as principal investigator or co-PI, grants for research on American culture totaling \$1.31 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ohio Humanities Council, and other sources. Before her 2019 retirement from teaching, Lee held the Charles E. Zumkehr Chair of Rhetoric & Public Culture, led the Central Region Humanities Center at Ohio University (which she co-founded in 2001), and contributed to shared governance as a representative to Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees as well as the chair or member of many departmental, college, and university committees. She chaired OU's Society of Distinguished Professors in 2019-20 and continued as a CRHC advisor through 2021.

Internationally recognized as a leading authority on American literary humor from Mark Twain to the present, Lee also has expertise in historical and contemporary rhetorics of popular science and technology, including electronic media, as well as in American graphic, radio, and performance humor. Always she examines individual examples in the context of larger cultural concerns, especially political ideology. Her volume *Seeing MAD: Essays on MAD Magazine's History and Legacy* (2020) offers the most comprehensive and detailed view of a contender for "America's most important humor magazine"; her historical introduction establishes *Mad's* place in American humor and its significance among print media. Her previous book, *Twain's Brand: Humor in Contemporary American Culture* (2012), which *WorldCat* reports has been acquired by libraries in 52 countries plus the U.S. and Canada, shows how recent American humor in many media--from contemporary fiction, stand-up comedy, and television satire to comic strips, graphic novels, and animated cartoons--offers insights into the post-industrial culture created by the information economy, for which Mark Twain created the earliest global comic brand. *Garrison Keillor: A Voice of America* (1991) and *Defining New Yorker Humor* (2000), the first scholarly studies of their topics, likewise probed relationships between American humor and larger cultural trends such as urbanization, Modernism, the New Woman, and secondary orality. Journal articles such as "Fossil Feuds: Popular Science and the Rhetoric of Vernacular Humor" (1994) and "'The Culture Demanded by Modern Life': *The Galaxy* and the Popularization of Science in America, 1866-1878" (2002) trace in popular media the tensions arising when scientific advancements challenge American ideological investment in the ordinary citizen. Her book chapter "Charting the Codes of Cyberspace: A Rhetoric of Electronic Mail" (2002/1996) remains the major theoretical statement on the subject. The Center for Mark Twain Studies devoted its 2020 Quarry Farm Symposium to research inspired by her article "American Humor and Matters of Empire" (2020); selected papers appeared in a special 2021 issue of *Studies in American Humor*.

For her intellectual leadership, Lee has been asked to write the annual review of scholarship for *Studies in American Humor*, invited to lecture in Europe, Asia, and Australia as well as across the U.S., appointed editor of *Explorations in Media Ecology* (2001-04) and *Studies in American Humor* (2013-17), elected president of the American Humor Studies Association and the Research Society for American Periodicals, elected the first Executive Director of the Society for Literature and Science (which she helped to found), and commissioned to contribute to major editorial projects, including *The Oxford Mark Twain* (1996). In 2015 she was appointed the 2016 Fulbright Senior Professor of American Culture in The Netherlands for research and teaching on the theme "American Humor and Matters of Empire" at Leiden University. Ohio University recognized her achievements with its highest faculty honor, the Kennedy Distinguished Professor Award, in 2016.



**AWARDS & HONORS**

2020 Edmund S. Carpenter Award for Career Achievement in Editing, Media Ecology Association

2000. *Defining New Yorker Humor*. Studies in Popular Culture Series. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi. The magazine's development of a comic sensibility in covers and cartoons, "Talk" and journalism, fiction and poetry its first five years; based on editorial, authorial, and artists' archives.
1991. *Garrison Keillor: A Voice of America*. Studies in Popular Culture Series. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi. First scholarly study of the humorist's work on radio and in print; based on archives at Minnesota Public Radio.
1990. *Beyond the Two Cultures: Essays on Science, Technology, and Literature* (edited with Joseph W. Slade). Ames: Iowa State University Press.

