

CONSTANCE J. OSTROWSKI

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SPECIALIZATIONS

Metaphor Theory and History

Women's Rhetoric and Literature

19th-20th c. Comparative Literature, with emphasis on Polish and British/Irish literatures

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Communication and Rhetoric, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, 1993.

Major Area: Style and Metaphor Theory

Minor Areas: Rhetorical Theory, Modernist Fiction

Dissertation: *The Syntactic Metaphor in Prose Fiction*. [Abstract at end of c.v.]

M.A. Comparative Literature, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1974.

B.A. English with Honors, Summa Cum Laude, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, 1973.

Honor's Thesis: *Time in Nabokov's Later Work*.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"The End of the Story? Problems and Perspectives of East European Literary Studies." Two-day workshop, Princeton University, February 2013.

Three-week program, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, Summer 2012; three courses: *Polish Language--Intensive*; *Polish Grammar* [linguistics]; *Contemporary Poland and her Society*.

TEACHING POSITIONS

Schenectady County Community College, Schenectady, NY, Sept. 1976 – Jan. 2014.

Professor, Liberal Arts (Humanities and Social Sciences).

Instructional areas: Literature, Speech, Writing, Women's Studies, French, Italian, German. Examples of courses taught (and *created):

*Language, Women, and Gender**

*Contemporary World Fiction**

*Early 20th Century Novel**

*Women's Literature**

*Archetype of the Femme Fatale**

British Literature survey

*Literary Science Fiction**

*Classical Rhetoric**

*Women's Oratory in 19th c. U.S.**

*Homeland Theme in Literature**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY.

Adjunct, Fall 2002 and Spring 2003: *Writing for the World Wide Web; Rhetoric and Writing*.

Teaching Assistant, Fall 1983 and Spring 1985: *Technical & Professional Communication*.

Empire State College, Schenectady, NY, Summer 1990. Adjunct, *British Romanticism*.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1973-1974. T.A., *Rhetoric and Writing*.

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, Spring 1973. T.A., *French-English Translation*.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Walking on the Traces left by Others: Paweł Huelle's Intertextual *Mała Ojczyzna*." American Comparative Literature Association conference, "Palimpsest Story: Vestiges and Emanations" panel. Providence, RI. March 2012.
- "Feminist Fiction in Poland: Olga Tokarczuk's *House of Day, House of Night*." *New Women's Writing in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe: Gender, Generation and Identities*. Ed. Rosalind Marsh. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press. 2011. 460-481. Print. Revision and expansion of paper presentation at international conference on Contemporary European Women Writers: Gender and Generation. Bath, UK. March 2005.
- "Deliberative Rhetoric in Susan Glaspell's *Trifles*: Women's Ways of Knowing." National Women's Studies Association conference. Saratoga Springs, NY. June 1996.
- "The Clothesline Project: Women's Stories of Gender-Related Violence." *Women and Language* 19.1 (Spring 1996): 36-42. Print.
- "Women and the Power of the Internet: The Story of the "Four-players of Cornell." *NWSAction* 7.2 (Spring 1996): 9-10. Print.
- "Demarginalizing: Women's Initiation into Expert Discourse." Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition. State College, PA. July 1995. M. A. Moskow, co-author.
- "Liturgical Colours in Roman Catholicism." *The Victorian Web*. Dec. 1995. 19 Mar. 2014. Web.
- "Negotiating the Border of 'Victim' and 'Survivor' in the Clothesline Project." New York State Women's Studies Association conference. Plattsburgh, NY. April 1995.
- Lecturer, Friends of the [Schenectady County Public] Library "Books Sandwiched In" series: Louisa May Alcott's *Unmasked* (1996), Toni Morrison's *Jazz* (1994), Mary Gordon's *The Rest of Life* (1994).
- "The Weaving of Narrative in the Clothesline Project: the Self-Representation of Women Survivors of Violence." International Conference of the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature. Vancouver, British Columbia. April 1994.
- "The Clothesline Project: The Construction of Self by Women Survivors of Violence." Northeast Modern Language Association conference. Pittsburgh, PA. April 1994.
- "Bradbury's Use of Syntax to Create Metaphor in *The Martian Chronicles*." International Conference of the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature. Albany, NY. April 1993.
- "Technical Writing: It *Is* a Humanities Course." *Colleague* (1988):29-35. J. Karmiohl, co-author. Print.
- "Music: the Soul of Shelley's Poetry." Northeast Modern Language Association conference, Providence, RI. March 1988.
- "Metaphor and Discourse Analysis [in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*]." Modern Language Association conference. New York, NY. December 1986.
- "Syntactic Metaphor in Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist*." Modern Language Association conference. New York, NY. December 1986.
- "Metaphor as a Means of Invention." Northeast Modern Language Association conference Boston, MA. March 1985.
- "Syntax as Metaphor [in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Jerzy Kosinski's *Steps*]." Midwest Modern Language Association conference. Minneapolis, MN. November 1983.

