

CONSTANCE J. OSTROWSKI

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SPECIALIZATIONS

Metaphor Theory and History
Women's Rhetoric and Literature
19th-20th c. Comparative Literature, with particular emphasis on Polish and British 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](#).

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*.

TEACHING POSITIONS

Schenectady County Community College, Schenectady, NY. 1976 – present.

Current rank: Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Various teaching areas: Literature, Speech, Writing, Women's Studies, Languages.

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*.

OTHER POSITIONS

Freelance writer and editor, 1976-1990.

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Feminist Fiction in Poland: Olga Tokarczuk's *House of Day, House of Night*." Accepted for publication in *New Women's Writing in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe: Gender, Generation and Identities*. Ed. Rosalind Marsh. Forthcoming.

"Olga Tokarczuk's *House of Day, House of Night*." 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.

"Women and the Power of the Internet: The Story of the "Four-players of Cornell." *NWSAction* 7.2 (Spring 1996): 9-10.

"Demarginalizing: Women's Initiation into Expert Discourse." Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition. State College, PA. July 1995. M. A. Moskow, co-author.

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.

"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.

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.

State University of New York course creation grant. 1994.

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

Sabbaticals, Schenectady County Community College (competitive and not automatically granted; maximum of 2 per year). 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.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

Other websites created: *Ancestral Streams* (cultural/genealogical site with pages spotlighting the history and culture of two areas in Poland); Humanities Department, Schenectady County Community College; Southern Saratoga County (NY) YMCA Barracudas swim team.

SELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member, Schenectady County Human Rights Commission. 1993-1999. Chair of Commission's Task Force on Violence Against Women. 1995-1999.

Member, Alternatives to Violence Task Force: Schenectady County coordinated community response to domestic violence. 1994-1996.

USA Swimming Certified Stroke and Turn Judge. 1999-2007.