### **EDITORIAL PROJECTS**

2021. Guest Editor, with Lawrence Howe, *American Humor and Matters of Empire*, special issue of *Studies in American Humor*, 4th ser., 7.2 (2021), selected revised and expanded papers from the 2020 Quarry Farm Symposium.
- 2016—Editor, with Tracy Wuster, *Humor in America*, book series with Pennsylvania State University Press. Titles listed at <[https://www.psupress.org/books/series/book\\_SeriesHIA.html](https://www.psupress.org/books/series/book_SeriesHIA.html)>.
2016. Editor, with James E. Caron, *American Satire and the Postmodern Condition*, special issue of *Studies in American Humor*, ser. 4, 2.2 (2016): 153-338.
2015. Editor, with Rob King, *American Humor across Media in the 1920s and 1930s*, special issue of *Studies in American Humor*, ser. 4, 1.2 (2015): 135-278.
2014. Editor, with John Bird, *MAD Magazine and Its Legacies*, special jumbo issue of *Studies in American Humor*, n.s. 3, no. 30 (2014): 1-216.



2016. "Stand-up Comedy, Social Change, and (American) Culture." Foreword to *Standing Up, Speaking Out: Stand-Up Comedy and the Rhetoric of Social Change*, ed. Matthew R. Meier and Casey R. Schmitt. London: Routledge. Xi-xvi.
2015. "Assaults of Laughter." *Studies in American Humor* 4th ser., 1.1 (April 2015): v-ix. [On satire and terrorism in the aftermath of attacks on *Charlie Hebdo* and Sony Pictures Entertainment.]
2015. "Revisiting the Field: *American Periodicals* and American Periodicals Research." *American Periodicals: A Journal of History & Criticism* 25.1 (2015): 26-31.
2014. "Methods in *Madness*: An Introduction" (with John Bird). *Studies in American Humor* 3rd ser., 30 (2014): 1-5.
2014. "Constance Rourke." In *Encyclopedia of American Studies*, ed. Simon Bronner. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. <[Http://eas-ref.press.jhu.edu/](http://eas-ref.press.jhu.edu/)>.
2014. "Brand Management: Samuel Clemens, Trademarks, and the Mark Twain Enterprise." *American Literary Realism* 47.1 (Fall 2014): 27-57.
2014. "A Friend in Full: Linda S. Bergmann, 1950-2014." *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition* 16.1 (Fall/Winter 2013-14): 71-75.
2013. "Enter Laughing: American Humor Studies in the Spirit of Our Times." *Studies in American Humor* 3rd ser. 28 (2013): 1-15.
2013. "The Year's Work in American Humor Studies, 2011." *Studies in American Humor* 3rd ser. 27 (2013): 139-188.
2012. "From the Sublime to the Ridiculous: Comic Traditions in the American Novel." In *The Blackwell Companion to the American Novel*, ed. Alfred Bendixen. Oxford, England: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. 218-240.
2011. Reprint, "An Adventure in Remote Seas," "A True Story," Imagery, Silas Phelps, Tom Sawyer. Five entries for *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Mark Twain*, ed. James E. Wilson and J. R. LeMaster. New York: Routledge, 2011. 6, 385-387, 572, 656-658, 751-752.
2011. "The Year's Work in American Humor Studies, 2009." *Studies in American Humor* 3rd ser. 23 (2011): 81-111.
2010. "Affairs of the Breast: Philip Roth and David Kepesh" In *Playful and Serious: Philip Roth as a Comic Writer*, ed. Jay Halio and Ben Siegel. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2010. 68-91.
2009. "The Year's Work in American Humor Studies, 2007." *Studies in American Humor* 3rd ser. 19 (2009): 105-138.



2003. Reprint, "Charting the Codes of Cyberspace: A Rhetoric of Electronic Mail." In *Communication and Cyberspace: Social Interaction in an Electronic Environment*, ed. Lance Strate, Ronald L. Jacobson, and Stephanie B. Gibson. 2nd ed. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 2003. 307-328.
2002. "The Year's Work in American Humor Studies, 2001." *Studies in American Humor* 3rd ser. 9 (2002): 93-107.



