

Louis Menand
360 Riverside Drive, 10B
New York, New York 10025
(212) 865-7698

EMPLOYMENT

2004- Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of English and American Literature and Language, Harvard University
2003-04 Professor of English and American Literature and Language, Harvard University
2001-03 Distinguished Professor of English, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York
1994-2001 Professor of English, The Graduate Center, CUNY
1993-94 Associate Professor of English, The Graduate Center, CUNY
1988-93 Associate Professor of English, Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
1987-88 Associate Professor of English, Queens College, CUNY
1980-87 Assistant Professor of English, Princeton University
1977-78 Preceptor, Columbia University

VISITING APPOINTMENTS

Kritikos Professor, Humanities Center, University of Oregon, Spring 2005
Schaffer Visiting Scholar, Department of English, Carnegie Mellon University, Spring 2005
Visiting Professor of Liberal Studies, Graduate Faculty, New School University, Fall 2001, Fall 2002
Visiting Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law, Spring 1998
Adjunct Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fall 1989, Spring 1990

EDUCATION

Columbia University, 1974-80; M.A., with high honors, 1975; Ph.D., with distinction, 1980
Harvard Law School, 1973-74 (leave of absence, 1974-76)
Pomona College, 1969-70, 1971-73; B.A., magna cum laude, 1973
University of California at Berkeley, 1970-71

HONORS AND AWARDS

Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellow, The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholar and Writers, New York Public Library, 2007-2008
Finalist, National Magazine Award for Reviews and Criticism, 2005
Finalist, National Magazine Award for Reviews and Criticism, 2004
Finalist, National Magazine Award for Essays, 2004
Literary Light, Boston Public Library, 2004
Finalist, National Magazine Award for Reviews and Criticism, 2003
A.M. (honoris causa), Harvard University, 2003
Litt.D. (honoris causa), Pomona College, 2003
Dean's Award for Distinguished Achievement, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2003
Fellow of the Society of American Historians, 2003-
Pulitzer Prize for History, 2002 ([The Metaphysical Club](#))
Francis Parkman Prize, Society of American Historians, 2002 ([The Metaphysical Club](#))
Finalist, [Los Angeles Times](#) Book Prize in History, 2002 ([The Metaphysical Club](#))
Heartland Prize for Nonfiction, [Chicago Tribune](#), 2001 ([The Metaphysical Club](#))
Editors' Choice, Best Books of 2001, [New York Times Book Review](#) ([The Metaphysical Club](#))
Scholar of the Year, New York Council for the Humanities, 2002

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation research grant, 1997-98
 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 1991-92
 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 1990-91
 Scholar Incentive Award, Queens College, 1990-91; CUNY Graduate Center, 1997-98
 PSC-CUNY Research Award, 1990-91
 John E. Annan Bicentennial Preceptorship, Princeton University, 1984-87
 Princeton University Council for the Humanities Research Grant, 1981
 President's Fellow, Columbia University, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1979-80
 Fellow of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 1974-75
 John Dye Award (best writing in a student publication), Pomona College, 1973
 Phi Beta Kappa, Pomona College, 1973

HARVARD ACTIVITIES

Faculty Council, 2006-
 Committee on Undergraduate Education, 2006-
 Board of Freshman Advisers, 2006-
 Standing committee on degrees in History and Literature, 2006-
 Co-chair, Task Force on General Education, Harvard College Curricular Review, 2006-2007
 History and Literature Internal Review Committee, 2006-2007
 Committee on General Education, Harvard College Curricular Review, 2004-2006
 Member of the Faculty of Education, 2003-
 Standing committee on degrees in the History of American Civilization, 2003-
 Executive Committee, Humanities Center at Harvard, 2003-
 Graduate Steering Committee, Department of English, 2003-
 Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English, 2003-

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Current

Editorial Board, *The Penguin History of American Life*, 2003-
 Advisory Board, *The Public Square* series, Princeton University Press, 2003-
 Board of Editors, *New England Quarterly*, 2002-
 Staff writer, *The New Yorker*, 2001-
 Contributing Editor, *Raritan: A Quarterly Review*, 1992-

Past

Board of Supervisors, The English Institute, 2002-2004
 Contributing Editor, *The New York Review of Books*, 1994-2001
 Vice-President, PEN American Center, 1995-96; Executive Board, 1994-96
 Co-director, The Twentieth Century Seminar, CUNY Graduate Center, 1993-99
 Editor and staff writer, *The New Yorker*, 1993-94
 Program Director, New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University, 1992-94;
 Resident Fellow, 1990-92; Fellow 1990-96
 Associate Editor, *The New Republic*, 1986-87

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Art and Ideas in the Cold War. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (under contract).

American Studies. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. Paperback edition, 2003. Translation: Italian.

The Metaphysical Club. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001; London: Flamingo, 2001. Paperback edition, 2002. Translations: Spanish, Korean, Italian, Chinese, Russian, Japanese.

Discovering Modernism: T. S. Eliot and His Context. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. Paperback edition, 1988. Second edition, with a new afterword, 2007.

Edited books

Best American Essays 2003. Ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Paperback edition, 2004.

Pragmatism: A Reader. Ed. New York: Vintage Books, 1997. Translation: Korean.

The Future of Academic Freedom. Ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. Paperback edition, 1998.

Co-edited books

The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism, Volume 7: Modernism and the New Criticism. Ed., with A. Walton Litz and Lawrence Rainey. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. Paperback edition 2006. Translations: Arabic, Chinese.

America in Theory. Ed., with Leslie Berlowitz and Denis Donoghue. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Published Papers

The Story of the Soup Cans. University of Oregon Books. Eugene: University of Oregon Press, 2006.

The Marketplace of Ideas. ACLS Occasional Paper, No. 49. New York: American Council of Learned Societies, 2001.

William James in Brazil. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Articles in books

“Name that Tone.” Best American Essays 2007. Ed. David Foster Wallace and Robert Atwan. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

“Do Movies Have Rights?” Thomas Dixon Jr, and the Making of Modern America. Ed. Michele K. Gillespie and Randal L. Hall. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006. Pp. 183-202.

“The Promise of Liberty, the Friend of Authority: American Culture in Postwar France.” Americanism: New Perspectives on the History of an Ideal. Ed. Michael Kazin and Joseph A. McCartin. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 2006. Pp. 205-220.

Introduction to Civilization and Its Discontents, by Sigmund Freud. New York: W. W. Norton, 2005.

“Kael’s Attack on Sarris.” Polemic: Critical or Uncritical. Ed. Jane Gallop. New York: Routledge, 2004. Pp. 153-177.

“The Science of Human Nature and the Human Nature of Science.” Genetics, Disability, and Deafness. Ed. John Vickrey Van Cleve. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 2004. Pp. 5-22.

Introduction to Memoirs of Hecate County, by Edmund Wilson. New York: New York Review Books, 2004.

“New New York Intellectual: An Interview with Louis Menand.” Critics at Work: Interviews 1993-2003. Ed. Jeffrey J. Williams. New York: New York University Press, 2004. Pp. 117-135.

“History Written with Lightning: The NAACP’s Bid to Ban The Birth of a Nation.” The New Gatekeepers: Emerging Challenges to Free Expression in the Arts. Ed. Christopher Hawthorne and Andras Szanto. New York: National Arts Journalism Program. Pp. 45-52.

Introduction to The Manchurian Candidate, by Richard Condon. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2003.

“Foreword: The Historical Romance.” To the Finland Station, by Edmund Wilson. New York: New York Review Books, 2003.

