

**ROBERT J. GRIFFIN**

<rjgriffin@tamu.edu>

**Education**

Ph.D. – Yale University, English Language and Literature, 1985

(Diss.: “Samuel Johnson and the Act of Reflection”)

M.Phil. – Yale University, English Language and Literature, 1982

M.A. – Yale University, English Language and Literature, 1980

B.A. – Tel Aviv University, English and Classics, 1979; Columbia University, 1968-1970 (no degree)

**Academic Positions**

Texas A&M University, Department of English

Associate Professor, 2005-2021, Emeritus

Tel Aviv University, Department of English

Senior Lecturer, 1995-2005

Lecturer, 1987-1994

Bowdoin College, Department of English

Assistant Professor, 1985-87

Instructor, 1983-85

**Fellowships, Appointments, Honors, and Awards**

Participant, Folger Institute Seminar, “Book Theory,” Dir. Juliet Fleming, 11/8-9, 2019

Editorial Board, *Studies in Eighteenth Century Culture*, 2017-2020

Advisory Committee, *PMLA*, 2016-2019

Co-Director, Folger Institute Seminar, “Anonymity,” Fall 2008

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, 2007-2008

Glasscock Humanities Center Stipendiary Fellow, Texas A&M University, 2005-06, 2010-11

Huntington Library Fellowship, 2004-05

MLA Late Eighteenth Century English Literature Division Executive Committee, 2002-06

NEH Research Fellowship, 2000-01

William Andrews Clark Memorial Library Fellowship, 2000-01

Folger Shakespeare Library Fellowship, 2000-01

Huntington Library, Mellon Research Fellowship, 1998-99

Lewis Walpole Library Fellowship, 1998-99

NEH Summer Seminar on the Enlightenment (Leo Damrosch), Harvard University, 1997

Associate Editor, *Poetics Today*, 1996-2010

British Council Travel Grant, 1989

W. K. Wimsatt Fellowship, English Department, Yale University, 1982-83

## Research Interests

I am interested broadly in theoretical and methodological problems in literary and cultural history: periodization; history of authorship; history and sociology of the book; epistemology of reading; history of the literary field.

I have recently completed a book-length manuscript on anonymity. My next project's point of departure is Hume's statement that identity is a grammatical not a philosophical problem. It investigates the genealogy of two key words associated with self-consciousness and self-reflexivity, "épistrophē" and "énonciation." Both have been significant for recent theory, the first by way of Foucault's hermeneutics of the self, the second through Benveniste's "formal apparatus of enunciation."

## Publications

### Monographs

--*Wordsworth's Pope: A Study in Literary Historiography*, Cambridge Studies in Romanticism No. 17 (Cambridge University Press, 1995).

[Reviews: *Eighteenth Century Studies* 31.2 (1997-1998); *English* 45.183 (1996); *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 97.2 (1998); *European Romantic Review* 7.2 (1997); *Modern Philology* 96.1 (1998); *Prose Studies* 20.3 (1997); *Review of English Studies* 49.193 (1998); *Romanticism* 4.1 (1998); *Romanticism on the Net* 4 (1996); *The Scriblerian* 29.2-30.1 (1997); *Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* 37.4 (Fall 1997); *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era* 5 (2000); *Studies in Romanticism* 35.4 (1996); *Times Literary Supplement* 9 February 1996, et al.]

### Edited collections

--*The Faces of Anonymity: Anonymous and Pseudonymous Publication from the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Century* (Palgrave, 2003). Contributors: Vincent Carretta, Susan Eilenberg, Margaret Ezell, Kristine Haugen, Holly Laird, Susan Lanser, Brian McHale, Marcy North, Leah Price, James Raven.

-*Essays in Honor of Ronald Paulson*, *ELH* 72.2 (Summer 2005).

Contributors: Jill Campbell, Carole Fabricant, Robert Griffin, Maureen Harkin, Jonathan Kramnick, Sandra Macpherson, J. Hillis Miller, W. J. T. Mitchell, Catherine Molineux, Joshua Scodel, William Warner.