1993. "An Adventure in Remote Seas," "A True Story," Imagery, Silas Phelps, Tom Sawyer. Five entries for *The Mark Twain Encyclopedia*, ed. James E. Wilson and J. R. LeMaster. New York: Garland, 1993. 6, 385-387, 572, 656-658, 751-752.

1993. "David Ross Locke." Entry for *Bibliography of United States Literature*. Ed. Joel Myerson, Mat-

“‘Mr. Stanley, I Presume’: Mark Twain’s 1872 Visit to England and His Growth as a Writer.” Center for Mark Twain Studies Lecture Series, “The Trouble Begins at Eight,” Elmira College, Elmira, NY, 26 October 2022.

“Humor in a Jugular Vein: The Rise, Fall, and Legacy of *Mad*

“Vernacular Humor as a Transatlantic Rhetoric: Mark Twain and the Rhetoric of Empire.” Colloquium lecture, American Studies Seminar, Département d'Etudes Anglophones, Université de Strasbourg, France, 13 May 2016.

“Twain's Vernacular Vision and the Visual Vernacular: From Huckleberry Finn to Huey Freeman.” Public lecture, Carl Schurz Haus, Deutsch-Amerikanische Institut, Freiburg, Germany, 12 May 2016.

“Vernacular Humor as a Transatlantic Rhetoric: Mark Twain and the Rhetoric of Empire.” Public lecture, sponsored by the Department of English, Universität Basel, Switzerland, 11 May 2016.

“A Quadrennial Banquet: Food for Laughter and Thought in American Presidential Campaigns.” Public lecture, Symposium Leidschrift: de Amerikaanse presidentsverkiezingen [*Leideschrift* Historical Journal Symposium: The American Presidential Election--Campaigns in a Contemporary and Historic Perspective], Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands, 14 April 2016.

“Mark Twain: Master of Modern Marketing.” Public lecture, sponsored by the Faculté des Lettres, Langues et Sciences Humaines, Université Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse, France, 24 March 2016.

“Mark Twain's Brand: Turning Comic Capital into Gold.” Public lecture, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland, 4 March 2016.

“Mark Twain's Brand: Turning Comic Capital into Gold.” Public lecture, California -14.1598 Td[(bour)2.9hQ411.

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- “Comic Imperialism in *Connecticut Yankee*.” *The Trouble Begins at Eight* lecture series. Center for Mark Twain Studies, Elmira College, Elmira, NY, 28 April 2010.
- “Comic Professions: Humor, the Information Economy, and American Culture.” American Studies Program, School of Humanities, Penn State University-Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA, 7 December 2009.
- “Laughing Matters: An Introduction to Humor Theory,” Digital Studies Colloquium, Department of Literature, Communication, and Culture, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 2 April 2007.
- “Hook, Line, and Picture: Toward a Theory of Graphic Humor,” Plenary Address, International Society for Humor Studies, Youngstown, OH, 16 June 2005.
- “Twins of Race and Culture: Biology and Destiny in *Pudd’nhead Wilson*,” Who Are We? Week [campus-wide exploration of race in America, culminating in the world premiere of Charles Smith’s dramatization of *Pudd’nhead Wilson*, performed by The Acting Company prior to opening on Broadway], Ohio University, Athens, OH, 3 April 2002.
- “Contemporary Formats for American Radio Humor,” United States Information Agency, Tallin, Estonia, 11 May 1998.
- “The Rhetoric of Radio: *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Car Talk*, and *Whad ’Ya Know?*” Visiting Professor of Humanities Lecture, University of Missouri--Rolla, Rolla, MO, 28 October 1998.
- “More than Meets the Eye: The Development of the *New Yorker* Cartoon,” Visiting Professor of Humanities Lecture, University of Missouri--Rolla, Rolla, MO, 29 October 1998.
- “Varieties of Comic Art in the *New Yorker*, 1925-1930,” Friends of the Libraries of Ohio University, Athens, OH, 7 May 1997.
- “Research in American Popular Culture,” American Popular Culture Today, United States Information Service and Srinikarinwirote University, Imperial Queens Park Plaza Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, 7 December 1994.
- “The I’s Have It: Personal Narrative and the American Sense of Self,” Department of History and American Studies, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, 26 March 1987; and Department of English Language & Literature, University of Joensuu, Finland, 28 April 1987.