“College: After the Golden Age.” Best American Essays 2002. Ed. Stephen Jay Gould and Robert Atwan. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

“Introduction: Modernism and the New Criticism” (with Lawrence Rainey). The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism, Volume 7: Modernism and the New Criticism.

“T. S. Eliot.” In The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism, Volume 7: Modernism and the New Criticism. Pp. 17-56.

“Modernity and Literary Theory.” Earth, Air, Fire, Water: Humanistic Studies of the Environment. Ed. Jill Conway, Kenneth Keniston, and Leo Marx. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999. Pp. 305-19.

“Pragmatists and Poets.” The Revival of Pragmatism: New Essays on Social Thought, Law, and Culture. Ed. Morris Dickstein. Durham: Duke University Press, 1998. Pp. 362-9.

“Re-imagining Liberal Education.” Education and Democracy: Re-imagining Liberal Learning in America. Ed. Robert Orrill. New York: The College Board, 1997. Pp. 1-19.

“Christopher Lasch’s Quarrel with Liberalism.” The Liberal Persuasion: Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and the Challenge of the American Past. Ed. John Patrick Diggins. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997. Pp. 233-50.

“Edmund Wilson in His Times.” Edmund Wilson: Centennial Reflections. Ed. Lewis M. Dabney. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997. Pp. 253-65.

Afterword to On the Market: Surviving the Academic Job Search. Ed. Christina Boufis and Victoria C.

Olsen. New York: Riverhead, 1997.

“An Introduction to Pragmatism.” Pragmatism: A Reader.

“The Demise of Disciplinary Authority.” What’s Happened to the Humanities? Ed. Alvin Kernan. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997. Pp. 201-219.

“Radicalism for Yuppies.” The Eighties: A Reader. Ed. Gilbert T. Sewall. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1997. 254-9.

“The Limits of Academic Freedom.” The Future of Academic Freedom. 3-20.

“Culture and Advocacy.” Advocacy in the Classroom: Problems and Possibilities. Ed. Patricia Meyer Spacks. New York: St. Martin’s, 1996. 116-24.

“Kipling in the History of Forms.” High and Low Moderns: Literature and Culture 1889-1939. Ed. Lucy McDiarmid and Maria DiBattista. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. Pp. 148-65.

Introduction to Women in Love, by D. H. Lawrence. New York: Bantam Books, 1996. vii-xv.

“Marketing Postmodernism.” The Condition of American Liberal Education: Pragmatism and a Changing Tradition. Ed. Robert Orrill. New York: The College Board, 1995. Pp. 140-44.

“Diversity.” Critical Terms for Literary Study. Ed. Frank Lentricchia and Thomas McLaughlin. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995. Pp. 336-53.

“Methods and Madnesses.” Perspectives on “Raging Bull.” Ed. Steven G. Kellman. New York: G. K. Hall, 1994. Pp. 60-68.

“What Are Universities For?” Falling into Theory: Conflicting Views on Reading Literature. Ed. David H. Richter. Boston: Bedford Books, 1994. Pp. 88-99.

“Oscar Wilde.” The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism. Ed. Michael Groden and Martin Kreiswirth. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994. Pp. 730-31.

“Edmund Wilson.” The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism. Pp. 734-5.

“Dissociation of Sensibility.” The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics. Ed. Alex Preminger and T. V. F. Brogan. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993. P. 298.

“Objective Correlative.” The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics. P. 848.

“Tradition.” The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics. Pp. 1295-6.

“Mr. Bloom’s Planet.” Essays on “The Closing of the American Mind.” Ed. Robert L. Stone. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1989. Pp. 300-303.

Articles in periodicals

“Woke Up This Morning: Why We Read Diaries.” The New Yorker, 10 December 2007, 106-112.

- “Drive, He Wrote: What the Beats Were About.” The New Yorker, 1 October 2007, 88-93.
- “Dangers Within and Without.” Profession 2005, New York: Modern Language Association, 2006, 10-17.
- “Unpopular Front: American Art and the Cold War.” The New Yorker, 17 October 2005, 174-179.
- “Missionary: Edmund Wilson and American Culture.” The New Yorker, 8&15 August 2005, 82-88.
- “Gross Points: Is the Blockbuster the End of Cinema?” The New Yorker, 7 February 2005, 54-60.
- “The Science of Human Nature and the Human Nature of Science.” Sign Language Studies, 5 (2005): 170-87.
- “Permanent Fatal Errors: Did the Voters Send a Message?” The New Yorker, 6 December 2004, 54-60.
- “Edmund Wilson’s Vanished World.” The New York Review of Books, 51 (23 September 2004), 86.
- “The Unpolitical Animal: How Political Science Understands Voters” The New Yorker, 30 August 2004, 92-96
- “Nanook and Me: ‘Fahrenheit 9/11’ and the Documentary Tradition.” The New Yorker, 9&16 August 2004, 90-96.
- “True Story: The Art of Short Fiction.” The New Yorker, 1 December 2003, 104-110.
- “After the Revolution: Bernardo Bertolucci Revisits Paris.” The New Yorker, 20 October 2003, 188-96.
- “Brainwashed: Where The Manchurian Candidate Came From.” The New Yorker, 15 September 2003, 88-91.
- “The Thin Envelope: Why College Admissions Has Become Unpredictable.” The New Yorker, 7 April 2003, 88-92.
- “The Historical Romance.” The New Yorker, 24 March 2003, 78-82.
- “Paris, Texas.: How Hollywood Brought the Cinema Back from France.” The New Yorker, 17 & 24 February, 2003, 169-77.
- “Honest, Decent, Wrong.” The New Yorker, 27 January, 2003, 84-91.
- “Reply.” Intellectual History Newsletter, 24 (2002), 120-125.
- “Cat People.” The New Yorker, 23 & 30 December 2002, 148-54.
- “Faith, Hope, and Clarity.” The New Yorker, 16 September 2002, 98-104.
- “The Reluctant Memorialist.” The New Yorker, 8 July 2002, 55-65.
- “Introduction: Privacy and the Self.” Social Research, 68 (2001): 117.

- “Culture Club.” The New Yorker, 15 October 2001, 202-210.
- “College: The End of the Golden Age.” The New York Review of Books, 48 (18 October 2001), 44-47.
- “Undisciplined.” The Wilson Quarterly, 25 (Autumn 2001), 51-9.
- “Holden at Fifty.” The New Yorker, 1 October 2001, 82-7.
- “The Seventies Show.” The New Yorker, 28 May 2001, 128-33.
- “She Had to Have It.” The New Yorker, 23 & 30 April 2001, 62-70.
- “A Fine Detachment.” The New York Review of Books, 47 (9 March 2000), 8-10.
- “Opening Moves.” The New York Review of Books, 46 (2 December 1999), 4-5.
- “Laurie Anderson: United States, 1983.” Artforum, 37 (March 1999), 96-7.
- “William James and the Case of the Epileptic Patient.” The New York Review of Books, 45 (17 December 1998), 81-93.
- “After Elvis.” The New Yorker, 26 October & 2 November, 1998, 164-77.
- “What Is ‘Art’?” The New Yorker, 9 February 1998, 39-41.
- “The Return of Pragmatism.” American Heritage, 48 (October 1997), 48-63.
- “How to Frighten Small Children.” The New Yorker, 6 October 1997, 112-19.
- “Everybody Else’s College Education.” The New York Times Magazine, 20 April 1997, 48-9.
- “The Iron Law of Stardom.” The New Yorker, 24 March 1997, 36-9.
- “T. S. Eliot and Modernity.” The New England Quarterly, 69 (December 1996), 554-79.
- “Dole’s Three Strikes.” The New York Review of Books, 43 (14 November 1996), 23.
- “How to Make a Ph.D. Matter.” The New York Times Magazine, 22 September 1996, 78-81.
- “Hollywood’s Trap.” The New York Review of Books, 43 (19 September 1996), 4-6.
- “The Advocacy Trap.” Lingua Franca, 5 (July/August 1995), 57-61, 72.
- “Mixed Paint.” Mother Jones, March/April 1995, 31-33.
- “The Trashing of Professionalism.” The New York Times Magazine, 5 March 1995, 41-3.
- “The War of All Against All.” The New Yorker, 14 March 1994, 74-85.
- “The Future of Academic Freedom.” Academe, 79 (May/June 1993), 11-17.

