

## Mikita Brottman

Professor of Literature  
Department of Humanistic Studies  
Maryland Institute College of Art

### Education

D.Phil, English Language and Literature, St. Hugh's College, Oxford University, 1993. Dissertation: "An appraisal of aspects of popular culture in relation to the application of some theories of Bakhtin, Barthes and Lacan." Advisors: Terry Eagleton, Christopher Butler.

B.A. (1st class honors), English Language and Literature, St. Hilda's College, University of Oxford, 1989. M.A. (Oxon).

### Books

*Couple Found Slain: After a Family Murder*, New York: Henry Holt, 2021. (Tells the story of Brian Bechtold, a man judged criminally insane after committing parricide, and investigates his complicated afterlife during 27 years in a maximum-security psychiatric hospital).

*An Unexplained Death: The True Story of a Body in the Belvedere*, New York: Henry Holt, 2018. (An investigation into a mysterious death at a once-grand Baltimore hotel, and a meditation on suicide, crime, and voyeurism). Shortlisted for the Gold Dagger Award for Nonfiction by the British Crime Writers Association.

*The Maximum-Security Book Club: Reading Literature in a Men's Prison*, New York: Harper Collins Harper Perennial, 2016. (An account of two years spent reading classics with incarcerated citizens in a maximum-security men's prison outside Baltimore).

*Phantoms of the Clinic: From Thought-Transference to Projective Identification*, London: Karnac / Routledge, 2011. (Considers the implications of the psychoanalytic notion of projective identification with reference to the ways in which this concept can be considered a "doorway" from the traditional realm of psychoanalysis into mind-reading, clairvoyance, and other well-known paranormal phenomena).

*High Theory / Low Culture*, London: Palgrave/Macmillan. 2006. (Demonstrates the practical use of "high" theory as it relates to our everyday world, but also investigates the kinds of "low" culture that are regularly dismissed by academic scholars, revealing how the kinds of popular culture that we usually take for granted are, in fact, far more complex and sophisticated than is normally assumed).

*Funny Peculiar: Gershon Legman and the Psychopathology of Humor*, NY: Analytic Press, 2004. (An account of the life and work of Gershon Legman, exiled author, publisher, Freudian sexologist, Alfred Kinsey's first bibliographer, and author of two comprehensive works on sexual humor.)

### Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Foreword to Richard Reichbart, *The Paranormal Surrounds Us: Psychic Phenomena in Literature, Culture and Psychoanalysis* (New York: McFarland), 2018.

"Psychoanalysis, Resistance & Telepathy: The Case of Ted Serios", *Seriously Strange: The Anomalous in Psychotherapy, Parapsychology, and Physics*, edited by Sudhir Kakar and Jeffrey J. Kripal (New York: Viking Press), 2012.

"Whereof We Cannot Speak: Conducting Psychoanalysis Online," *Psychoanalytic Review*, 99.1 (2012), 19-23.

"*Pecunia Olet: Affluence, Effluence, and Obscenity*," (with David Sterritt), *Obscenity and the Limits of Liberalism*, ed. Loren Glass and Charles Williams (Columbus: The Ohio State University Press), 2011.

"Psychoanalysis and Magic: Then and Now," *American Imago* 66.4 (2010) 471-489.

"The Company Man: A Case of White-Collar Crime," *American J. of Psychoanalysis* 69 (2009), 121-135.

"Thanatos in Cyberspace: Mythology and the Internet," *Spring: A Journal of Archetype and Culture*, 80 (2008), 117-133

"Debauchery Next Door: The Boundaries of Shame in *Abigail's Party*," *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, 24.4, 317-323, 2007.

"DSM 300.30," *Illness in the Academy, a Collection of Pathographies by Academics*, ed. Kimberly Myers (Purdue, Indiana: Purdue University Press), 2005.

"The Fascination of the Abomination", Wheeler Winston Dixon, ed., *Film and Television After 9/11*, Rutgers (NJ: Rutgers University Press), 2004.

"The End of the Road: David Cronenberg's *Crash* and the Fading of the West," (with Christopher Sharrett), *Literature/Film Quarterly*, 30. 2 (2002),126-132.

"*Risus Sardonicus: Neurotic and Pathological Laughter*," *Humor, the International Journal of Humor Research*, 15-4 (2002), 401-417.