## SYMPOSIA

Chair, "American Humor and Matters of Empire," Quarry Farm Symposium of the Center for Mark Twain Studies, Elmira College, Elmira, NY, 2-3 October 2020, via Zoom. International gathering of humor scholars and Americanists across 11 time zones from Europe to Hawaii to probe the significance of my 2020 theoretical article by the same name.

Chair, "Conference on Science, Technology, and Literature," with Joseph W. Slade, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY, 23-25 February 1983.

## GRANTS AWARDED (Total: \$1,315,966)

- |      |            |  |
|------|------------|--|
| 2022 | \$1000.    | Quarry Farm Fellowship, Center for Mark Twain Studies of Elmira College, to support research on how Mark Twain's experiences in Australia and Tasmania shaped the his accounts in <i>More Tramps Abroad</i> and <i>Following the Equator</i> (1897). |
| 2020 | \$200.     | School of Communication Studies, Faculty Development Fund, to support production of <i>Seeing Mad: Essays on Mad Magazine's Humor and Legacy</i> .   |
| 2020 | \$200.     | College of Communication, Faculty Research, Creative Activity, and Professional Development Fund, to support production of <i>Seeing Mad: Essays on Mad Magazine's Humor and Legacy</i> .  |
| 2020 | \$600.     | Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, to support production of <i>Seeing Mad: Essays on Mad Magazine's Humor and Legacy</i> .   |
| 2015 | €20,000.   | Fulbright Scholar Program, Senior Professor of American Culture, North American Studies Program, Spring 2016, Leiden University, The Netherlends.  |
| 2014 | \$3000.    | Honors Tutorial College, Research Apprenticeship Award. Undergraduate editorial assistant for " <i>Mad Magazine</i> and Its Legacies.  |
| 2011 | \$750.     | School of Communication Studies, Faculty Development Fund. Production of color plates in <i>Twain's Brand: Humor in Contemporary American Culture</i> .  |
| 2011 | \$500.     | College of Communication, Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fund, to support production of color plates in <i>Twain's Brand: Humor in Contemporary American Culture</i> .   |
| 2011 | \$350.     | Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, to support production of color plates in <i>Twain's Brand: Humor in Contemporary American Culture</i> .   |
| 2003 | \$100,000. | Beth Stocker. Central Region Humanities Center endowment.  |
| 2003 | \$10,000.  | Ohio Humanities Council. Video Production Grant, <i>Dunbar: A Documentary</i> . Project Total: \$20,000.   |
| 2003 | \$1,800.   | Ohio University, Program to Aid Career Exploration. Research assistant for Central Region Humanities Center, 2003-04.  |
| 2003 | :\$10,000. | National Endowment for the Humanities, Public ProTj-434.4 -14.1602 Td[(2011 a)3.84 10unb   |



*“Mad Magazine with John Bird and Judith Yaross Lee,”* interview for the Mark Twain House and

With Steve Weiberg, Kansas City Public Library, 26 January 2021, <https://kclibrary>



## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

“Film Comedies/Imperial Heritage,” Comedy/Humor, Joint Conference of the American Humor Studies Association and Comedy Studies Special Interest Group of the Society for Cinema & Media Studies, Saratoga Springs, NY, 9-12 July 2023.

Chair and moderator, “What are we laughing at? : Contrarian Humor, Satire, and Popular Culture,” Works in Progress Conference, American Humor Studies Association, Zoom, 30 July 2021.

Symposium chair and organizer, “American Humor and Matters of Empire,” 2020 Quarry Farm Symposium, Center for Mark Twain Studies, Elmira College, 2-3 October, 2020.

“Mark Twain’s Australia—and Mine,” 2019 Clemens Conference, Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum, Hannibal, MO, 27 July 2019.