- “School Daze.” Harper’s Bazaar, September 1992, 380ff.
- “Also Available” (fiction). The New Yorker, 6 July 1992, 28.
- “What Are Universities For?” Harper’s, 283 (December 1991), 47-56.
- “Proof That the World Is Real.” Premiere, special edition (Winter 1991),. 25-7.
- “A Wilde for Our Time.” Partisan Review, 57 (Spring 1990): 255-63.
- “Don’t Think Twice.” The New Republic, 201 (9 October 1989), 18-23.
- “Seven Days That Shook New York.” 7 Days, 1 (4 January 1989), 9-16.
- “T. S. Eliot After His Time.” Raritan, 8 (Fall 1988), 88-102.
- “Radicalism for Yuppies.” The New Republic, 194 (17 March 1986), 20-23.
- “T. S. Eliot and F. H. Bradley.” Raritan, 5 (Winter 1986), 61-75.
- “The Machine in the Ghost.” Raritan, 3 (Fall 1983), 88-106.
- “Liberalism without the Imagination.” Dissent, 30 (Summer 1983): 354-59.
- “In the Toils of Art.” The Bennington Review, number 15 (Summer 1983), 18-22.
- “All Shook Up.” The Nation, 234 (5 June 1982), 690-92.
- “Glad Hearts at the Supermarket.” The Nation, 234 (15 May 1982), 594-97.
- “The Victorian Historical Sense and Modernism.” Victorian Newsletter, number 61 (Spring 1982), 5-8.
- “T. S. Eliot on Durkheim: A New Attribution” (with Sanford Schwartz). Modern Philology, 79 (February 1982), 309-15.
- “Methods and Madnesses.” The Bennington Review, number 12 (December 1981), 58-65.
- “I Love New York, Between 59th and 89th Streets East of Central Park.” The Bennington Review, number 6 (December 1979), 48-51.

Reviews

- Rev. of Bridge of Sighs, by Richard Russo. The New Yorker, 15 October 2007, 100-101.
- Rev. of Shoot the Widow, by Meryle Secrest, and Biography: A Brief History, by Nigel Hamilton. The New Yorker, 6 August 2007, 64-66.
- Rev. of The Myth of the Rational Voter, by Brian Caplan. The New Yorker, 9&16 July 2007, 88-91.
- Rev. of Divisadero, by Michael Ondaatje. The New Yorker, 4 June 2007,92-94.

- Rev. of Nixon and Mao, by Margaret MacMillan. The New Yorker, 12 March 2007, 76-79.
- Rev. of The Yale Book of Quotations, ed. Fred Shapiro. The New Yorker, 19 & 26 February 2007, 186-89.
- Rev. of Against the Day, by Thomas Pynchon. The New Yorker, 27 November 2006.
- Rev. of Thirteen Moons, by Charles Frazier. The New Yorker, 2 October 2006.
- Rev. of Bob Dylan: The Essential Interviews, ed. Jonathan Cott. The New Yorker, 4 September 2006, 126-130.
- Rev. of Timothy Leary: A Biography, by Robert Greenfield. The New Yorker, 26 June 2006, 76-82.
- Rev. of America at the Crossroads, by Francis Fukuyama. The New Yorker, 27 March 2006.
- Rev. of The Good Life, by Jay McInerney. The New Yorker, 6 February 2006, 90-91.
- Rev. of The Economy of Prestige, by James English, and The World Republic of Letters, by Pascale Casanova. The New Yorker, 26 December 2005-2 January 2006, 136-140
- Rev. of Expert Political Judgment, by Philip Tetlock. The New Yorker, 5 December 2005, 98-101.
- Rev. of Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945, by Tony Judt. The New Yorker, 28 November 2005, 168-76.
- Rev. of Tête-à-Tête: Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, by Hazel Rowley. The New Yorker, 26 September 2005, 140-146.
- Rev. of The Worlds of Herman Kahn, by Sharon Ghamari-Tabrizi. The New Yorker, 27 June 2005, 92-98.
- Rev. of Never Let Me Go, by Kazuo Ishiguro. The New Yorker, 28 March 2005, 78-79.
- Rev. of Ask Not: The Inauguration of John F. Kennedy and the Speech That Changed America, by Thurston Clarke. The New Yorker, 8 November 2004, 110-119.
- Rev. of Eats, Shoots & Leaves, by Lynne Truss. The New Yorker, 28 June 2004, 102-104.
- Rev. of Who Are We? by Samuel Huntington. The New Yorker, 17 May 2004, 92-98.
- Rev. of Eugene McCarthy: The Rise and Fall of Postwar American Liberalism, by Domonic Sandbrook. The New Yorker, April 5, 2004, 80-83.
- Rev. of Bobby Fischer Goes to War: How the Soviets Lost the Most Extraordinary Chess Match of All Time, by David Edmonds, John Eidinow. The New Yorker, 1 March 2004, 87-90.
- Rev. of Nixon's Shadow: The History of an Image, by David Greenberg, and Shooting Kennedy: JFK and the Culture of Images, by David Lubin. The New Yorker, January 5, 2004, 83-86.
- Rev. of The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition. The New Yorker, 6 October 2003, 120-26.
- Rev. of Dictators, Democracy, and American Public Culture, by Benjamin Alpers, and The Future of

- Freedom, by Fareed Zakaria. The New Yorker, 28 July 2003, 83-87.
- Rev. of The Blank Slate: The Denial of Human Nature, by Steven Pinker. The New Yorker, November 25, 2002, 96-101.
- Rev. of Painted Shadow: The Life of Vivienne Eliot, by Carole Seymour-Jones. The New Yorker, 30 September 2002, 126-131.
- Rev. of The Sweetest Dream, by Doris Lessing. The New Yorker, 18 & 25 February 2002, 193-4.
- Rev. of John Maynard Keynes: Fighting for Freedom, by Robert Skidelsky. The New Yorker, 28 January 2002, 82-8.
- Rev. of The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, dir. Peter Jackson. The New York Review of Books, 49 (17 January 2002), 8-9.
- Rev. of The Warden of English: The Life of H. W. Fowler, by Jenny McMorris. The New Yorker, 26 November 2001, 112-116.
- Rev. of The Concise Book of Lying, by Evelin Sullivan, and The Liar's Tale: A History of Falsehood, by Jeremy Campbell. The New Yorker, 23 July 2001, 78-82.
- Rev. of The Education of Laura Bridgman: First Deaf and Blind Person to Learn Language, by Ernest Freeberg, and The Imprisoned Guest: Samuel Howe and Laura Bridgman, the Original Deaf-Blind Girl, by Elisabeth Gitter. The New Yorker, 2 July 2001, 81-4.
- Rev. of The Evolutionary Philosophy of Chauncey Wright, ed. Frank X. Ryan. The New York Review of Books, 48 (26 April 2001), 52-5.
- Rev. of Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus, by Rick Perlstein. The New Yorker, 26 March 2001, 92-6.
- Rev. of Brown v. Board of Education: A Civil Rights Milestone and Its Troubled Legacy, by James T. Patterson. The New Yorker, 12 February 2001, 91-6.
- Rev. of The Game of Life, by James Shulman and William Bowen. The New Yorker, 22 January 2001, 84-8.
- Rev. of Hooking Up, by Tom Wolfe. The New Yorker, 6 November 2000, 94-8.
- Rev. of The Beatles Anthology. The New Yorker, 16 & 23 October 2000, 236-46.
- Rev. of Sin Boldly! Dr. Dave's Guide to Writing the College Paper, by David R. Williams. The New Yorker, 11 September 2000, 92-4.
- Rev. of Ravelstein, by Saul Bellow. The New York Review of Books, 47 (25 May 2000), 17-18.
- Rev. of Eyes Wide Shut, dir. Stanley Kubrick. The New York Review of Books, 46 (12 August 1999), 7-8.
- Rev. of Juneteenth, by Ralph Ellison. The New York Times Book Review, 20 June 1999, 4-6.

