

Paul A. Harris

**Professor of English at Loyola Marymount
University**

Los Angeles, CA, US

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts

Description

Raised in Norwich, VT, I have lived in California since 1984 and taught in the LMU English department since 1992; I have also been President of the Faculty Senate and Chair of the English Department.

My scholarship and teaching reflect a deeply curious spirit, and I have relished the academic and professional freedom to pursue a rich range of intellectual interests. I have published essays in literature and science, chaos/complexity theory, literary theory, neuroscience, architecture, constraint-based writing, Bergsonian philosophy, and the interdisciplinary study of time. I have published on canonical American authors (Poe, Melville, Faulkner), and 20th century European writers (Beckett, Perec, Calvino). I have become a recognized specialist on Simon Rodia's Watts Towers of Los Angeles. My recent publications and teaching focus on Big History and my current manuscript project uses Gilles Deleuze's philosophy to theorize an "itinerant spirituality." I have taught courses informed by this work including: Detecting the Divine; A Course About Nothing; Spaces of Wonder; Time in Film, Fiction and Philosophy; and From Eternity to Here.

My persistent professional passion for interdisciplinary intellectual exchange is evident in three professional commitments. I served as President of the International Society for the Study of Time (ISST) from 2004 to 2013. The ISST, founded in 1966 by the late Dr. J.T. Fraser, constitutes a uniquely systematic attempt to explore the nature of time through the collective power of scientific knowledge and humanistic insight.

I have been an editor of *SubStance: A Journal of Literary Criticism and Theory* since 1996. Renowned as the leading journal on French theory in English, *SubStance* has in recent years featured issues on topics including ecology and literature, anarchism, consumption, and graphic narratives. I have edited four special issues on topics in philosophy, science, and literature, and review 10 to 20 essays monthly.

I have fostered interdisciplinary engagement at LMU through *SynThink*, a forum I directed from 1999 to 2006. For *SynThink*, I taught courses on interdisciplinary themes and hosted conferences that addressed the theme from a variety of critical and creative perspectives. The conferences regularly included papers given by outside scholars and artists, LMU faculty, and LMU graduate and undergraduate students.

Topics

Geo-Poetics & Geo-Philosophy, Literary Theory, Interdisciplinary study of time, Outsider Art/The Watts Towers of Los Angeles, OULIPO/writing under constraints, David Mitchell's fiction, Big History

Education

University of California at Irvine

Ph.D. English

University of California at Irvine
M.A. English

McGill University
B.A. English

Accomplishments

2016-17 Daum Professorship

Created from a legacy received from Harry M. Daum, Class of 1938, the Daum Professorship is an annual award to a senior professor in the College who has exhibited a record of excellence in teaching and advising, scholarship or creative work, and service to the department, college and university.

President (2004 – 2013), International Society for the Study of Time (<http://www.studyoftime.org/>)
Served three terms as President of ISST.

Faculty Senate President, 2010 – 2011

Facilitated vote for new Core Curriculum, Faculty Handbook revision

Chair of English Department, 2011 – 2015

Chaired department during curriculum revision and transition to 4 unit courses.

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