## Editions

--*Gulliver's Travels and Other Writings*, Ed. Clem Hawes; text of *Gulliver* edited and "Note on the Text" by Robert J. Griffin, Riverside Edition (Houghton Mifflin, 2003).

## Articles

"Anonymity," *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Literary Theory*, ed. John Frow (Oxford UP, 2022), 1119-1142.

"Anonymity and Pseudonymity," *The Cambridge Handbook of Literary Authorship*, Eds. Ingo Berensmeyer, Gert Buelens, Marysa Demoor (Cambridge UP, 2019), 341-353.

"The Profession of Authorship," *New Companion to the History of the Book*, Eds. Simon Eliot and Jonathan Rose, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Wiley Blackwell, 2019), Vol. 2, 773-785.

"Did Defoe write *Roxana*? Does it Matter?" *Philological Quarterly* 89.2&3 (Spring & Summer 2010): 255-262.

"Working with Anonymity: A Theory of Theory vs. Archive," *Literature Compass* 4.2 (March 2007): 463-469.

"Anonymous," in *Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*, ed. David Scott Kastan (New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 48-51.

"The Text in Motion: Eighteenth-Century *Roxanas*," in *Essays for Ronald Paulson*, *ELH* 72.2 (Summer 2005): 387-406.

"Wordsworth's Horse (MS. W)," in *The Wordsworthian Enlightenment*, festschrift for Geoffrey Hartman, eds. Frances Ferguson and Helen Elam (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), 129-45.

"Fact, Fiction, and Anonymity: Reading *Love and Madness. A Story Too True* (1780)," *Eighteenth Century Fiction* 16.4 (July 2004): 619-37.

"A Note on the Texts," in *Gulliver's Travels and Other Writings*, ed. Clement Hawes, New Riverside Edition (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2003), 32-5.

"Introduction," *The Faces of Anonymity: Anonymous and Pseudonymous Publication from the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Century* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), 1-17.

"Roxana: The 1740 Version," *Williams Andrew Clark Memorial Library Newsletter* 38 (Fall 2001): 5-6.

"The Age of 'The Age of' is Over: Johnson and New Versions of the Late Eighteenth Century," *Modern Language Quarterly* 62.4 (Dec. 2001): 377-91 (Special Issue on Periodization).

"Anonymity and Authorship," *New Literary History* 30.4 (Autumn, 1999): 877-895.

"A Critique of Romantic Periodization," in *The Challenge of Periodization: Old Paradigms and New Perspectives*, ed. Lawrence Besserman (Garland, 1996), 133-46.

"The Eighteenth-Century Construction of Romanticism: Thomas Warton and the Pleasures of Melancholy," *ELH* 59 (Winter 1992): 799-815.

"Afterword," *Boswell's Life of Johnson*, Hebrew trans. by Tova Rosen (Jerusalem: Carmel, 1992), 216-21.

"Wordsworth's Pope: The Language of His Former Heart," *ELH* 54 (Fall 1987): 695-715.

"Reflection as Criterion in *The Lives of the Poets*," in *Modern Critical Views: Dr. Samuel Johnson and James Boswell*, ed. Harold Bloom (Chelsea House, 1986), 239-62.

"Pope, the Prophets, and *The Dunciad*," *Studies in English Literature* 23 (Summer 1983): 435-46. [Reprinted: *Critical Essays on Alexander Pope*, ed. Wallace Jackson (G. K. Hall, 1993), 23-27; and *Alexander Pope*, ed. Harold Bloom (Chelsea House, 1986), 133-43.]

## Reviews

Marcy L. North, *The Anonymous Renaissance: Cultures of Discretion in Tudor-Stuart England* (Chicago UP, 2003), in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* 99.2 (June 2005): 337-39.

Michael O'Neill, *Romanticism and the Self-Conscious Poem* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997), in *Criticism* 41.3 (Summer 1999): 418-22.