SELECTED CITATIONS IN OTHERS' WORK

- "Annotated Bibliography: Emotional Abuse of Women by their Intimate Partners." *Ending Violence against Women*. Springtide Resources. 2000. 19 Mar. 2014. Web.
- Gregory, Jill and others. "Body Politics with Feeling: The Power of the Clothesline Project." *New Political Science* 24.3 (2002): 433-448. Print.
- Lempert, Lora Bex and Synnov Skorge. "Silent No More, We're Hanging Out Our Dirty Laundry: The South Africa Clothesline Project." *Women in Action* 3 (2002): 19-22. *Isis International*. 19 Mar. 2014. Web.
- Liu, Alan and others. "Literatures (Other Than English)" and "Polish [Literature]" sections. *Voice of the Shuttle*. 19 Mar. 2014. Web.
- Lynch, Jack. "Other National Literatures—Russian and Slavic." *Literary Resources*. 19 Mar. 2014. Web.
- Mazurkiewicz, Roman. "Translations—Articles." *Old Polish Literature*. 2014. 19 Mar. 2014. Web.
- Pershing, Linda. "Folklore and Feminist Theory" Syllabus. SUNY Albany. Fall 1997.
- Yocom, Margaret R. "ENGL 491/WMST 300 Folklore and Gender" Syllabus. Spring 1999. George Mason University.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association
Association for Women in Slavic Studies
Modern Language Association
Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America
Kosciuszko Foundation

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Volunteer English Teacher, Kosciuszko Foundation-UNESCO Language Immersion Summer Program. Warsaw, Poland, Summer 2002 and 2003.

Polish Literature in English Translation (online bibliography); polishlit.org

Shape and Ring of Sentences blog

Ancestral Streams (cultural/genealogical website):
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~raczki/>

AWARDS AND HONORS

State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, 2006.

Schenectady County Community College Foundation Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, 2005.

Invited speaker: Domestic violence and custody bill signing (Governor G. Pataki), 1997.

State University of New York course creation grant, 1994.

Joanne Wagner Dissertation Fellowship, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1992-93.

Sabbaticals (competitive, not automatically granted), Fall 1983 and Spring 1993.

Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Sigma Iota honoraries, Syracuse University, 1973.

Louise Pietrafesa Award for English, Syracuse University, 1973.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Assistant Coordinator, International Conference on Narrative (Albany, NY), Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, 1993.
Chair, Teaching Composition section, Northeast Modern Language Association, 1986-1987.
Member, Editorial Staff, Northeast Regional Conference on English in the Two-Year College Newsletter, 1982-1984.
Judge, Society of Technical Communication writing contest, 1983-1984.
Co-founder and editor, *Gateway Review*, 1982-1983.
Member, SUNY Steering Committee for Foreign Languages, 1978-1979.