“Brother Jonathan Runs for President: Vernacular Values and Spoof Campaigns,” Symposium: Political

“Race and Empire in Vernacular Humor: Teachable Moments in Mark Twain’s *Connecticut Yankee*,” session sponsored by the Humor Studies Caucus, “Nineteenth-Century Humor in the Classroom: Race, Resistance, and Questions of Pedagogy,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR, 15-18 November 2012.

“American Humor Studies for a Post-Nationalist Age: A Manifesto,” session sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association, “Theorizing American Humor and Wit: New Directions,” American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, 25 May 2012.

“Mark Twain’s Perceptions of Civilization, Technology, and Progress: A Roundtable,” NEH Summer Teacher’s Institute: *Mark Twain and the Culture of Progress*, Mark Twain House & Museum, Hartford, CT, 26-28 July 2011.

“The Visual Vernacular in American Graphic Humor from The Yellow Kid to The Simpsons,” Mark Twain Circle-American Humor Studies Association Quadrennial Conference, San Diego, California, 10 December 2010.

“Mark Twain’s Vernacular Vision and Lynda Barry’s Visual Vernacular,” session sponsored by the Mark Twain Circle, “‘Of its own accord and uninvited’: Mark Twain’s Influence on 20th- and 21st- Century Literature and Culture,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, Atlanta, GA, 5 November 2010.

“Humor and Empire in Connecticut Yankee,” session on “Mark Twain: Empire, Civilization, and Imperialism,” Sixth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies, Elmira, NY, 7 August 2009.

“Portnoy at 40: Comic Truth and Consequences,” session on “Portnoy’s Complaint, 1969-2009” sponsored by the Philip Roth Society, American Literature Association, Boston, MA, 21 May 2009.

“Theorizing American Humor in a Post-Nationalist Age: Issues for Research and Teaching,” session on “Humor at the Crossroads,” American Studies Association, Albuquerque, NM, 14-16 November 2009.

“Mark Twain as a Stand-up Comedian,” session sponsored by the Mark Twain Circle, American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, 27 May 2006.

“Issues in Access to American Periodicals,” roundtable sponsored by the Research Society for American Periodicals, American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, 26 May 2006.

“Communities of Comedy and Commerce: More than Funny Business,” Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference on North American Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland, 17 May 2006.

“The Imperialist Humor of Philip Roth,” session on Humor and Empire, Great Lakes American Studies Association, Indianapolis, IN, 19 March 2005.

“The Contemporary Political Circus: Billionnaires for Bush and the Revival of Political Satire,” session sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association, American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, 28 May 2004.

“Women’s Networks and the Politics of Reputation: The Case of The New Yorker,” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 24 October 2003.

“The Future of American Periodicals Research and *American Periodicals*,” session sponsored by the Research Society for American Periodicals, American Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, 24 May 2003.

“New Directions for Studying Popular Humor,” session on Humor in Magazines, Gross-Out Movies, and the Internet sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association, American Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, 23 May 2003.

“Affairs of the Breast: Philip Roth and David Kepesh,” session on Philip Roth as a Comic Writer, Modern Language Association, New York City, 28 December 2002.

“Interpersonal Networks and the Making of a Magazine: The Case of the Early *New Yorker*,” Media Ecology Association Convention, New York City, 21 June 2002.

“Recovering Nineteenth-Century Ethnic Humor: The Case of Petroleum V. Nasby,” session on Racial & Ethnic Humor sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association, American Literature Association, Long Beach, CA, 30 May 2002.

“Idea Humor and Cartoon Criticism,” session on Visual Communication Theory: Approaches and O30.013(,)3.841

“Privacy and Orality,” A Response to Mark Poster,” Conference on Public/Privacy, College of Communication, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 6 April 2001.

“Walter Ong’s Media Ecology and Contemporary Communication Scholarship,” session on “The Media Ecology of Walter Ong,” sponsored by the Media Ecology Association, National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, 9-12 November 2000.

“American Puritanism and Media Ecology,” session on “Media Ecology and the American Intellectual Tradition,” Inaugural Media Ecology Association Convention, New York, NY, 16-17 June 2000.