Paisley Livingston, *Literary Knowledge. Humanistic Inquiry and the Philosophy of Science* (Cornell UP, 1988), in *Poetics Today* 11 (Fall 1990): 699-701.

## **Invited talks**

"The Waning of Anonymity," Keynote, *Anonymity in Authorship and Activism Workshop*, McGill University, September 2015.

“Copyright and the Waning of Anonymity,” University of Tulsa, February 2011)

“The Text in Motion: Eighteenth-Century *Roxanas*,” Southern California Eighteenth-Century Discussion Group, March 2005

"The Need for Closure: Eighteenth-Century Continuations of *Roxana*," Princeton Eighteenth-Century Society, May 2001

"Fact, Fiction, and the Author: The Case of *Love and Madness*," Southern California Eighteenth-Century Discussion Group, October 2000

"The Age of 'The Age of is Over: Johnson and the Late Eighteenth Century,'" University of Washington, October 2000

"Anonymity and Authorship"

--The Huntington Library, February 1999

--Texas A&M University, December 1998

--Johns Hopkins University, September 1998

--Yale University, September 1998

--Harvard University, September 1998

### **Conferences and Papers**

“The Ground of Ethics in Derrida on the Death Penalty,” ASECS Conference (Minneapolis, March 2017).

“From Foucault’s Epistrophē to Locke’s Reflection,” The Presents of the Past Conference (Texas A&M Department of English, April 2014).

“From Foucault’s Epistrophē to Locke’s Reflection,” ASECS Conference (Williamsburg, March 2014).

Organized and chaired panel on “Eliza Haywood Again” (Kathryn King, Eve T. Barnett, Sarah Creel and Alison Dean); also participated in panel on “The War on the Humanities” (with Robert DeMaria, Joseph Roach, and Melinda Rabb), chaired by Jill Campbell; NEASECS Conference (New Haven, 2013)

“Did Swift Lose His Nerve?” ASECS Conference (San Antonio, March 2012).

“Law and the Waning of Anonymity,” MLA Convention (Los Angeles, Jan. 2011).

“Did Defoe write Roxana? Does it Matter?” EC\ASECS Convention (Pittsburgh, Nov. 2010).

“Criticism without the Author,” ASECS Conference (Richmond, March 2009).

“Anonymity and the Public Sphere,” MLA Convention (San Francisco, Dec. 2008).

“Anonymity and the Public Sphere,” ASECS Conference (Portland, Mar. 2008).

“Is Eighteenth-Century Studies Changing Literary Studies?”; Panel Discussion; MLA Convention (Chicago, Dec. 2007). Other participants: Clifford Siskin, William Warner, Anne Stevens, Andrew Piper.

Organized and chaired “Anecdote” for the Division on Late Eighteenth-Century English Literature, MLA Convention (Washington, DC, Dec. 2005). Participants: J. Paul Hunter, April London, Ruth Mack.

“Working with Anonymity: A Theory of Theory vs. Archive,” MLA Convention (Washington, DC, Dec. 2005).

Organized and chaired “Women and Print Culture in the 1790s” for the Division on Late Eighteenth Century English Literature, MLA Convention (San Diego, Dec. 2003). Participants: Barbara Benedict, Frances Ferguson, Kevin Gilmartin, Sonia Hofkosh.

“Freedom of the Press, Samuel Johnson, and the Case of Admiral Byng,” ASECS/ISECS Conference (UCLA, August 2003).

Organized and chaired “Book History as Literary Criticism,” SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing) Conference (London, July 2002); presented “The Text in Motion: Eighteenth-Century Editions of *Roxana*.” Participants: Neil Fraistat, Louise Haugen.

Organized and chaired “Historicizing the Text,” for the Division on Late-Eighteenth Century English Literature, MLA Convention (New Orleans, 2001); presented “The 1775 Edition of *Roxana*.” Participants: Susan Oliver, Stuart Sherman.

“Fact, Fiction, and the Author: The Case of *Love and Madness* (1780),” DeBartolo Conference, University of South Florida, February 2000.

