

H. Porter Abbott

Department of English
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3170
231-386-5391, 805-687-3201, cell: 231-432-0342, 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

Real Mysteries: Narrative and the Unknowable (Ohio State University Press, forthcoming 2013)
The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative, Second Edition (Cambridge University Press, 2008) [revised and expanded]
Serbian language edition (Sluzbeni Glasnik, 2009)
Korean edition (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).

Books in progress

- The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative, Third Edition*
Darwinian Conversions and Modernist Saltations: Modeling Personal Transformation, 1880-1920

Articles, chapters, encyclopedia entries published & in press

- “Shadow Stories,” in Lisa Zunshine, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Literary
 Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 1213)
- “H. Porter Abbott” [interview], in Peer F. Bundgaard, Peer F., Henrik Skov
 Nielsen, & Frederik Stjernfelt, eds., *Narratology: Five Questions* (Copenhagen:
 Automatic Press/VIP, 2012), pp. 1-9.
- “So, It’s not only Unspeakable, It’s Unknowable. But Is It Unnarratable? Beckett and
 the Apophatic Tradition,” in Tomasz Wiśniewski, ed. *Back to the Beckett Text*
 (Gdansk: University of Gdansk Press, 2012), pp. 179-189.
- “Spadek Po Samuelu Beckettcie,” Polish translation of “The Legacy of Samuel
 Beckett” by Tomasz Wiśniewski in Tomasz Wiśniewski, ed., *Samuel Beckett:
 Tradycja-awangarda* (Gdansk: University of Gdansk Press, 2012), pp. 19-37.
- “A Question of Leverage: A Response to Alan Palmer’s ‘Social Minds’,” *Style* 45.2
 (2011): 325-29.
- “Reading Intended Meaning Where None is Intended: A Cognitivist Reappraisal of
 the Implied Author,” *Poetics Today* 32.3 (2011): 459-485.

- “Time, Narrative, Life, Death, and Text-Type Distinctions: The Example of Coetzee’s *Diary of a Bad Year*,” *Narrative* 19.2 (spring 2011): 187-200.
- “Narrative,” *Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Novel* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2011), pp. 533-40.
- “Conversion in an Age of Darwinian Gradualism,” *Storyworlds* 2 (2010): 1-18.
- “Wokół powrotu do tekstu Becketta – uwagi i spostrzeżenia,” Polish translation by Bartosz Lutostański of “Thoughts for going back to the Beckett text,” *Topos* (2010): 33-35.
- “Garden Paths and Ineffable effects: Abandoning representation in Literature and Film” in Frederick Luis Aldama, ed., *Toward a Cognitive Theory of Narrative Acts* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2010), pp. 205-226.
- “Law, Agency, and Unnarratable Action,” *Michigan State University Law Review* (2009): 875-883.
- “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) pp. 309-328. Also available on line in *Living Handbook of Narratology* (University of Hamburg Press) http://hup.sub.uni-hamburg.de/lhn/index.php/Main_Page.
- “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 [review article].
- “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
- “Humanists, Scientists 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 Anjourd’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: 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*,” *The Southern Review* 33.3 (summer 1997), 536-546. [review essay]
- “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* (An 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, 2002): 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*, *Yamp*, *Writers' Forum*, *The Compass*, *Spectrum* and *PN Review*.

Presentations

Papers, invited lectures, plenary and keynote addresses given at the British Council, Bologna; Case Western Reserve University; Centro de Ricerca Sull' Utopie, Rimini; Carleton University, Ottawa; Dartmouth College; L'école Normale Supérieure, Fontenay-St Cloud; Florida State University; 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; The University of Allahabad, India; the University of Birmingham, England; the University of Bologna; the University of California, Berkeley (3); the University of California, Santa Barbara (7); the University of California, Santa Cruz; the University of California, Davis (2); the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand; the University of Gdansk, Poland; 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; the University of York, England; Upper Canada College, Toronto; Washington College, Chestertown, MD; Washington University, St Louis; 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.