- “Managing the Mess: Using Databases for Periodicals History,” session sponsored by the Research Society for American Periodicals at the American Literature Association convention, Baltimore, MD, May 22-25, 1997.
- “Varieties of Comic Art in the *New Yorker*, 1925-1930,” session sponsored by the Comic Art & Comics Area, Popular Culture Association Conference, San Antonio, TX, 27-31 March 1997.
- “Comic Rhetoric on *Car Talk*,” session on Analyzing Talk: Equal Time for Radio and Television, sponsored by the Mass Communication Division, Speech Communication Association, San Diego, CA, 25 November 1996. (Much revised & expanded version of earlier work of the same title.)
- “Form and Failure: *The Galaxy* and the Popularization of Science in America, 1866-1878,” session on Science and Rhetorical Form sponsored by American Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology, Speech Communication Association, San Diego, CA, 24 Nov. 1996. (A new iteration of this research.)
- ““But Where Is It?”: A Communication Theory Course Teaches Orienteering in Cyberspace” (with Andrew F. Wood), session on Critical Thinking in Cyberspace, Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Computers and Writing Conference, Blacksburg, VA, 5 Oct. 1996.
- “The World Wide Web as Comic Source and Resource,” session on New Directions in American Humor Scholarship, sponsored by American Humor Studies Association, American Literature Association, San Diego, CA, 2 June 1996.
- “Radio in Reverse: Click and Clack’s *Car Talk*,” session sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association, Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, 27 December 1995.
- “Newspaper Supplements and the Expression of Thai Rhetorical Values,” session sponsored by the Intercultural Communication Division, Speech Communication Association, San Antonio, November 20, 1995.
- “Prometheus Unbound: Communications Scholars and Students in the Archives,” Ohio Society of

- “*The Galaxy* and the Diffusion of Science in America, 1866-1878,” session on “Literature and the Diffusion of Science in Nineteenth-Century America,” Society for Literature and Science, Boston, MA, 18-21 November 1993.
- “Five Ways of Looking at ‘Aprille’ (with Apologies to Wallace Stevens),” Second Kentucky Conference on Narrative, Lexington, KY, 15-16 October 1993.
- “‘The Talk of the Town’ and the Launching of *The New Yorker*,” session on Humor in American Magazines sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association, American Literature Association, Baltimore, MD, 28-30 May 1993.
- “Writing Conventions and Democracy,” panel on “Democracy and Diversity: Communication Studies and Public Discourse,” Speech Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 29 October-1 November 1992.
- “Five Ways of Looking at ‘Aprille’: Storytelling Analysis in the Twenty-First Century,” session on “Re-Visions of the Text,” The Future of Popular Culture Studies in the Twenty-First Century: A Special Conference in Honor of Ray B. Browne, Bowling Green, OH, 4-6 June 1992.
- “Communicating Commitment: Academic Negotiation and the Two-Career Couple,” session on “Negotiating Institutional Structures in the Academy: Issues of Empowerment and Communication,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Cincinnati, OH, 19-21 March 1992.
- “Mark Twain’s Comic Science,” session on “Mark Twain’s Cultural Environment,” Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, 27-30 December 1991.
- “Barnum’s Version of the Self-Made Man,” session on “P. T. Barnum: Apotheosis and Caricature of the American Dream,” Speech Communication Association, Atlanta, GA, 31 October-3 November 1991.
- “The Feminization of Technology,” session on “Art and Culture,” North Central Women’s Studies Association, 17-18 October 1991.
- “Science Writing and Science News in *The Galaxy*,” session on “Science in 19th Century Magazines,” Society for Literature and Science, Montreal, Quebec, 10-13 October 1991.
- “Garrison Keillor and the Rhetoric of Rusticity,” session on “American Humor,” 1990 NEMLA Convention, Hartford, CT., 5-7 April 1991.
- “The Minnesota Muse: Garrison Keillor and Local Color Humor,” session on “Land and Literature,” Third Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference on North American Studies, Renvall Institute of Historical Research, University of Helsinki, Finland, 25-28 April 1990.
- “The Ghost of Mrs. Caudle,” Celebration of International Women’s Writing, LaGuardia/C.U.N.Y., Long Island City, NY, 27 February, 1990.