"Return of the Freakshow," (written with David Brottman) *Studies in Popular Culture* 18.2 (1996), 89-107 (winner of the George Whatley Annual Essay Award).

"Carnivalizing the Taboo: The Mondo Film," *CineAction*, 4.4 (1995), 32-44.

"Joyful Mayhem: Bakhtin and the Carnavalesque," *Text & Performance Quarterly* 14 (1994), 4-16.

"Bakhtin and Popular Culture," *New Literary History* 23.3 (1992), 765-783.

### **Book Reviews, Journalism, Encyclopedia Entries**

Review, Joshua Gang. *Behaviorism, Consciousness, and the Literary Mind*. Johns Hopkins UP, 2021. *Journal of Modern Literature*, forthcoming.

"Going Rogue," (on the life of Baltimore psychoanalyst Robert Lindner), *Baltimore Style* (October 2017), 24-36.

"Sex, Lies and Literature: Learning from Mr. Hyde" (on Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*), *The American Scholar*, October 2016.

"Jane Austen's Ivory Cage" (on Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*), *The American Scholar*, May 2015.

Review of Matthew Beresford, *The White Devil: The Werewolf in European Culture* (London: Reaktion Books, 2013), *Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 25, 2015

"Lusty Ladies and Naughty Dogs" (on the historical relationship between women and lapdogs), *Psychology Tomorrow*, October 14, 2014.

"Much Ado About Michel" (Review of Michel Houellebecq, *The Elementary Particles and Platform*),

*Sexuality and Culture* 12 (2008), 186-188.

"Alfred Kinsey: Prophet, Pervert, or Patsy?" (Review of *Kinsey*, dir. Bill Condon, *Sexuality and Culture* 10 (2008), 107-110.

Review of Brenda Maddox, *Freud's Wizard: Ernest Jones and the Transformation of Psychoanalysis*, (New York: Da Capo), *PopMatters* 12 March 2007

Review of David Cesarini, *Becoming Eichmann: Rethinking the Life, Crimes and Trial of a "Desk Murderer"* (New York: Da Capo), *PopMatters* 25 July 2007

Entries on "Gershon Legman," "Jay & Fran Landesman," *Beat Culture: Lifestyles, Icons and Impact*, ed. William Lawlor, New York: ABC-CLIO, 2005.

"The Two Freuds" (the clinical and the philosophical), *Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 09, 2004.

Entries on "Candia McWilliam," "Bernice Rubens," "Julie Burchill," "Jilly Cooper," *Encyclopedia of British Women Writers*, 2nd edition, ed. Paul and June Schleuter (New York: Taylor & Francis), 2002.

Entries on "Cultural Studies," "Postcolonialism," *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women: Global Women's Issues and Knowledge*, ed. Cheris Kramerae and Dale Spender (London: Routledge), 2002.

"The Scholar Who Found a Life's Work in Dirty Jokes", (on Gershon Legman), *Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 12 2002.

"Gershon Legman: Lord of the Lewd," in *Sex and Humor: Selections from The Kinsey Institute*, ed. Catherine Ann Johnson, Betsy Stirratt & John Bancroft, M.D. (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press), 2002.

### **Professional Service**

Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Modern Literature*.

External Member, PhD Committees, Massachusetts Institute of Professional Psychology (2004), Union Graduate Institute (2010), California Institute for Integral Studies (2014), Pacifica Graduate Institute (2015, 2018).

External Member, M.A. Thesis Committee, Empire State College (2001), M.Sc., Psychodynamic Studies, Oxford University (2017).

Manuscript reviews for: Johns Hopkins University Press, Routledge, Southern Illinois University Press, University of Chicago Press, Rutgers University Press, Vanderbilt University Press, East Anglia University Press, *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, *Cine-Excess*, *Sexuality and Culture*, *Masculinities*, *Psychoanalytic Review*, *Journal of Modern Literature*.

### **Invited Lectures & Conference Presentations**

Invited Lecture, "Psychoanalysis and the Mysteries of the Tarot," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University, Baltimore, MD (by Zoom), February 2021.

Guest lecture, "Words and the Uncanny: How Language Reflects the Inexplicable," National Psychoanalytic Association for Psychoanalysis Clinical Program Continuing Education Series, New York, May 1 2017.