Rev. of Star Wars: Episode I--The Phantom Menace, dir. George Lucas. The New York Review of Books, 46 (24 June 1999), 8-11.

Rev. of The Time of Our Time, by Norman Mailer. The New York Review of Books, 45 (22 October 1998), 27-30.

Rev. of Saving Private Ryan, dir. Steven Spielberg. The New York Review of Books, 45 (24 September 1998), 7-8.

Rev. of Lolita, dir. Adrian Lyne. Slate, 7 August 1998.

Rev. of Paradise, by Toni Morrison. The New Yorker, 12 January 1998, 8-82.

Rev. of A Personal Journey with Martin Scorsese through American Movies, by Martin Scorsese and Michael Henry Wilson. The New Yorker, 8 December 1997, 111-16.

Rev. of Washington Square, dir. Agnieszka Holland, and The Wings of the Dove, dir. Iain Softley. The New York Review of Books, 44 (4 December 1997), 19-20.

Rev. of Locked in the Cabinet, by Robert B. Reich, Whatever It Takes: The Real Struggle for Political Power in America, by Elizabeth Drew, and Trail Fever: Spin Doctors, Rented Strangers, Thumb Wrestlers, Toe Suckers, Grizzly Bears, and Other Creatures on the Road to the White House, by Michael Lewis. The New York Review of Books, 44 (14 August 1997), 4-7.

Rev. of American Visions, written and presented by Robert Hughes, BBC Television/WNET, and American Visions: The Epic History of Art in America, by Robert Hughes. The New York Review of Books, 44 (26 June 1997), 4-8.

Rev. of Mason & Dixon, by Thomas Pynchon. The New York Review of Books, 44 (12 June 1997), 22-5.

Rev. of American Pastoral, by Philip Roth. The New Yorker, 19 May 1997, 88-94.

Rev. of Inventions of the March Hare: Poems 1909-1917, by T. S. Eliot, ed. Christopher Ricks, and The Waste Land: The 75th anniversary edition, by T. S. Eliot, afterword by Christopher Ricks. The New York Review of Books, 44 (15 May 1997), 26-9.

Rev. of What It Means to Be a Libertarian: A Personal Interpretation, by Charles Murray. The New York Review of Books, 44 (20 February 1997), 16-18.

Rev. of Star Wars, special edition, dir. George Lucas. Slate, 15 February 1997.

Rev. of The People vs. Larry Flynt, dir. Milos Forman, The People vs. Larry Flynt: The Shooting Script, by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, and An Unseemly Man: My Life as Pornographer, Pundit, and Social Outcast, by Larry Flynt. The New York Review of Books, 44 (6 February 1997), 25-29.

Rev. of Airframe, by Michael Crichton. The New York Review of Books, 44 (9 January 1997), 16-17.

Rev. of Evita, dir. Alan Parker. Slate, 3 January 1997.

Rev. of The Collected Works of Justice Holmes: Complete Public Writings and Selected Judicial Opinions of Oliver Wendell Holmes, ed. Sheldon M. Novick. The New Republic, 215 (11 November 1996), 47-56.

Rev. of "Jasper Johns: A Retrospective," cur. Kirk Varnedoe, The Museum of Modern Art. Slate, 1 November 1996.

Rev. of The Irony of Free Speech, by Owen M. Fiss. Slate, 11 October 1996.

Rev. of "The Beckett Festival," The Gate Theatre of Dublin. Slate, 20 August 1996.

Rev. of "NYNY: City of Ambition," cur. Elizabeth Sussman, Whitney Museum of American Art. Slate, 30 July 1996.

Rev. of T. S. Eliot, Anti-Semitism, and Literary Form, by Anthony Julius. The New York Review of Books, 43 (6 June 1996), 34-41.

Rev. of Pride and Prejudice, dir. Simon Langton, BBC Television, Sense and Sensibility, dir. Ang Lee, Persuasion, dir. Roger Michell, and Clueless, dir. Amy Heckerling. The New York Review of Books, 43 (1 February 1996), 13-15.

Rev. of The Father: A Life of Henry James, Sr., by Alfred Habegger, and The Correspondence of William James, Volume 1: William and Henry, 1861-1884; Volume 2: William and Henry, 1885-1896; Volume 3: William and Henry, 1897-1910, ed. Ignas Skrupskelis and Elizabeth M. Berkeley. The New Republic, 213 (18 December 1995), 29-38.

Rev. of The Unconsoled, by Kazuo Ishiguro. The New York Times Book Review, 15 October 1995, 7.

Rev. of Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition, by Charles Taylor, expanded edition, ed. Amy Gutmann. Transition, 5 (Fall 1995), 70-81.

Rev. of The Tunnel, by William H. Gass. The New York Review of Books, 42 (13 July 1995), 8-10.

Rev. of Our Game, by John le Carré. The New York Review of Books, 42 (20 April 1995), 4-5.

Rev. of For Keeps, by Pauline Kael. The New York Review of Books, 42 (23 March 1995), 10-17.

Rev. of Dictatorship of Virtue: Multiculturalism and the Battle for America's Future, by Richard Bernstein. The New York Review of Books, 41 (6 October 1994), 16-21.

Rev. of James B. Conant: Harvard to Hiroshima and the Making of the Nuclear Age, by James G. Hershberg. The New York Review of Books, 41 (14 July 1994), 16-21.

Rev. of The Battleground of the Curriculum: Liberal Education and American Experience, by W. B. Carnochan. Academe, 80 (May/June 1994), 74-6.

Rev. of George Eliot's "Middlemarch", dir. Anthony Page, BBC Television. The New York Review of Books, 41 (12 May 1994), 5-7.

Rev. of Charles Sanders Peirce: A Life, by Joseph Brent. The New York Review of Books, 40 (2 December 1993), 30-35.

Rev. of The Phantom Empire, by Geoffrey O'Brien. The New Yorker, 22 November 1993, 121-26.

- Rev. of New York Days, by Willie Morris. The New Yorker, 20 September 1993, 121-26.
- Rev. of Sex, Art, and American Culture, by Camille Paglia. The New Republic, 208 (25 January 1993), 32-8.
- Rev. of The Faber Book of America, ed. Christopher Ricks and William L. Vance. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4674 (30 October 1992), 3-4. Rev. of Hollywood vs. America: Popular Culture and the War on Traditional Values, by Michael Medved. The New Yorker, 5 October 1992, 168-73.
- Rev. of Richard Wright: Early Works and Later Works, ed. Arnold Rampersad. The New Yorker, 20 July 1992, 79-84.
- Rev. of William James: Writings 1878-1899, ed. Gerald E. Myers. New York Newsday, 5 July 1992, 37-8.
- Rev. of John Dewey and American Democracy, by Robert B. Westbrook. The New York Review of Books, 39 (25 June 1992), 50-55.
- Rev. of Outerbridge Reach, by Robert Stone. The New Yorker, 4 May 1992, 93-6.
- Rev. of The Justice From Beacon Hill: The Life and Times of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, by Liva Baker. The New Yorker, 6 January 1992, 75-80.
- Rev. of Signs of the Times: Deconstruction and the Fall of Paul de Man, by David Lehman. The New York Review of Books, 38 (21 November 1991), 39-44.
- Rev. of Harlot's Ghost, by Norman Mailer. The New Yorker, 4 November 1991, 131-19.
- Rev. of The Sum of All Fears, by Tom Clancy. The New Yorker, 16 September 1991, 91-5.
- Rev. of Mao II, by Don DeLillo, and Introducing Don DeLillo, ed. Frank Lentricchia. The New Yorker, 24 June 1991, 81-4.
- Rev. of Illiberal Education: The Politics of Race and Sex on Campus, by Dinesh D'Souza. The New Yorker, 20 May 1991, 101-107.
- Rev. of The True and Only Heaven: Progress and Its Critics, by Christopher Lasch. The New York Review of Books, 38 (11 April 1991), 39-44.
- Rev. of In All His Glory: The Life of William S. Paley, by Sally Bedell Smith, and One Nation Under Television: The Rise and Decline of Network TV, by J. Fred MacDonald. The New Yorker, 18 February 1991, 79-84.
- Rev. of Rolling Stone Magazine: The Uncensored History, by Robert Draper, Songs of the Doomed: More Notes on the Death of the American Dream, by Hunter S. Thompson, Blown Away: The Rolling Stones and the Death of the Sixties, by A. E. Hotchner, and Stone Alone: The Story of a Rock 'n' Roll Band, by Bill Wyman. The New Republic, 204 (7&14 January 1991), 38-44.
- Rev. of The Long Walk Home, dir. Richard Pearce. Vogue, January 1991, 181.
- Rev. of Giants and Dwarfs: Essays 1960-1990, by Allan Bloom. New York Newsday, 21 October 1990, 24, 21.

Rev. of Tenured Radicals: How Politics Has Corrupted Our Higher Education, by Roger Kimball. The New Republic, 203 (9&16 July 1990), 36-40.

Rev. of The Five of Hearts: An Intimate Portrait of Henry Adams and His Friends 1880-1918, by Patricia O'Toole. New York Newsday, 1 July 1990, 22.

Rev. of The Edwardian Temperament, 1895-1919, by Jonathan Rose, The English Modernist Reader, 1910-1930, ed. Peter Faulkner, and Makers of the New: The Revolution in Literature 1912-1939, by Julian Symons. The Sewanee Review, 98 (Spring 1990), 267-74.

Rev. of The Complete Book of Covers from "The New Yorker," foreword by John Updike. The New Republic, 202 (26 February 1990), 27-34.

Rev. of Poetries of America: Essays on the Relation of Character to Style, by Irvin Ehrenpreis, ed. Daniel Albright. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,527 (5-11 January 1990), 4.

Rev. of Soho Square II, ed. Ian Hamilton. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,525 (22-28 December 1989), 1411.

Rev. of Cultural Politics in Contemporary America, ed. Ian Angus and Sut Jhally, and Conscientious Objections: Stirring Up Trouble About Language, Technology and Education, by Neil Postman. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,503 (21-27 July 1989), 796.

Rev. of Lipstick Traces: A Secret History of the Twentieth Century, by Greil Marcus. The New Republic, 200 (15 May 1989), 35-9.

Rev. of Other People's Trades, by Primo Levi, trans. Raymond Rosenthal, and Collected Poems, by Primo Levi, trans. Ruth Feldman and Brian Swann. New York Newsday, 7 May 1989, 23.

Rev. of Southerners and Europeans: Essays in a Time of Disorder, by Andrew Lytle. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,492 (5-11 May 1989), 479.

Rev. of The Essays of Virginia Woolf, Volume Three: 1919-1924, ed. Andrew McNeillie. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,486 (24-30 March 1989), 298.

Rev. of Law and Literature: A Misunderstood Relation, by Richard A. Posner. The New Republic, 200 (13 March 1989), 31-4.

Rev. of Snakecharmers in Texas: Essays 1980-87, by Clive James. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,470 (2-8 December 1988), 1340.

Rev. of The Short Story: Henry James to Elizabeth Bowen, by John Bayley. The New York Times Book Review, 6 November 1988, 25.

Rev. of The Lives of John Lennon, by Albert Goldman, and Yesterday: The Unauthorized Biography of Paul McCartney, by Chet Flippo. The New Republic, 199 (31 October 1988), 30-35.

Rev. of Pigeons on the Granite: Memories of a Yale Librarian, by Donald C. Gallu. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,460 (23-29 September 1988), 1058.

Rev. of Speaking in Public, by Reid Buckley, Standing Ovation, by James C. Hume, and The Charisma Quotient, by Ronald E. Riggio. The Wall Street Journal, 30 June 1988, 20.

Rev. of British Writers of the Thirties, by Valentine Cunningham, and The Temple, by Stephen Spender. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,445 (10-16 June 1988), 651.

Rev. of The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage, by Todd Gitlin, and In the New World: Growing Up with America, 1960-1984, by Lawrence Wright, The New Republic, 198 (18 April 1988), 34-40.

Rev. of Trump: The Art of the Deal, by Donald J. Trump, A Cannibal in Manhattan, by Tama Janowitz, New York Confidential: The Lowdown on the Big Town, by Sharon Churcher, City Slickers, by William E. Geist, and New York 1930: Architecture and Urbanism Between the Two World Wars, by Robert A. M. Stern, Gregory Gilmartin, and Thomas Mellins. The New Republic, 198 (1 February 1988), 29-34.

Rev. of He Do the Police in Different Voices: "The Waste Land" and Its Protagonist, by Calvin Bedient, and T. S. Eliot, by Angus Calder. The Times Literary Supplement, number 4,422 (1-7 January 1988), 18.

Rev. of The Last Intellectuals: American Culture in the Age of Academe, by Russell Jacoby. The New Republic, 197 (9 November 1987), 33-6.

Rev. of Dickens' Working Notes for His Novels, ed. Harry Stone. The New Republic, 197 (14&21 September 1987), 55-7.

Rev. of The Closing of the American Mind, by Allan Bloom. The New Republic, 196 (25 May 1987), 38-41.

Rev. of The Triumph of Vulgarity: Rock Music in the Mirror of Romanticism, by Robert Pattison. The New Republic, 196 (23 March 1987), 41-2.

Rev. of A Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary, Volume Four: Se-Z, ed. R. W. Burchfield, The Story of English, by Robert McCrum, William Cran, and Robert MacNeil, American Talk: The Words and Ways of American Dialects, by Robert Hendrickson, Take My Word For It, by William Safire, A Word or Two Before You Go, by Jacques Barzun, and Adam's Task: Calling Animals by Name, by Vicki Hearne. The New Republic, 196 (16 February 1987), 28-33.

Rev. of The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad, Volume Two: 1898-1902, ed. Frederick R. Karl and Laurence Davies. The New York Times Book Review, 25 January 1987, 16.

Rev. of The Fifties, by Edmund Wilson. The New Republic, 195 (1 December 1986), 31-6.

Rev. of Obbligati, by Anthony Hecht. The New York Times Book Review, 7 September 1986, 19.)

Rev. of Going to the Territory, by Ralph Ellison. The New Republic, 195 (4 August 1986), 37-40.

Rev. of Mailer: His Life and Times, by Peter Manso. The New Republic, 192 (24 June 1985), 29-33.

Rev. of Selected Letters of E. M. Forster, Volume 1: 1879-1920; Volume 2: 1921-1970, ed. Mary Lago and N. Furbank. The New Republic, 192 (25 March 1985), 30-32.

Rev. of T. S. Eliot: A Study in Character and Style, by Ronald Bush, and The Roots of Treason: Ezra Pound and the Secret of St Elizabeths, by E. Fuller Torrey. The Yale Review, 74 (Autumn 1984), 119-26.

Rev. of Criticism and Social Change, by Frank Lentricchia, and The Arts without Mystery, by Denis Donoghue. Dissent, 31 (Fall 1984), 493-6.

Named lectures and keynotes

“Academic Pickles.” The Page-Barbour Lectures, University of Virginia: “The Problem of General Education,” February 19; “Interdisciplinarity and Anxiety,” February 20; “Why Do Professors All Think Alike?” February 21, 2008.

“Art and Ideas in the Cold War.” The Jesse Mack Lecture. Oberlin College, April 19, 2007.

“Is Interdisciplinarity Progressive, Transgressive, or Regressive?” Keynote address, The Ends of Interdisciplinarity, University of California at Santa Cruz, March 3, 2007.

“Reflections on General Education.” Keynote address, January Conference on General Education, Towson University, January 10, 2007.

“Do Movies Have Rights?” The Peter Burton Hanson Presentation, Northeastern University, April 20, 2006.

“What Is the Legacy of Modernism?” Keynote address, Cornerstone Arts Week, Colorado College, February 9, 2006.

“The Story of the Soup Cans.” The Kritikos Lecture, Portland, Oregon, May 12, 2005.

“The Paradoxes of Pluralism.” Keynote address, Bushnell Park at One Hundred and Fifty: Legacies and Lessons, Trinity College, September 30, 2004.

“What’s Going on in Liberal Education?” Keynote address, Association of Boarding Schools Convention, Boston, December 5, 2003.

“Do Movies Have Rights?” The Jessie and John Danz Lecture, University of Washington, November 6, 2003.

“Love and Duty in the Cold War.” The Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Foundation Lecture, Cornell University, April 22, 2003.

“Do Movies Have Rights?” The Clonts Lecture, Wake Forest University, April 12, 2003.

“The Cat Who Came in from the Cold: Language and the Cold War.” URI Foundation Distinguished Address, University of Rhode Island, April 3, 2003.

“The Science of Human Nature and the Human Nature of Science.” Schaefer Distinguished Lecture, Keynote Address, Genetics, Disability and Deafness, Gallaudet University, April 2, 2003.

“Anti-Americanism as a Form of Americanism.” Keynote address, Americanism: A Historical Conference, Georgetown University, March 27, 2003.

“Pragmatism and War.” Scholar of the Year Lecture, New York Council for the Humanities, Donnell

Library, New York City, October 23, 2002.

“The Liberal Arts, the Doctorate, and the War.” The First American Association of University Professors Lecture, Amherst College, April 4, 2002.

“Academic Reproduction.” Keynote address, Pomona College Trustee-Faculty Retreat, Palm Springs, March 2, 2002.

“Pragmatism and War.” The Bentley Memorial Lecture, Salem Athenaeum, Salem, Massachusetts, December 2, 2001.

“Was Pragmatism a Chicago Invention?” The American Airlines Lecture, Chicago Humanities Festival, November 1, 2001.

“Pragmatism and War.” The Richard Goldman Lecture, Yale University, October 30, 2001.

“Wendell Holmes’s Civil War.” The Charles S. Holmes Lecture, Pomona College, March 2, 2000.

“William James in Brazil.” The First Richard Poirier Lecture, Rutgers University, March 30, 1999.

“The Condition of the Humanities.” Keynote address, Conference on Rethinking the Humanities, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Coe College, March 19, 1999.

“Democracy and Higher Education.” Democracy in Theory and Practice, The Herbert Spencer Lectures, University of Oxford, February 9, 1999.

“Reimagining Liberal Education.” Keynote address, The Rollins Colloquy: Toward a Pragmatic Liberal Education: The Curriculum of the 21st Century, Rollins College, February 13, 1997.

“Intellectual Identity after Trilling.” The Lionel Trilling Seminar, Columbia University, November 9, 1995.

“T. S. Eliot and Modernity.” T. S. Eliot Memorial Lecture, T. S. Eliot Society, St. Louis, September 23, 1995.

Papers

“Barriers to Entry.” The Politics of the Professors, Harvard University, October 6, 2007.

“Art and Ideas in the Cold War.” University of California at Irvine, May 16, 2007.

“Art and Ideas in the Cold War.” University of Memphis, April 5, 2007.

“The Humanities and the University of the Twenty-First Century.” University of Oregon, May 10, 2005.

“The Humanities and Science.” The Humanities and Expertise, Carnegie Mellon University, April 7, 2005.

“The Cat Who Came in from the Cold.” Carnegie Mellon University, April 6, 2005.

“Are the Humanities Falling Behind the Curve?” The Future of the Humanities, The Presidential Forum, Modern Language Association Convention, December 28, 2004.

- “Useful Degrees.” Reforming the PhD, Modern Language Association Convention, December 27, 2004.
- “After the Liberal Arts.” The Austin Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass., November 19, 2004.
- “The Liberal Arts Saved from Drowning.” The Liberal Education: Dead or Alive? Dartmouth College, November 6, 2004.
- “Pragmatism’s Three Moments.” Cardozo School of Law, September 7, 2004.
- “After the Liberal Arts.” Florida State University, April 1, 2004.
- “After the Liberal Arts.” Williams College, February 17, 2004.
- “Pragmatism’s Three Moments.” The Askwith Education Forum, Harvard Graduate School of Education, February 12, 2004.
- “Edward Said’s Orientalism.” Humanities Center, Harvard University, November 17, 2003.
- “Do Movies Have Rights?” Writers Institute, State University of New York at Albany, October 30, 2003.
- “After the Liberal Arts.” Mount Holyoke College, October 15, 2003.
- “Edmund Wilson.” The Intellectual in American Culture, Harvard University, March 9, 2003.
- “The Cat in the Hat.” University of Pennsylvania, February 26, 2003.
- “Love and Duty in the Cold War.” Harvard University, February 19, 2003.
- “The Cat in the Hat.” The New York Public Library, November 20, 2002.
- “The Birth of a Nation.” The New Gatekeepers: A Conference on Free Expression in the Arts, Columbia School of Journalism, November 20, 2002.
- “After the Liberal Arts.” Whittier College, November 7, 2002.
- “Pragmatism’s Three Moments.” Claremont McKenna College, November 6, 2002.
- “Holmes, Ropes, and Gray.” Ropes and Gray, Boston, October 10, 2002.
- “What Was That All About? Kael’s Attack on Sarris.” The Polemic, The English Institute, Harvard University, September 20, 2002.
- “Democratic Culture for Export: The Case of the Movies.” University of Chicago, May 15, 2002.
- “Pragmatism’s Three Moments.” Lehigh University, April 18, 2002.
- “A Reading.” Creative Writing Program, Amherst College, April 4, 2002.
- “Are We Doing Doctoral Education Right? A Reply to Debra Stewart.” Fortieth Anniversary Celebration, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, March 20, 2002.

- “Pragmatism’s Three Moments.” Sarah Lawrence College, February 20, 2002.
- “What Was That All About? Kael’s Attack on Sarris.” Stanford University, February 14, 2002.
- “Pragmatism and War.” The Faculty Lecture, Ph.D. Program in English, The Graduate Center of the University of New York, December 14, 2001.
- “Pragmatism and War.” Harvard University, December 6, 2001.
- “The Marketplace of Ideas.” University of Missouri, November 9, 2001.
- “Darwinism and American Social Thought,” Texas A&M, November 8, 2001.
- “Darwinism and American Social Thought.” Blinn College, Bryan, Texas, November 8, 2001.
- “Wendell Holmes’s Civil War.” The New York Public Library, November 7, 2001.
- “Pragmatism and War.” University of Georgia, October 22, 2001.
- “The Marketplace of Ideas.” Dartmouth College, October 2, 2001.
- “Wendell Holmes’s Civil War.” The Boston Athenaeum and the Boston Public Library, May 16, 2001.
- “The Public Face of the Humanities.” Beginning with the Humanities: The Tercentennial Symposium, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, March 31, 2001.
- “The State of the Liberal Arts.” The Future of the Liberal Arts, Antioch College, June 2, 2000.
- “The Metaphysical Club.” The Commonwealth Club of California, San Francisco, June 14, 2001.
- “The Metaphysical Club.” Center for the Book, Library of Congress, May 30, 2001.
- “The Marketplace of Ideas.” University of Wisconsin-Madison. March 8, 2000.
- “William James in Brazil.” University of California at Riverside, March 1, 2000.
- “Wendell Holmes’s Civil War.” Initiative for the Study of Values, Faculty Colloquium, Brown University, February 1, 2000.
- “William James in Brazil.” University of Nebraska at Lincoln, October 21, 1999.
- “The Future of Scholarship in the Humanities.” The Humanities Program, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, October 20, 1999.
- “The Marketplace of Ideas.” (Dis)locating Knowledge: An Interdisciplinary Conference on the Changing Foundations of Knowledge, Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, May 7, 1999.
- “John Dewey and Modernity: A Response to Alan Ryan.” Ideas That Shaped the Twentieth Century, Princeton University, April 29, 1999.

- “Have the Humanistic Disciplines Collapsed?” The Question of “English,” Have the Humanistic Disciplines Collapsed? Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, April 23, 1999.
- “The Liberal Arts College: Anachronism or Paradigm?” The Liberal Arts College in the 21st Century: Challenges and Responsibilities, Trinity College, February 22, 1999.
- “William James in Brazil.” John Jay College of Criminal Justice, November 17, 1998.
- “Pragmatism and the Law.” Society for Law and Ideas, Columbia Law School, April 9, 1998.
- “Does Our Being American Give Us a Shared Moral Identity?” Does America Have a Democratic Mission? University of Virginia, March 19, 1998.
- “William James’s Depression.” Conference on the Confidentiality of Psychiatric Case Notes As Against the Needs of History, Columbia University, October 30, 1997.
- “The James Family in Newport.” Beyond Bellevue Avenue: The Other Summer Colonies of Newport County, The Newport Historical Society, April 26, 1997.
- “Can Legal Pragmatism Avoid Becoming Something Law Professors Do? A Response to Thomas Grey.” University of Virginia School of Law, September 19, 1996.
- “Movies and Modernism.” Modernism/Postmodernism, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, April 12, 1996.
- “The Demise of Disciplinary Authority.” Technical Expertise and Public Decisions, Princeton University, April 10, 1996.
- “Institutionalization and Professionalization in the Humanities.” The Princeton Conference on Higher Education, Princeton University, March 23, 1996.
- “Edmund Wilson as a Witness to His Times.” Edmund Wilson: Centennial Reflections, Princeton University, November 17, 1995.
- “Pragmatists and Poets: A Response to Richard Poirier.” The Revival of Pragmatism, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, November 4, 1995.
- “The Academy as a Site of Public Controversy.” The University in the Public Eye, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, September 29, 1995.
- “Culture and Advocacy.” Conference on the Role of Advocacy in the Classroom, Pittsburgh, June 3, 1995.
- “James Family Values.” In the American Experience: A Symposium in Honor of Alfred Kazin, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, May 12, 1995.
- “Publics, Intellectuals, and Public Intellectuals.” The Last of the Public Intellectuals: Edmund Wilson and the American Century, The Mercantile Library, New York City, April 5, 1995.
- “The Collapse of Professionalism and Its Academic Consequences.” Johns Hopkins University, November 30, 1994.

“The Death of Disciplinarity.” Colloquium on Structural Changes in the Humanities, National Humanities Center, September 24, 1994.

“Modernity and Literary Theory.” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 2, 1994.

“Academic Freedom and Its Future.” Annual Council Meeting of the American Association of University Professors, Washington, D.C., November 14, 1992.

“The Shadow World: Sixties Ideas in Nineties America.” Impressions d’Amerique, Association Descartes, Paris, July 16, 1992.

“Is There a Difference Between Culture and Multiculturalism?” Bennington College, May 5, 1992.

“Why the Movies Were Invented.” Smith College, February 21, 1991.

“Kipling and Cinema.” University of Virginia, February 22, 1990.

“The Aestheticization of Work.” Symposium on wealth, Colorado College, January 8, 1990.

“T. S. Eliot Among the Academics.” Special session, Modern Language Association convention, Washington, D.C., December 29, 1989.

“T. S. Eliot and Academic Criticism.” Villanova University, March 15, 1989.

“The Separation of Critical Powers: Writing and Thought Inside and Outside the Academy.” Boston University, November 3, 1988.

“T. S. Eliot’s Influence on Academic Criticism.” T. S. Eliot Centennial Appraisal, Washington University, October 2, 1988.

“Does Oscar Wilde Matter?” University of Delaware, May 4, 1988.

“Eliot After Eliot.” The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, March 4, 1988.

“Culture Heroes and Pop Cultism.” New Jersey College English Association, Rutgers University, April 17, 1982.

“The Victorian Historical Sense and Modernism.” Division on the Victorian Period, Modern Language Association convention, New York City, December 29, 1981.

Columns and editorials

“Postscript: Norman Mailer.” The New Yorker (on-line), posted 10 November 2007.

“Comment: The Graduates.” The New Yorker, 21 May 2007, 27-28.

“Comment: Name That Tone.” The New Yorker, 26 June 2006, 21-24.

“Comment: Decisions, Decisions.” The New Yorker, 11&18 July 2005, 33-34.

- “Comment: Believer.” The New Yorker, 7 March 2005, 27-28.
- “Mystery Man: The Many Faces of Eustace Tilley.” The New Yorker, 14&21 February 2005, 206.
- “Comment: The Best of the ‘Best.’” The New Yorker, January 12, 2004, 23-24.
- “Talk of the Town: Dark Material.” The New Yorker, 2 February 2004, 28-31.
- “Comment: Moses in Alabama.” The New Yorker, 8 September 2003, 31-32.
- “The Talk of the Town” (on newspaper bylines), The New Yorker, 20 May 2002,
- “Comment: Silly Ideas.” The New Yorker, 13 May 2002, 33-34.
- “The Day Before.” The New York Observer, 17 December 2001, 23.
- “Comment: Alone Together.” The New Yorker, 2 July 2001, 21-4.
- “The Talk of the Town” (on major league baseball), The New Yorker, 16 April 2001.
- “Comment: Game Plans.” The New Yorker, 27 November 2000, 67-8.
- “The Talk of the Town” (on presidential election coverage). The New Yorker, 20 November 2000, 40.
- “The Way We Live Now: The Downside of the Upside of the Downside.” The New York Times Magazine, 9 January 2000, 13-14.
- “The Lives They Lived: Clifton Fadiman.” The New York Times Magazine, 2 January 2000, 24-5.
- “The Way We Live Now: Poolside Polemics.” The New York Times Magazine, 27 June 1999, 11-12.
- “The Way We Live Now: Complainers of the World, Unite.” The New York Times Magazine, 28 March 1999, 15-16.
- “Comment: Novels We Love.” The New Yorker, 3 August 1998, 4-5.
- “The Enduring Paranoia within the Image” (op-ed). The Los Angeles Times, 26 July 1998, M1, 6.
- “Comment: Slice and Dice.” The New Yorker, 13 July 1998, 4-5.
- “Comment: Making Nice.” The New Yorker, 13 April 1998, 5-6.
- “Comment: Da Quality of Life.” The New Yorker, 9 March 1998, 8-9.
- “Comment: Love Stories.” The New Yorker, 25 August-5 September, 1997, 9-10.
- “The Talk of the Town” (on Manhattan area codes). The New Yorker, 11 August 1997, 25.
- “The Talk of the Town” (on The Bible Code). The New Yorker, 16 June 1997, 35.
- “Comment: Get Unreal.” The New Yorker, 17 March 1997, 11-12.

- “Comment: Johnny Be Good.” The New Yorker, 13 January 1997, 4-5.
- “Comment: The Gods Are Anxious.” The New Yorker, 16 December 1996, 5-6.
- “Comment: But Is It Good for the News?” The New Yorker, 18 November 1996, 7-8.
- “Keep CUNY Whole” (op-ed). The New York Times, 12 May 1995, A31.
- “Comment: Indecent Exposure.” The New Yorker, 23 May 1994, 6-8 (unsigned).
- “Shouts and Murmurs: Listening to Bourbon.” The New Yorker, 18 April 1994, 108.
- “Comment: Different Strokes.” The New Yorker, 29 November 1993, 8-10 (unsigned).
- “Comment: Save the Zeitgeist!” The New Yorker, 23&30 August 1993, 9-10 (unsigned).
- “Comment: Off the Rails.” The New Yorker, 12 April 1993, 4-6 (unsigned).
- “Books Briefly Noted.” Occasional reviews. The New Yorker, 1993-94 (unsigned).
- “Bush’s Corporate Raid” (op-ed). The New York Times, 29 June 1992, A15.
- “Notes and Comment” (on Anita Hill). The New Yorker, 28 October 1991, 29-30 (unsigned).
- “Notes and Comment” (on Rust v. Sullivan). The New Yorker, 24 June 1991, 21-2 (unsigned).
- “Art and Politics: I Could Not Foresee This Thing Happening to You.” Esquire, 114 (December 1990), 53.
- “Books: Rabbit Is Dead,” Esquire, 114 (November 1990), pp., 93, 96.
- “Critic-at-Large.” M Inc., 7 (September 1990), 74-8.
- “Zeitgeist: Pop Goes the Proletariat.” Esquire, 114 (September 1990), 106.
- “Critic-at-Large.” Manhattan, inc., 7 (July 1990), 94-6.
- “Critic-at-Large.” Manhattan, inc., 7 (June 1990), 118-19.
- “Critic-at-Large.” Manhattan, inc., 7 (May 1990), 124-9.
- “Recalling the Discreet Charm of the 1950s” (op-ed). New York Newsday, 26 November 1989, 4.
- “Movies.” Weekly column. 7 Days, 30 March-28 September 1988.
- “New York Diarist.” The New Republic, 198 (4&11 January 1988). 42.
- “Bork’s Bite” (editorial). The New Republic, 196 (27 July 1987), 7-9 (unsigned).
- “Washington Diarist.” The New Republic, 196 (22 July 1987), 42.

“Washington Diarist.” The New Republic, 196 (30 March 1987), 43.

“New York Diarist.” The New Republic, 196 (16 February 1987), 43.

“Washington Diarist.” The New Republic, 195 (24 November 1986), 51.

“Washington Diarist.” The New Republic, 195 (20 October 1986), 42.

Interviews, panels, and conversations

“A Conversation about A Natural History of Pragmatism.” With Joan Richardson. Graduate Center of the City University of New York, April 13, 2007.

“What Should American Studies Study?” Moderator, with Roberto Unger, Harvard University, December 11, 2006.

“Can the Disciplines Help Us Understand the U.S.?” A conversation with Louis Menand and Roberto Unger, Harvard University, October 23, 2006.

A conversation with Maya Lin. Carpenter Center, Harvard University, December 1, 2005.

Two poems by W. H. Auden. The New Yorker Festival, September 24, 20005.

A conversation with Ian Buruma. Queens College Evening Readings, March 22, 2005.

A conversation with Steven Pinker. Program in Mind, Brain, and Behavior, Harvard University, December 14, 2004.

“Rebuilding the Humanities.” A conversation with Marjorie Garber. 20/20: Looking Back, Looking Forward: Celebrating the First Twenty Years of the Harvard Humanities Center, October 22, 2004.

In conversation with Michael Bernstein. Revelle Forum, University of California at San Diego, November 20, 2003.

Workshop conversation. Writers Institute, State University of New York at Albany, October 30, 2003.

“American Values: Understanding Patriotism in Our Time,” mod. Derek Bok. John F. Kennedy Library, October 29, 2003.

A conversation with Maya Lin. The New Yorker Festival, September 20, 2003.

In conversation with Jon Carroll, City Arts and Lectures, San Francisco, September 12, 2002.

In conversation with Steven Ross, Los Angeles Public Library, September 11, 2002.

“Criticism and/or Journalism.” National Arts Journalism Program, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, April 17, 2001.

“Privacy and the Self: The Rise and Fall of Privacy,” Privacy: A Social Research Conference, The New School University, New York City, October 6, 2000.

“An International Conversation on the Past, Present, and Future of Liberal Education,” National Council on Education and the Disciplines, New York City, September 24-25, 2000.

“What’s the Mission? The Quest for ‘Excellence’ and a Market Niche,” Lessons from CUNY: A Forum on Clashing Visions of Higher Education, Social Science Research Council, New York City, March 18, 2000.

“Democracy, Diversity, and the Disciplines.” The College Board and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey, May 21-22, 1999.

“A Conversation on Academic Freedom.” State University of New York at New Paltz, April 30, 1998.

“Seminar on Liberal Education.” The College Board, New York City, November 10, 1994.

“Where Are the Intellectuals?,” Thesis, 8 (Fall 1994), 12-21.

“Democratic Agonism.” The New School for Social Research, February 16, 1994.

“Symposium on the Humanities.” WNET, New York City, April 24, 1992.

“Free Speech, Safe Speech, and the University.” Columbia University, October 3, 1991.