- “Republican Rhymes: Constitutional Controversies and the Democratization of the Verse Satire, 1786-1799,” session on “Humor and Politics,” Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, DC, 27-30 December 1989.
- “Discourses of Popular Science,” Society for Social Studies of Science Convention, Irvine, California, 15-18 November 1989.
- “Fossil Feuds: Scientific Controversy and the 19th Century American Press,” session on “Science and Popular Audiences,” Society for Literature and Science Convention, Ann Arbor, MI, 24-26 September 1989.
- “Garrison Keillor and the Development of the Lake Wobegon Monologue,” English Department Critical Forum, LaGuardia/ C.U.N.Y., Long Island City, NY, 22 May 1989.
- “Marietta Holley: Feminist Humorist,” Women’s Words/Women’s Works: A Women’s Studies Celebration, LaGuardia/C.U.N.Y., Long Island City, NY, 8 May 1989.
- “Mark Twain’s *Connecticut Yankee* at 100: Problems for Students and Scholars,” session on “Science and Literature,” Twentieth Annual Conference of the College English Association, Orlando, Florida, 6-8 April 1989.
- “Where the Twain Meet: Garrison Keillor and *New Yorker* Humor,” session on “Northeastern Urban Humor,” 1989 NEMLA Convention, Wilmington, DE, 30 March-1 April 1989.
- “How To Do Things With Science in Literary Study,” 1988 Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, St. Louis, MO, 3-5 November 1988.
- “Vernacular Values, Learned Wit, and Hoax: American Traditions of Scientific Humor,” special session on “Literature and Science,” 1988 Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, St. Louis, MO, 3-5 November 1988.
- “The Comic Legacy of “John Phoenix” (alias “J. P. Squibob”): The Technological Imagination at Play,” Speakers in the Humanities Program, New York (State) Council for the Humanities, 1988-89.
- “Feminist Perspectives on Literature and Technology,” 1988 NEMLA Convention, Providence, RI, 24 March 1988.
- “George Horatio Derby, Humorist of Science and Technology,” session on Popular American Literature and Science, Society for Literature and Science Convention, Worcester, MA, 10 October 1987.
- “Garrison Keillor and the Matter of Minnesota,” 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Fulbright Scholarly Exchange, University of Tampere, Finland, 11 April 1987.
- “American Humor and the Legacy of Mark Twain,” American Studies Conference, Helsinki, Finland, 31 January 1987.





Chair and commentator, “Humor Studies as American Studies,” session sponsored by the Humor Studies Caucus, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 6 November 2009.

Moderator, “Mark Twain and Technology,” panel at the Sixth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies, Elmira, NY, 6 August 2009.

Chair, “Visual Culture in American Periodicals II,” session sponsored by the Research Society for American Periodicals, American Literature Association, Boston, MA, 27 May 2007.

Chair, “Intersections of Humor and Theory,” session sponsored by the American Humor Studies Association, American Literature Association, Boston, MA, 26 May 2005.

Chair, “Electronic Media and Greater Expectations: Exploring the Implications of Electronic Mediation for Communication” [presentations by three students from my 2004 Rhetoric and Electronic Media course], session sponsored by the Media Ecology Association, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Pittsburgh, PA, 30 April 2005.

Chair, “The Rhetoric of Race in America” [presentations by five students from my 2003 graduate seminar], session sponsored by the American Studies Commission, National Communication Association Convention, Miami Beach, FL, 21 November 2003.

Chair & organizer, “Innovations and Challenges for American Studies Programs,” joi

nology and the Mediation of Rhetorical Inventions . . . [in] India's National Television System" (Krishna O. Kandath), Eastern Communication Association Conference, Charleston, WV, 29 April - 2 May 1999.

Chair, Studies in the History of Rhetoric and Argument, sponsored by Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, Speech Communication Association, San Diego, CA, 23 Nov. 1996.