“The Age of ‘The Age of...’ is Over: What to do with Johnson,” Division of Late-18th-Century British Literature Session on the Age of Johnson, MLA Convention, Chicago, 1999.

Organized and chaired “Inventing Romanticisms” for North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Conference, McMaster University, October 22-26, 1997. Participants: Alan Richardson, Kevis Goodman, and Charles Snodgrass.

"The Mode of Existence of Shelley's 'The Devil's Walk'". Keynote paper for *Urban Excursions*, an Internet conference organized in coordination with website *Romantic Circles*, October 18, 1997. Among the participants: Morton Paley, Don Reiman, Neil Fraistat, Terry Hoagwood.  
<<http://www.rc.umd.edu/villa/vc97/griffin.html>>

"Anonymous Publication and the Author-Function." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Austin, TX, April 1996.

"The Discourse of Anonymity." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Providence, RI, April 1993.

"Francis Jeffrey and the Dissemination of Romantic Literary History." Seminar on British Cultural Studies, University of Warwick, August 1991.

"From Classic to Romantic? A Skeptical Look at English Literary History." Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University, 1989.

Organized and chaired Special Session on Empiricism and Romanticism at MLA Convention (Boston, 1986). Presented "Reflection in Locke and Coleridge." Participants: William Keach, John Richetti.

"Wordsworth's Pope." Wordsworth Summer Conference at Grasmere, 1986.

"Wordsworth's Pope." MLA Special Session on Continuities Between the Eighteenth Century and Romanticism, 1985.

## **Teaching (recent)**

### Graduate

Late Foucault  
Post-Structuralism and After  
First-Year Graduate Seminar  
Enunciation, A Genealogy  
Restoration and Early 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Literature  
The English Novel

### Undergraduate

Approaches to the English Major (Honors)  
Survey of British Literature to 1800  
Contemporary Critical Theory  
The History of Criticism

## Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature (1660-1832)

### Service

- Undergraduate Studies Committee, Dept. of English, Texas A&M, 2018-2020
- Strategic Planning Committee, Dept. of English, Texas A&M, 2016-2018
- Search Committee for Department Head, Dept. of English, Texas A&M, 2016
- Departmental Representative, Liberal Arts Council, Texas A&M, 2014-2016
- Director, New Modern British Studies Working Group, Texas A&M, 2012-2014
- Chair, Search Committee, Shakespeare/Digital Humanities, Texas A&M, 2013
- Graduate Studies Committee, Dept. of English, Texas A&M, 2011-2013
- Executive Committee, Dept. of English, Texas A&M, 2011-2013
- Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, Dept. of English, Texas A&M, 2011-2012
- Chair, Hiring Priorities Committee, Texas A&M, 2008-2010
- Faculty Senate, Texas A&M, 2008-2011
- Referee, Proposal on "Medieval Anonymity," Marsden Council Fund, New Zealand, 2009
- Referee, ACLS New Faculty Fellowships, 2009
- Core Curriculum Council, Texas A&M University, 2008-2011
- Third Year Review Committee for Asst. Professor Britt Mize, Texas A&M, 2008
- First Year Graduate Student Review Committee, Texas A&M, 2008
- "Citizens of the World" Symposium Organizing Committee, Texas A&M, 2007
- Promotion and Tenure Committee for Susan Egenolf, Texas A&M, 2007
- Executive Committee, Dept. of English, Texas A&M, 2006-2008
- Chair, Awards Committee, Texas A&M, 2005-2007
- Director of Graduate Studies, Tel Aviv University, 1997-2000
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Tel Aviv University, 1994-96

### Manuscripts vetted (a selection):

PMLA

Poetics Today

Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America

Studies in Romanticism

Philological Quarterly

Studies in Eighteenth Century Culture

Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature

Journal of the Early Republic

Huntington Library Quarterly

European Romantic Review

Ashgate Publishing Co.

Columbia University Press



**Memberships**

MLA (Modern Language Association)

ASECS (American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies)

SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing)

**Languages**

Reading knowledge of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French