SELECTED VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member (by county legislative appointment), Schenectady County Human Rights Commission, 1993-1999. Chair of Commission's Task Force on Violence Against Women, 1995-1999.
Invited speaker, Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence Fatalities hearings, 1996.
Volunteer, Schenectady YWCA Clothesline Project, 1992-1995.
Member, Alternatives to Violence Task Force: Schenectady County coordinated community response to domestic violence, 1994-1996.
Website designer and administrator, Southern Saratoga County YMCA (NY) Barracudas swim team, 1999-2004.
Coordinator, University of Rochester swimming and diving team parents' group, 2008-2011.
Scoring official, Niskayuna [NY] High School boys' varsity swimming, 2003-2006.
USA Swimming Certified Stroke and Turn Judge, 1999-2007.
Judge, Soroptimist scholarship, 1997.

SELECTED COLLEGE SERVICE (SCCC)

Academic Senate Bylaws Revision Committee, September 2011-December 2013; Co-Chair, Fall 2013.
Teaching Faculty Representative, SCCC Faculty Association (union), Fall 2011-Spring 2013.
Member, Honors Program Steering Committee, Fall 2004–Spring 2013; Honors Program Task Force, 1996-1999, 1980-1985.
Member, General Education Committee, 2012-2013.
Member, College Writing Committee, 2011-2013.
Editor, Middle States Report, 2008; member, several Middle States committees.
College representative, SUNY Women's Studies Council, 1987-2005.
College Website Committee, 1998-2005.
Designer and administrator, Humanities and Social Sciences Department webpages, 1996-2005.
Member, Humanities and Social Sciences A.A. Program Review Committee, 2003-2004; Chair, 1994-1995.
Member, Library-Faculty Committee, 2000-2004.
Member, Academic Diversity Advisory Team, 1997-2000.

Member, Institutional Equity Team, 1993-1998.

Member, Affirmative Action Committee, 1987-1991.

Member, Community and Cultural Events Committee, 1994-1996, 1990-1992; Chair, 1995-1996.

Vice-Chair, SCCC Faculty [Academic Senate], 1980-1981; Secretary, 1978-1979.

Chair, several English and other search committees.

Member, several Continuing Appointment and Promotions committees.

Member, Arts Festival Committee, 1981-1983.

Coordinator, readings by local authors, 1976-1984.

Faculty Advisor, *Rhythms* literary magazine, 1976-1984.

Coordinator, panel discussion of local professionals on communication skills, 1977.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance writer and editor, 1976-1990.

RRC International, Inc. Troy, NY. [Consulting Firm.] Technical Writer/Editor, 1974-1976.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT:

THE SYNTACTIC METAPHOR IN PROSE FICTION

Constance J. Ostrowski, August 1993

A syntactic metaphor is the reflection and enactment by syntax of the ideas conveyed within that structure. It is a ubiquitous and powerful means of expression that has been virtually ignored.

The rhetorical theories of Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian, and the author of the *Rhetorica ad Herennium* demonstrate varying degrees of insight into the ability of syntax to create meaning. Their insights have been overlooked and their concepts of metaphor have been misinterpreted because of flawed translations and, in some cases, because of the classical authors' incomplete or inconsistent development of their ideas.

At the root of the oversights and misinterpretations is objectivism, which has governed Western thought for over 2000 years. Objectivist theories positing an absolute objective reality and dichotomizing thought and language generated the traditional views of metaphor and syntax which have denied them a meaningful role in language and cognition. Twentieth century theories of metaphor generally continue this tradition, restricting metaphor to a linguistic operation on the level of the individual word and ignoring the ability of syntax to create metaphor.

Experiential realism, articulated most distinctly by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, recognizes metaphor's centrality in cognition and language and, specifically, sees it as the basis of syntax. Recent studies of linguistic iconicity provide further support for syntactic metaphor, demonstrating its ubiquity in everyday language.

Syntactic metaphor's pervasiveness in all areas of expression contradicts the traditional association of metaphor with poetry and helps mend the breach between literary and everyday language. In this, and in its integration of thought and language, syntactic metaphor reflects the epistemological and artistic revolution of modernism. Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* illustrate the way in which syntactic metaphor creates meaning and embodies the concept of style as unity of thought and language.

Syntactic metaphor's importance derives from its epistemological, stylistic, linguistic, and literary implications. Further, it provides a meeting ground for traditional rhetoric and experiential realism.