Chair, "The Rhetorical West Goes East: An Experiment in Intercultural Theory Building," Speech Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, 20 November 1995.

Chair, "Constructing American Identity," Speech Communication Association, Miami, FL, 18-21 November 1993.

Respondent, "The Absurd and Other Forms of the Comic," session sponsored by American Humor Studies Association, American Literature Association Convention, San Diego, CA, 28-30 May 1992.

Chair, "Twice-Told Tales: Revised or Retold Stories in American Humor," Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, 27-30 December 1991.



American First-Person Narratives  
American Literary Humor\*\*  
Rhetoric of American Protest & Reform \*  
Theories of Communication  
Communication & Persuasion  
Rhetoric and Electronic Media\*\*  
History of American Mass Media\*\*  
World Literature, 1660-present



Women's Studies Curriculum Committee (1990-1999)  
Baker Awards Committee (1999-2002)  
College of Communication Graduate Committee (1998-99)  
Committee on Writing Across Campus (1996-1997)

- 1973-74 English Department Policy Committee, University of Chicago  
 1972-75 Oberlin College Alumni Admissions Program  
 1972 Ward Coordinator, U. S. Presidential Campaign, Chicago  
 1971-73 Traffic Analyst-Statistician, Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, Chicago

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2022— Vice-President, Mark Twain Circle of America  
 2020— Scientific Board, *Studia Philologia*, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
 2020— Executive Committee, Mark Twain Circle of America  
 2018— Editorial Board, *Studies in American Humor*  
 2017— Quarry Farm Fellowship Committee, Center for Mark Twain Studies, Elmira College  
 2016-2020 Editorial Board, *Mark Twain Journal*  
 2015- Editorial Board, *Explorations in Media Ecology*  
 2009- Board of Directors, American Humor Studies Association  
 2011-13 Immediate Past President, Research Society for American Periodicals  
 2009-11 President, Research Society for American Periodicals  
 2009-13 *Editor-Elect*, *Studies in American Humor*, American Humor Studies Association  
 2007-09 President-Elect, Research Society for American Periodicals  
 2005 Nominations Committee, MacArthur Foundation Fellowships (“Genius Awards”)  
 2002-2006 Executive Board Member, Great Lakes American Studies Association  
 2001-2004 Advisory Board Member, Media Ecology Association  
 1992-2009 Advisory Board Member, American Humor Studies Association  
 1990-2006 Advisory Board Member, Research Society for American Periodicals  
 1990-2009 Reviewer, American Studies Commission, National Communication Association  
 1992-96 Book Review Editor, *American Periodicals*  
 1990-91 President, American Humor Studies Association  
 1991-94 Editor, *Decodings: The Newsletter of the Society for Literature and Science*  
 1989-90 Vice-President, American Humor Studies Association  
 1987-93 Executive Director and Board Member, Society for Literature and Science  
 1986-90 Contributing Editor (American Literature) Annual Bibliography, 1986-1990, *Publication of the Society for Literature and Science*.  
 1982-83 Director, Conference on Science, Technology, and Literature, Long Island University--Brooklyn

**Grant Reviewer** for Ohio University, National Endowment for the Humanities, Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Center for Mark Twain Studies.

**Editorial Reviewer** for Johns Hopkins University Press, Oxford University Press, Fordham University Press, University of Georgia Press, University of Virginia Press, SUNY Press, Ohio University Press, Allyn & Bacon, Wadsworth, Macmillan, SAGE Publishers, Hampton Press, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, *Jewish Film and New Media*, *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, *Colloquy: Text, Theory, Critique* (Queensland, Australia), *Genre*, *Studies in American Humor*, *American Literary*

**Tenure & Promotion Reviewer** for Skidmore College, Clemson University, University of North Texas, University of South Florida Polytechnic, Brigham Young University, University of Florida, Fordham University, University of Texas-Dallas, University of Missouri-Rolla, Goucher College.

**Dissertation Reviewer** for Anna University, Chennai, India (M. Vijaya, “A Deconstructive Analysis of Art Buchwald’s Essays,” Ph.D., 2010).

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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