Case Conference Presentation, "The Company Man: A Case of White-Collar Crime," Baltimore

Washington Psychoanalytic Institute, October 2013.

Panel Presentation, "Caryn Campbell: A Case Study." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.

Lecture, "Psychoanalysis and the Occult," Crafting Knowledge: Rockwell Religious Studies Symposium, Rice University, Houston, Texas March 2012

Presentation, "Unconscious Communication, Psychoanalysis and Resistance," International Forum for Psychoanalytic Education Twentieth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, Seattle, Washington, November, 2009.

Presentation, "The Destruction That Wasteth at Noonday: *Frenzy*, Theodicy, and Horrendous Evil," (with David Sterritt). Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Philadelphia, March 2008.

Invited Lecture, "*Pecunia Olet*: Obscene Amounts of Money" (with David Sterritt), Obscenity: An Interdisciplinary Discussion. Obermann Center Humanities Symposium, University of Iowa, Iowa City, March 2007.

Panel Presentation, "The Boundaries of Shame in *Abigail's Party*," Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, London, UK, March 2005.

Invited Lecture, "Archetypes of Evil," University Seminar on Cinema and Interdisciplinary Interpretation, Columbia University, May 2004.

Presentation, "Three Infernal Jokes: Laughter, Horror, and Film." Annual Conference of the Modern Language Association, New York, December 2002.

Lecture, "Acrostics, Evasions, Theopathies: Freud and the Supernatural in Nabokov's 'The Vane Sisters.'" Panel arranged by the International Vladimir Nabokov Society, Modern Language Association Annual conference, New Orleans, December 2001.

### **Awards & Grants**

MICA Grant for Faculty Research and Creative Development, Spring 2020.

Writing Residency, Betsy Hotel Writer's Room, South Beach, Miami, FL, May 2018.

E1B Permanent Immigrant U.S. Visa Status ("Outstanding Professor or Researcher"), February 2006.

George Whatley Annual Award, Best Essay published in *Studies in Popular Culture* (for "Return of the Freakshow," written with David Brottman), June 1996.

One-Year Academic Fellowship Program, Baltimore-Washington Psychoanalytic Institute, 2005.

Trustees Teaching Award, Department of Comparative Literature, Indiana University, Fall 2000

British Academy PhD Scholarship Funding, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, 1989-1992

Nielsen Scholarship in English Language and Literature, St. Hilda's College, Oxford, 1986-1989.

### **Teaching**

2001-present,  
Professor of Literature  
Department of Humanistic Studies,  
Maryland Institute College of Art.

2009-2011  
Visiting Professor,  
Department of Humanities,  
Pacifica Graduate Institute, Santa Barbara, CA.

2000-2001  
Visiting Assistant Professor,  
Department of English,  
Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA.

1998-2000  
Visiting Assistant Professor,  
Department of Comparative Literature,  
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

1995-1998  
Lecturer,  
Department of English,  
University of East London, London, UK.

1993-1995  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus.

### **Clinical Training and Forensic Work**

Psychological Autopsy Certification Training, American Association of Suicidology, Baton Rouge, LA, February 2020.

National Institute for the Study, Prevention, and Treatment of Sexual Trauma, 104 E. Biddle Street, Baltimore, MD (contractual work, mostly forensic evaluations). Fall 2018-present.

Group facilitator, Project Lazarus, New Orleans (Assisted Living Facility for the homeless with HIV/AIDS). (Sabbatical year volunteer position). September 2017-May 2018.

Court Watcher, Court Watch New Orleans (observed and reported on New Orleans Parish Court judges). (Sabbatical year volunteer position). September 2017-May 2018.

Maryland Court-Appointed Special Advocate / Guardian *ad litem* for abused and neglected children. Part-time volunteer work, June 2015-February 2017.

Vice Chair, Citizens Advisory Board. Clifton T. Perkins Forensic Hospital Center, Jessup, MD, 2015-2016.

Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, Jessup, Maryland. Focus on Fiction. Creative Thinking (weekly therapeutic activity group in a psychiatric hospital, volunteer). 2013-2016.

Jessup Correctional Facility, Jessup Prison Scholars Program (JCI), Maryland (a weekly college-level literature class in a Maximum-Security Prison, volunteer).

**Professional Affiliations**

National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis  
National Institute for the Study, Prevention, and Treatment of Sexual Trauma  
Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore